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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BURY.

REPORT

ON THE

Medical Inspection of School Children,

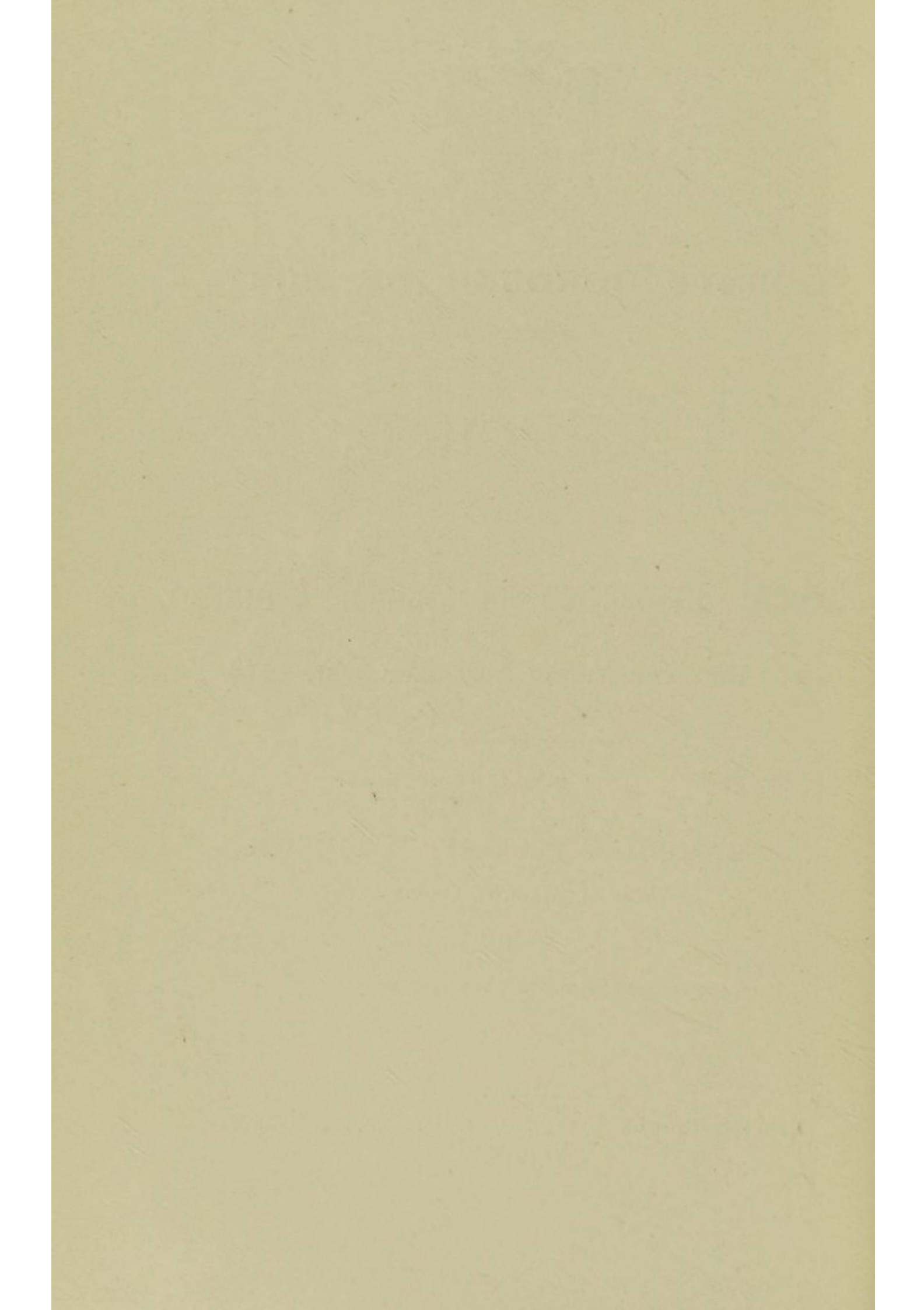
For the Year ending December 31st, 1913.

G. GRANVILLE BUCKLEY, M.D., D.P.H.,

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

BURY :

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1914.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

PARSONS LANE, BURY,

April 2nd, 1914.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee,
County Borough of Bury.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my report on the Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children during the year ended December 31st, 1913.

The work connected with Medical Inspection shows a still further increase on that of previous years. During the year ended December 31st, 1911, the total number of examinations was 1,740. In the following year the number was 2,509, while during the year under review it has increased to 3,813. The great increase is due largely to the number of examinations made of children who were referred for treatment. The Board of Education has given notice that, commencing with April 1st, 1915, all children between the ages of 8 and 9 years must be examined, in addition to the two groups, "Entrants" and "Leavers," which are inspected at present. This will increase the work by half.

Treatment of diseases or defects discovered at Medical Inspection still continues to be unsatisfactory in many respects. As previously reported, this applies especially to the treatment of dental defects. If the table on page 19 be consulted it will be seen that a very large proportion of the cases, both new and old, are untreated, while the majority of parents who have obtained treatment for such conditions in their children have been content with the extraction of one tooth. Practically no attempt at conservative treatment is made.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Director of Education and his staff, the Head Teachers of the various schools, the clerical staff of the Health Department, and to the School Nurse (Miss L. H. Rishton) for the assistance they have given me, and to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and kind sympathy.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. GRANVILLE BUCKLEY.

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County Borough of Bury.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

I.—METHODS.

The arrangements made in 1911 have been continued during the year under review. The following account is, therefore, practically a repetition of that contained in previous reports.

The Medical Officer of Health also acts as School Medical Officer, and carries out the Medical Inspection of School Children personally.

CHILDREN INSPECTED.

During the year three main classes of children were inspected :

I.—“ Entrants,” i.e., those children who were newly admitted to school during the year.

II.—“ Leavers,” i.e., those children who were entitled to leave school during the 12 months following the date of inspection.

III.—“ Special Cases,” i.e., those children who were noticed by the Teacher, School Nurse, or Medical Officer to be suffering from some palpable disease or defect.

In addition to the above, a number of children were brought to the Health Office for examination, and several were examined for various reasons at their homes.

Early in the year a letter was sent to each of the head teachers detailing the classes of children it was proposed to examine and giving information as to the manner in which the Medical Inspection cards were to be filled up.

The Schedule of Examination issued by the Board of Education was followed throughout.

When the date of inspection at a school was approximately fixed, a week's notice was sent to the head teacher, who then entered on the cards the following particulars :—

Name of school.

Name, address, and age of child.

Date of birth.

Date of admission to school.

Previous school attended (if any).

Previous illness. (This information is obtained from forms filled in by the parents.)

Standard and regularity of attendance.

On the day previous to the inspection a further notice was sent to the head teacher informing him of the hour at which the Medical Officer would attend, and notices were sent to the parents of each child inviting them to be present.

The actual Medical Inspection is carried out by the Medical Officer, with the exception of the following items :—

Height.

Weight.

Cleanliness of body and head.

Vision. } Older children only are tested;
Hearing. }

These are undertaken by the School Nurse, who also prepares the children for examination by the Medical Officer.

When a child is found to be suffering from some disease or defect, a form is sent to the parent pointing out the nature of the defect and advising medical attention. The homes of these children are, after a reasonable interval, visited by the School Nurse, who makes inquiries as to any treatment obtained. If treatment has not been obtained she re-visits again and again as required. These children are also re-examined by the Medical Officer on his next visit to the school in order to ascertain the effect of any treatment obtained.

All Routine Inspections take place on the school premises.

At a few of the Schools the arrangements for Medical Inspection are very good, but in the majority a classroom has to be emptied for the purpose.

In one or two instances the medical inspection has to be carried out in the cloakroom.

Any instructions from the Medical Officer to the teachers regarding a particular child are entered on the card in a space provided for the purpose. Any instructions given to the parent are also noted.

The Medical Inspection cards are kept in the school in a locked metal cabinet, the key of which is in the possession of the head teacher. Thus the teacher is always able to refer to the card when necessary. Cards of children requiring further attention are furnished with a special clip, and are thus easily referred to. When the child has received satisfactory treatment this clip is removed.

All the information on the cards is copied on to summary sheets, one being used for each sex in each school. These sheets are for the use of the Medical Officer and School Nurse, and are kept at the office.

A note-book is kept by the School Nurse for each school department. In this she enters the name and address of each child found to be suffering from defect or disease, together with the nature of the defect and particulars of her visits to the home of the child.

The school children are examined periodically by the School Nurse with the object of ascertaining the condition, as to cleanliness, of their heads. Special attention is directed towards the girls.

In cases where only a few nits are found a white card (M.I. 20) is sent giving a few general hints on the care of the hair. In more pronounced cases a green card (M.I. 21) is sent. This calls attention to the condition of the child's head, and asks the parent to remedy the same within a week. (Directions for cleansing the head are given on the back of the card.) At the end of that time the child is re-examined, and, if no improvement has taken place, a red card (M.I. 22) is sent, and the child is excluded from school for a week.

LEAVERS.

Age, Years—11-12		12-13	13-14	14-15	Other Ages	Total
Boys	2 ...	369 ...	51 ...	1 ...	— ...	423
Girls	3 ...	327 ...	62 ...	— ...	— ...	392
Total leavers						815

Attendance of Parents.—As previously stated, the parents of the children are invited to be present at the Medical Inspection of their children. In the case of the "Leavers," 9.44 per cent. of the parents attended, while, in the case of the younger children, 28.42 per cent. were present. In the case of the "Leavers" this is a much lower percentage of parents than attended in 1912, when the figure was 13.62. The figure relating to "Entrants" shows a slight increase—28.42, compared with 28.28 per cent. Parents are probably now becoming accustomed to the idea of Medical Inspection, and do not, therefore, take the trouble to attend. This is to be regretted, as valuable information is sometimes to be obtained from the parents as to the past medical history of the children—it also removes the opportunity of verbally advising the parents as to any defective or diseased conditions found in their children.

When the Medical Inspection of School Children was first commenced a comparatively large number of parents objected to the examination of their children, but it is now very rare for them to do so.

Previous Infectious Disease.—Previous to the Inspection of the children, forms (M.I. 4) are sent to the parents asking if the children have suffered from any infectious disease, and if so, at what age.

The following table summarises the information obtained, and, for comparison, the percentages for 1912 are given:—

Disease.		No. had the Disease.		Percentage.		Total. Boys & Girls.	Percentage.	
		1913.	1912.	1913.	1912.		1913.	1912.
Measles... ..	Boys...	645 ...	65.48	64.99	1322 ...	69.22	67.28	
	Girls...	677 ...	73.19	69.68				
Whooping Cough.	Boys...	258 ...	26.19	32.22	551 ...	28.85	35.88	
	Girls...	293 ...	31.66	39.68				
Scarlet Fever	Boys...	107 ...	10.86	11.45	226 ...	11.83	10.70	
	Girls...	119 ...	12.86	9.92				
Diphtheria	Boys...	20 ...	2.03	1.71	51 ...	2.67	1.91	
	Girls...	31 ...	3.35	2.12				
Chicken-Pox	Boys...	184 ...	18.68	20.45	385 ...	20.16	22.88	
	Girls...	201 ...	21.73	26.53				

Height and Weight.—The following table shows the height and weight of the children at various ages. For purposes of comparison a set of averages is given for a large number of children in urban areas. These figures were compiled by Dr. Tuxford and Dr. Glegg, and refer to children weighed and measured in ordinary indoor clothing, but without boots.

In Bury the boys were weighed and measured without coat, waistcoat, and boots, and the girls without boots.

BOYS (Height and Weight).

Age.	No. Examined	Average Height in Inches	Average Height in Centimetres	Urban Areas Average Centimetres	Average Weight in Pounds	Average Weight in Kilogrammes	Urban Areas Average Kilogrammes
3—4	152	37·05	94·11	91·3	32·91	14·92	14·74
4—5	191	39·96	101·49	97·7	36·16	16·40	16·10
5—6	158	41·80	106·17	102·7	39·88	18·08	17·34
6—7	53	43·55	110·61	107·5	42·07	19·28	19·31
7—8	5	44·00	111·76	114·3	41·60	18·86	21·01
8—9	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
9—10	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
10—11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11—12	1	52·75	134·98	133·7	60·50	27·45	29·47
12—13	365	53·44	136·74	138·9	68·81	21·21	32·45
13—14	55	56·07	142·42	142·4	73·33	33·26	35·03
14—15	1	57·75	156·68	146·8	68·00	30·84	38·06

GIRLS (Height and Weight).

Age.	No. Examined	Average Height in Inches.	Average Height in Centi- metres	Urban Areas Average Centi- metres	Average Weight in Pounds	Average Weight in Kilo- grammes	Urban Areas Average Kilo- grammes
3—4	142	37·32	94·79	90·9	32·74	14·85	14·29
4—5	188	38·98	99·01	96·7	34·74	15·75	15·69
5—6	154	41·53	105·49	102·0	38·60	17·50	16·92
6—7	53	43·26	109·88	107·2	40·43	18·33	18·44
7—8	5	44·50	113·03	113·4	42·60	19·32	20·40
8—9	2	48·00	121·92	...	49·50	22·45	...
9—10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11—12	3	50·66	128·68	132·3	62·33	28·27	29·16
12—13	328	55·00	139·70	139·3	71·34	32·35	32·79
13—14	53	55·66	141·38	144·0	71·04	32·22	35·94
14—15	...	..	...	148·7	...	...	39·65

NOTE :—The discrepancy between the number of children medically inspected (see page 8) and the number weighed and measured is due to the fact that several children who attended when the inspection took place were absent when the weighing and measuring was carried out, and vice-versa.

Clothing.—The clothing was either insufficient or in a bad state of repair in the case of 24 boys (2.44 per cent.) and 10 girls (1.08 per cent.).

Many children wear too many clothes. It is a common thing to come across children wearing six or seven separate layers of clothing.

Foot-gear.—The boots of five boys (0.51 per cent.) and two girls (0.22 per cent.) were in a bad state of repair.

Cleanliness of Head and Body.—Since the Medical Inspection of School Children was introduced there has on the whole been a gradual improvement in the standard of cleanliness among the children. This is due primarily to the efforts of the School Nurse, a large part of whose time is taken up with this work. The teachers also can do a great deal in this direction.

The figures for 1913 relating to dirty conditions show a distinct improvement on those for the previous year. This improvement is most marked in the figures relating to cleanliness of head.

Among the boys there were three only (0.30 per cent.) whose heads were verminous, while 13 (1.32 per cent.) had nits only. The corresponding figures for the girls were 9 (0.97 per cent.) and 148 (16.00 per cent.) respectively. The nine girls whose heads were verminous were all young children (entrants), not a single case having been found among the older girls, although 70 of the latter had nits only.

The bodies of 20 boys (2.03 per cent.) were dirty, while six (0.61 per cent.) were verminous. Of the girls, 11 (1.19 per cent.) were dirty and nine (0.97 per cent.) verminous.

Nutrition.—Ten boys (1.01 per cent.) and twelve girls (1.30 per cent.) were ill-nourished. In some instances the condition was due to deficient assimilation of the food, while in others it was, no doubt, due to lack of sufficient food.

Teeth.—The total number of children who had one or more carious teeth was 1,336 (69.95 per cent.).

This number was made up as follows :—

	Entrants.		Leavers.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Children with less than four carious teeth...	242	227	237	218
Children with four or more carious teeth...	125	100	88	99

Thus, while among the younger children (the "Entrants") 225 out of 1,095 (20.55 per cent.) had four or more carious teeth, the proportion among the "Leavers" was increased to 187 out of 815 (22.94 per cent.).

Tonsils.—Fifty-two boys (5.28 per cent.) and 52 girls (5.62 per cent.) had tonsils enlarged to such a degree that treatment was considered necessary, while 56 boys (5.69 per cent.) and 64 girls (6.92 per cent.) had them slightly enlarged.

Adenoids.—The probable existence of adenoids is judged from the facial characteristics of the child, and no attempt is made to confirm the diagnosis by digital examination. Six boys (0.61 per cent.) and 21 girls (2.27 per cent.) were suspected to be suffering from adenoids, and the parents were advised to seek medical advice.

Glands.—In eight boys (0.81 per cent.) and five girls (0.54 per cent.) the glands of the neck were enlarged to such a degree that medical treatment was considered advisable. Several of the cases were due to dirty heads or decayed teeth, &c. There is always a possibility of these glands becoming tubercular, and it is important, therefore, that treatment should be obtained.

External Eye Disease.—The following cases of disease of the external eye were met with:—

Strabismus (Squint)	9 boys (0.90%),	14 girls (1.51%).
Blepharitis	2 boys (0.20%),	5 girls (0.54%).
Conjunctivitis	0 boys (0.0%),	5 girls (0.54%).
Corneal Opacities	7 boys (0.71%),	6 girls (0.65%).
Other diseases	2 boys (0.20%),	2 girls (0.22%).

Vision.—The vision of the "Leavers" only is tested, and this is carried out by the Nurse.

Snellen's Test Types are used, and the parents of all children whose vision is of less acuity than 6/12 are advised to obtain treatment.

Sixty-five boys (6.60 per cent.) and 60 girls (6.49 per cent.) were thus referred for treatment.

Ear Disease.—Chronic ear discharge was present in 17 boys (1.73 per cent.) and 8 girls (0.86 per cent.).

Hearing.—Seven boys (0.71 per cent.) and six girls (0.65 per cent.) were found to be suffering from defective hearing to a greater or lesser degree.

Heart.—Organic disease of the heart was diagnosed in the case of 13 boys (1.32 per cent.) and 19 girls (2.05 per cent.). Of these 17 occurred among the “Entrants,” and 15 among the “Leavers.”

Lungs.—Fourteen boys (1.42 per cent.) and nine girls (0.97 per cent.) were suffering from Bronchitis at the time of examination. Two boys (0.20 per cent.) and four girls (0.44 per cent.) were found to be suffering from Phthisis, and one boy (0.10 per cent.) and three girls (0.33 per cent.) were suspected to have the disease but presented no definite signs.

The death rate from Phthisis in the Borough in 1913 was 1.01 per 1,000.

Nervous System.—Three girls were found to be suffering from Chorea, and five boys and four girls from other diseases of the Nervous System.

Tuberculosis.—In addition to the above-mentioned cases of Phthisis, three children were discovered to be affected by various forms of Tuberculosis, viz. :—

Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints...	1 girl.
„ Glands ...	1 boy and 1 girl.

Rickets.—Six boys (0.61 per cent.) and three girls (0.33 per cent.) presented signs of Rickets.

Deformities.—The following list shows the various deformities found among the children :—

Genu Varum ...	1 girl.
Genu Valgum ...	1 boy, 2 girls.
Cleft Palate...	1 girl.
Rickety Chest...	4 boys, 2 girls.
Torticollis ...	3 boys, 1 girl.
Other deformities ...	5 boys, 3 girls.

Infectious Disease.—No cases of infectious disease were discovered in the routine inspection.

Contagious Disease.—The following cases of contagious disease were discovered :—

Impetigo 8 boys (0.81%), 8 girls (0.86%).
 Ringworm 1 boy (0.10%), 1 girl (0.11%).

Miscellaneous.—Among the diseases not classified under the above headings were :—

	Boys.	Girls.
Enlarged Thyroid Gland	—	5
Hernia... ..	3	0
Debility	0	1
Anæmia... ..	4	3
Diabetes	1	0
Alveolar Abscess	0	1
Psoriasis... ..	0	2
Incontinence of urine	0	1
Hydrocele	1	0
Alopecia... ..	0	1

Special Cases.

When the Medical Officer visits a school for the purpose of Medical Inspection, advantage is taken of the opportunity to examine such children (not falling into one of the two classes “Entrants” and “Leavers”) as have been noticed by the teachers to be suffering from some palpable disease or defect. The total number of such children brought to the notice of the Medical Officer during the year was 109.

The following is a summary of the defects or diseases found :—

Disease.	Infants' Boys.	Department. Girls.	Mixed Boys.	Department. Girls.	Total
Defective Vision	—	2	19	8	29
Strabismus	—	1	1	1	3
Blepharitis	—	—	1	2	3
Conjunctivitis	—	1	1	2	4
Phthisis... ..	1	—	—	1	2
Suspected Phthisis	—	1	—	—	1
Spinal Caries	—	1	—	—	1
Heart Diseases... ..	—	—	—	2	2
Anæmia... ..	—	—	2	1	3
Impetigo... ..	—	—	2	—	2
Alopecia... ..	—	—	—	1	1
Mentally Defective	—	1	—	—	1
Backward	—	—	4	1	5
Enlarged Tonsils	—	—	2	—	2
Adenoids... ..	—	—	8	3	11
Nasal Catarrh	—	—	1	—	1
Enlarged Glands	—	—	1	—	1
Infantile Paralysis... ..	—	—	1	1	2
Epilepsy... ..	—	—	—	1	1
Otorrhœa	—	—	2	2	4
Deaf	—	—	3	2	5
Cleft Palate... ..	—	—	—	1	1
Deformity of Nose	—	—	—	1	1
Pigeon Chest	—	—	2	—	2
Spinal Curvature... ..	—	—	1	1	2
Carious Teeth... ..	—	—	1	—	1
No defect discovered... ..	—	1	9	8	18
	—	—	—	—	—
Total Defects	1	7	52	31	91
	—	—	—	—	—
Total Children examined	1	8	61	39	109
	—	—	—	—	—

Miscellaneous Examinations.

These consist of children examined at the office and comprise such minor ailments as dirty and verminous conditions, ringworm, impetigo, &c. Saturday morning of each week is now set apart for the examination of these children at the Health Office.

During the year 365 examinations have been made of 176 children :—

	No. of Children affected.	No. of Examinations.
Dirty and Verminous Head... ..	42	99
Dirty and Verminous Body... ..	14	23
Ringworm	31	81
Impetigo... ..	17	34
Scabies... ..	4	12
Alopecia... ..	1	1
Defective Vision... ..	3	3
Blepharitis... ..	1	1
Conjunctivitis... ..	15	37
Corneal Opacities	4	11
Strabismus	3	6
Nystagmus	1	1
Enlarged Tonsils	4	4
Adenoids	5	10
Enlarged Neck Glands	2	6
Bronchitis... ..	3	7
Phthisis	5	9
Suspected Phthisis... ..	4	9
Heart Diseases... ..	3	3
Anæmia	2	2
Chorea... ..	2	3
Club Foot... ..	1	1
Debility	2	2
Abscess... ..	1	1
Nothing found	7	7
Totals	176	365

III.—TREATMENT.

METHODS EMPLOYED OR AVAILABLE FOR THE TREATMENT OF DEFECTS.

In all conditions requiring treatment a note is sent to the child's parents pointing out the nature of the disease or defect, and urging them to seek medical advice. After an interval the home is visited by the Nurse, who makes enquiries as to what action has been taken in the matter. If no treatment has been obtained the parents are again urged to see their doctor and are re-visited later. The child is also re-examined at school by the Medical Officer in order to ascertain the effect of any treatment obtained.

The chief agencies for treatment existing in Bury are :

- (1) The private medical practitioner.
- (2) The Bury Infirmary, with an out-patient department and special department for diseases of the eye.

Many patients also attend the special hospitals in Manchester, which is but a few miles distant.

The Guardians and the Charity Organisation Society have, at various times, rendered valuable help in the providing of spectacles and in many other ways. The Corporation subscribe to the Bury Infirmary, and thus it has been possible to provide a number of children requiring treatment at that Institution with recommends.

[A scheme is now (March, 1914) in operation by which children suffering from Defective Vision are examined by a Specialist and prescriptions for suitable spectacles given. Arrangements have also been made with the Opticians of the Borough to supply school children with spectacles at certain rates, according to the variety of lenses required. In necessitous cases the Local Education Authority will defray the cost of spectacles as well as that of examination by a Specialist.]

During the year it has been found impossible to obtain information as to the result of treatment in a larger number of cases than usual. This is due chiefly to the fact that, at the time the re-inspection of the "Entrants" was taking place, many of the school children were suffering from infectious disease, and were, therefore, absent from school. These children will, however, be re-inspected at the Medical Officer's next visit to the school.

In the case of the "Leavers," many of them left school immediately after the routine inspection, and were not seen again by the Medical Officer. This will not be the case in future years,

because the "Leavers" will include all children of 12 years of age and those of 13 years who have not previously been inspected, instead of, as during 1913, those children who would be entitled to leave school during the 12 months following the date of inspection.

Cases treated during the Year 1913.

	*NEW CASES.				*OLD CASES.			
	TREATED.			UNTREATED	TREATED.			UNTREATED
	Cured	Improved	Unchanged		Cured	Improved	Unchanged	
Dirty and Verminous Head	27	15	1	7	52	27	..	9
" " Body	13	5	..	3	34	13	..	2
Unsatisfactory Clothing	6	10	..	2	2	5	..	2
" Footgear	2	5	..	..	2	5	..	2
Carious Teeth (more than 4).. ..	1	45	..	189	8	98	19	188
Enlarged Tonsils	24	26	3	24	37	43	12	16
Adenoids	10	2	..	7	14	7	3	6
Glands of Neck.. ..	2	2	1	2	5	3	..	2
Defective Vision	49	4	6	20	54	1	2	27
Blepharitis	2	4	1	1	7	4	..	..
Conjunctivitis	3	..	..	1	4	3	..	..
Corneal opacities	..	5	..	3	..	4	..	1
Strabismus	1	2	1	7	5	3	4	5
Other External Eye Diseases	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Ear Discharge	5	4	1	4	6	4	..	1
Defective Hearing	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	..
Heart and Circulation.. ..	1	15	6	..	1	20	7	..
Phthisis	1	3	1	..	..	1	..	..
Phthisis suspected	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..
Bronchitis	..	2	..	..	18	2	1	..
Other Lung Diseases	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chorea	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Impetigo	3	..	1	..	8	..	..	..
Ringworm	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other Diseases	1	4	..	..	5	6	1	..

* In the above Table the term "New Cases" refers to cases first inspected during the year 1913. "Old Cases" are those examined previous to 1913, but which did not receive treatment until the year under review.

It will be seen, on reference to the tables, that the treatment of the various diseases and defects discovered on Medical Inspection is still far from satisfactory. This is particularly the case with regard to such defects as enlarged tonsils, adenoids, defective vision, and, of course, carious teeth. Very little satisfactory treatment of carious teeth is obtained in spite of the fact that its great importance is pointed out to the parents at every possible opportunity by the Medical Officer. Probably the only solution of the problem would be a Dental Clinic.

If the columns on page 19, headed respectively "New Cases" and "Old Cases," be compared, it will be seen that the proportion of cases treated is generally greater in the latter. This is due to the fact that, as time goes on, greater pressure is brought to bear on the parents in order to induce them to obtain suitable treatment.

In a few cases it has been found necessary to bring negligent parents before the Care of Children Committee, and in each instance this had the desired effect.

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The Bury and District Joint Hospital Board were, in 1910, presented with the residence known as Holcombe Hall (which is distant about three miles from Bury) for use as a Sanatorium for Tuberculous patients. The necessary alterations and additions were carried out, and the Institution was opened in August, 1910, as the Aitken Sanatorium.

Suitable cases of Phthisis are admitted from the district of the Board, and remain for varying periods of time. Children under the age of 10 are not at present treated by the Board, but they are able, occasionally, to obtain admission to other institutions. Advanced cases are treated in the Ainsworth Sanatorium, another of the institutions of the Joint Board.

During the year the following case has been treated in the Aitken Sanatorium :—

Initials.	Age.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Length of stay.
F.B.....	13.....	October 2/13.....	March 5/14.....	155 days.

IV.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

REVIEW OF ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The Head Teachers of all the school departments are provided with forms on which to notify the Medical Officer of cases of Infectious Disease occurring among the scholars.

When a case of Infectious Disease in a school-child is notified to the Health Department, the Medical Officer sends notice to the Head Teacher of the department which the child attended. Particulars are given as to the length of time the patient and other members of the family must remain away from school.

(a) NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.—During the year 1913, 195 cases of Scarlet Fever occurring in school children were notified to the Health Department. On many occasions the Medical Officer has examined all the children in a school for evidence of disquamation, and this has resulted in several cases of Scarlet Fever being discovered among the children attending school.

The following table shows the number of cases of this disease which have been notified as having occurred among the children attending the various schools :—

School.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Clerke Street	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	1	2	..	7
George Street....	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	5
Holy Trinity ..	..	..	..	2	1	3	2	1	..	1	..	..	10
St. Marie's	..	2	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	8
Brunswick	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
St. John's.....	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	1	..	3	..	12
Chesham	..	..	2	..	1	10	..	..	2	2	1	..	18
Walmersley.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
St. Mark's	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
St. Joseph's	..	..	..	..	3	5	1	..	1	..	..	1	11
St. Paul's (Bell) ..	..	..	..	1	5	..	4	..	..	..	..	3	13
St. Paul's (Huntl'y)	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	6
East Ward Council	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	1	..	..	2	..	9
Bircle	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	1	5
St. Thomas's	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	..	..	6
Christian Church.	..	..	..	..	..	1	8	2	..	4	3	2	20
St. Chad's	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	2	..	6
St. Peter's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Parish Church ...	..	1	2	2	1	..	..	..	2	5	7	1	21
Warth Fold.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Stephen's	..	..	1	..	3	1	1	2	2	..	..	1	11
All Saints' ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	4
Guardian Angels'.	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Elton Council....	..	..	..	..	6	..	1	1	2	3	..	..	13
Total.....	1	4	8	8	28	34	25	13	13	24	24	13	195

Diphtheria.—The following table shows the number of cases of Diphtheria which have occurred during the past year amongst school children :—

School.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Clerke Street	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
George Street....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Holy Trinity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Marie's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brunswick	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
St. John's.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chesham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
Walmersley.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Mark's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Joseph's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Paul's (Bell)..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
St. Paul's (Huntl'y)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
East Ward Council	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
Birchle.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Thomas's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Christian Church.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2
St. Chad's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
St. Peter's	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Parish Church ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Warth Fold	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Stephen's	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
All Saints'	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	8
Guardian Angels'.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Elton Council....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	1	4	1	1	11
Total.....	1	2	1	1	1	..	1	3	2	5	7	13	37

As will be seen from the above table, two of the schools (All Saints' and Elton Council) were, towards the end of the year, especially affected. In each instance most of the cases occurred in the Infants' Departments. Several visits were paid to the two schools, and on each occasion the throats of all the children were examined for clinical signs of diphtheria. Where any suspicion

of the disease existed, swabs were taken and sent to Manchester to be bacteriologically examined. In this way several cases of diphtheria were discovered among the children.

On October 13th no less than five children were found in the Infants' Department of Elton Council School presenting signs of diphtheria, and four of these proved positive on bacteriological examination. Although the other children were examined again on several occasions, no further case was discovered. The next case among the children attending this school occurred late in November, and only one further case occurred during the year.

(b) NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following schools have been closed during the periods stated on account of the prevalence of Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases :—

Walmersley School, Infants' Department, Chicken-pox : Closed from March 3rd to March 20th.

Parish Church School, Infants' Department, Measles : Closed from April 28th to May 14th.

Christian Church School, Infants' Department, Measles : Closed from April 28th to May 14th.

Brunswick School, Infants' Department, Measles : Closed from May 8th to May 27th.

St. Paul's (Bell) School, Infants' Department, Measles and Chicken-pox : Closed from June 4th to June 24th.

Walmersley School, Infants' Department, Measles : Closed from June 6th to June 28th.

Chesham School, Infants' Department, Mumps and Whooping Cough : Closed from December 9th to December 19th.

V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Exclusion from School.—137 children have been excluded from school during the year by the Medical Officer.

Particulars are given in the following table :—

Reason for Exclusion.	Number Excluded.	Total Number of School Days Absent.	Average Number of School Days Absent.
Impetigo	15	160	10.7
Ringworm	31	845	27.2
Ear Discharge	1	15	15.0
Blepharitis	1	10	10.0
Conjunctivitis	13	494	38.0
Corneal Opacities... ..	3	155	51.6
Phthisis	6	325	54.2
Incipient Phthisis... ..	2	255	127.5
Anæmia	2	40	20.0
Scabies... ..	5	125	25.0
Heart Disease... ..	1	65	65.0
Verminous Head	40	330	8.2
Verminous Body	7	35	5.0
Adenoids	2	70	35.0
Bronchitis... ..	3	50	16.6
Chorea	2	60	30.0
Abscess	1	5	5.0
Tubercular Gland... ..	2	110	55.0
Totals	137	3149	

BLIND, DEAF, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE, AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

The following is a list of the children maintained by the Local Authority in special schools :—

	Sex.	Age.	School.	Admitted	Due to Leave.
W.W.	M.	11	Lostock (Industrial).	Dec. 9/13	April 2/18
G.H.A.	M.	13	" "	May 14/12	June 12/16
J.G.	M.	12	" "	Dec. 9/12	Nov. 10/17
H.G.	M.	13	Royal Schools for the Deaf, Old Trafford, Manchester.	Mar 30/08	April 12/17
W.A.	M.	10	" "	Jan. /10	April 1/20
N.F.	F.	10	" "	Feb. 1/12	Jan. 25/20
D.D.	M.	9	" "	Jan. 13/13	May 5/20

In addition to the above there are 13 children who have been sent to Industrial Schools by the Borough Magistrates, and whose maintenance is charged to the Borough Fund.

INSTRUCTION IN PERSONAL HYGIENE.

Instruction in personal hygiene is given in the majority of the schools.

PHYSICAL EXERCISES.

Physical and breathing exercises, based on the "Syllabus of Physical Exercises for Public Elementary Schools," which was issued by the Board of Education in 1909, are carried out in the schools.

OPEN AIR SCHOOLS, &c.

No open air schools or camps have been arranged, but at most of the schools classes are held out of doors in fine weather.

In summer many classes are held in the Public Recreation Grounds, of which the Borough possesses five.

Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906.

No meals have been served to school children during the year under review.

VI.—SUMMARY of the Work of the SCHOOL NURSE during the year 1913.

369 visits have been paid to the various school departments. This number is made up as follows :—

99 visits with the Medical Officer to assist at the routine inspection.

270 visits for other purposes—examination of children for cleanliness, &c.

1,627 visits and re-visits have been made to the homes of dirty children and children found on Medical Inspection to be suffering from some disease or defect.

Visits were paid to all schools for the purpose of giving instructions to the children, especially the girls, in personal cleanliness, care of the hair, &c., and 2,277 were inspected for cleanliness.

TABLE I. Number of Children Inspected 1st January, 1913, to 31st December, 1913.
A—"CODE" GROUPS.

AGE.	ENTRANTS.						LEAVERS.					Grand Total.
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	
Boys	157	189	156	55	5	562	369	51	1	2	423	985
Girls	137	184	153	53	6	533	327	62	—	3	392	925
Totals...	294	373	309	108	11	1095	696	113	1	5	815	1910

B—GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE."

	Intermediate Group.	Special Cases.	RE-EXAMINATIONS (i.e., No. of Children Re-Examined).
Boys		62	} 1108
Girls		47	
Totals.....		109	1108

TABLE II. Return showing the Physical Condition of Children Inspected.

[illegible]

Teeth:	Sound...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Less than four decayed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Four or more decayed...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart and Circulation:	No disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Organic disease...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Functional disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Anæmia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other defect	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lungs:	No disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chronic Bronchitis & Bronchial Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculosis suspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nervous System:	No disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Epilepsy (major or minor)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chorea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Skin:	No disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ringworm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets:	No disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Marked	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deformities:	No deformity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Deformity present	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary):	No disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Glandular...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bones and joints...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Speech:	Not defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Defective articulation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Stammering	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mental Condition:	Normal or merely dull	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Mentally defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

APPENDIX.

Sanitary Condition of Schools.

The following is a list of improvements and alterations carried out in the schools of the Borough during the year 1913:—

ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL (Mixed and Infants' Departments).—The scholars' offices have been entirely rebuilt and converted to the water-carriage system. Additional closets have also been provided.

ST. CHAD'S SCHOOL.—An automatic flushing tank has been fixed to the water closets. The school has been decorated throughout. Incandescent gas lighting has been installed.

CLERKE STREET SCHOOL.—The school has been decorated throughout.

ST. PAUL'S (BELL LANE) SCHOOL.—The school has been decorated throughout.

ST. PAUL'S (HUNTLEY) SCHOOL.—The school has been decorated throughout.

GUARDIAN ANGELS' SCHOOLS.—The mixed department has been decorated throughout.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL.—Incandescent gas lighting has been installed.

WALMERSLEY SCHOOL.—Incandescent gas lighting has been installed.

All the schools were disinfected previous to the periodical cleaning.