

[Report 1941] / Medical Officer of Health, Bury County Borough.

Contributors

Bury (Greater Manchester, England). County Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1941

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/pu4k7ba8>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



COUNTY BOROUGH OF BURY.

REPORT

ON THE

Medical Inspection of School Children

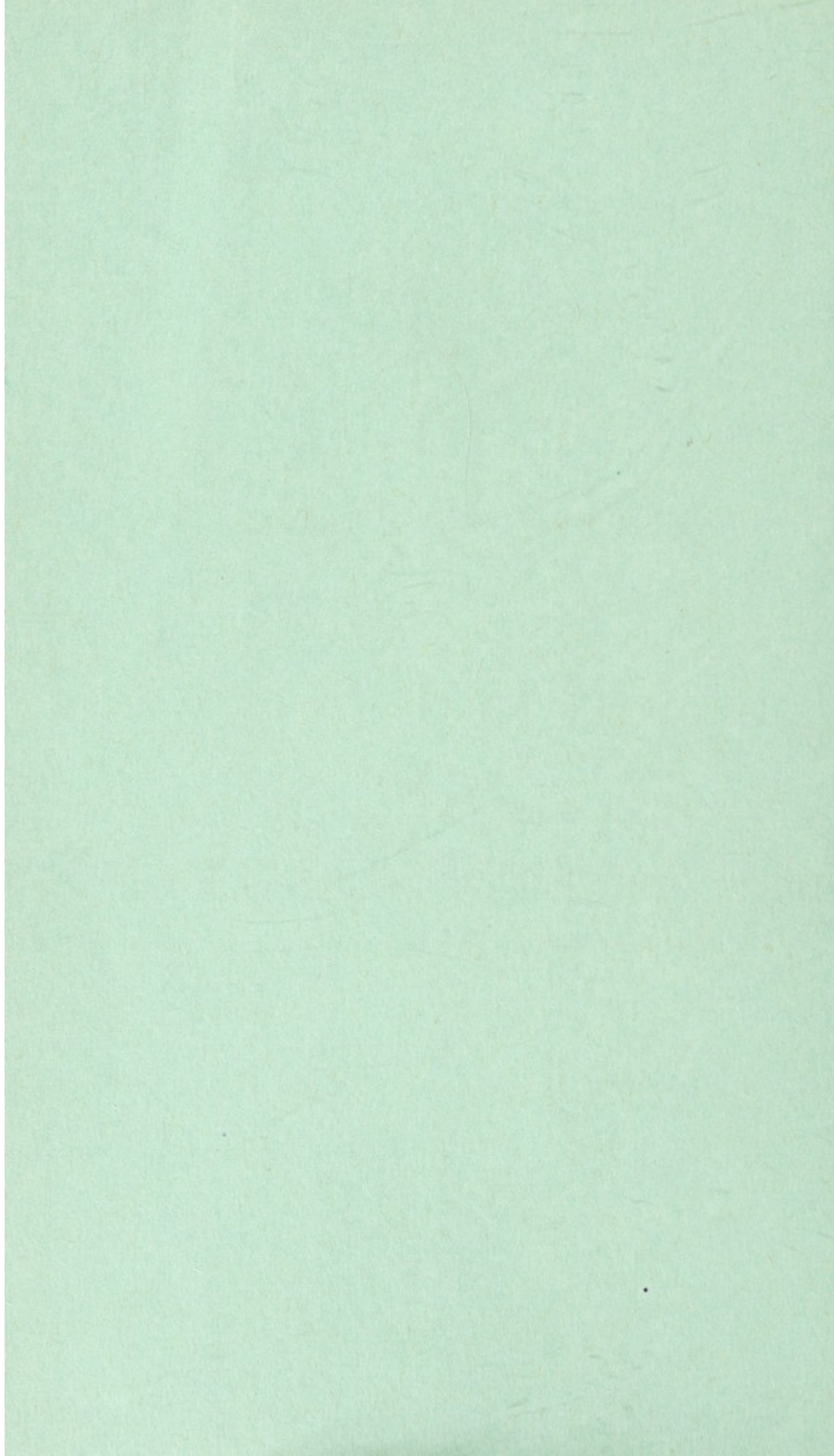
For the Year ended 31st December, 1941.

G. M. DAVIDSON LOBBAN, M.B., D.P.H.,

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

AND

CHIEF TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.





COUNTY BOROUGH OF BURY.

REPORT

ON THE

Medical Inspection of School Children

For the Year ended 31st December, 1941.

G. M. DAVIDSON LOBBAN, M.B., D.P.H.,

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

AND

CHIEF TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28968724>

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TITHEBARN STREET, BURY.

June, 1942.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual School Medical Report for 1941, and in this preface are mentioned some features worthy of note.

1. The number of children in elementary schools medically examined at routine inspections was 2,277 in the year under review. Special medical inspections and re-inspections to the number of 3,355 were undertaken during the year. This latter number is the largest since the inception of the School Medical Service in this town.

At special medical inspections and re-inspections school children who have defects and are ailing in any way are medically examined and recommendations as to appropriate treatments are made. At ordinary routine medical inspections a large number of healthy children are found.

The School Medical Service was therefore concentrated more on special inspections and re-inspections on children who had defects and were ailing, and this is of more value than the ordinary routine medical inspections.

2. Uncleanliness associated with verminous conditions amongst children have been brought before the public throughout the country by the press.

School Nurses in Bury have increased their attention to work entailed in this direction during the year under review. Out of 16,434 children examined by the School Nurses sixty-two were found to be grossly unclean and verminous. This number was almost double those of former years. Seventeen children were cleansed under the provisions of the Education Act, 1921, during the year, and legal proceedings were taken against five families concerning uncleanliness and verminous conditions found.

If the style of wearing short hair was again introduced it would help to materially decrease the number of children found verminous.

3. Scabies has been another topic discussed in the press and by the public.

In 1941 fifty cases of scabies were found amongst Bury school children. This represents 0.83 per cent. infected of the school population. In 1940, 1939, 1938, 1937, 1936, and 1935 the percentages were 0.2 per cent., 0.7 per cent., 0.6 per cent., 1.05 per cent., 0.37 per cent., and 0.55 per cent., respectively, found amongst the Bury school children to be infected with scabies.

The number of cases of scabies then found in 1941 was not a great one. It will be noted that a higher percentage of school children were infected in 1937 than during any of the other six years mentioned.

Cases of Scabies were treated at the School Clinic during the year under review, and at present are being treated at Clerke Street First Aid Post.

The Ministry of Health Circular 2517 dated the 14th November, 1941, outlined new powers granted to Local Authorities to bring about the examination of all members of a household (and persons resident in such places as common lodging-houses, hostels, etc.) from among whom, persons suffering from scabies, or in a verminous condition, have come, and to secure the necessary treatment of all persons who are found to require it as a result of such examination, and to eradicate sources of re-infestation by cleansing, or destruction, of verminous articles found on inspected premises.

In general, action has been taken by the School Medical Department and the Public Health Department on the lines indicated in the circular.

In the preface to the 1939 Annual School Medical Report it was suggested that Local Authorities be given powers of the description outlined in the Ministry Circular.

4. The state of the nutrition of the Bury school children during 1941 has received close attention.

As a result of medical inspections it was found that during the year 93 per cent. of the children inspected were of normal nutrition, as against 84 per cent. in 1940, 74 per cent. in 1939, 76 per cent. in 1938, and 81 per cent. in 1937.

Only 0.27 were of poor nutrition of those inspected in 1941, as compared with 1.47 per cent., 0.35 per cent., 0.92 per cent. and 0.6 per cent. in 1940, 1939, 1938 and 1937 respectively.

Of the other findings in 1941, 1 per cent. were of excellent nutrition, 5 per cent. were of slightly sub-normal nutrition. These latter percentages compare very favourably with those obtained in former years.

Generally speaking, then, the nutrition of Bury school children was much improved in 1941.

A new cooking centre has now been established at Moorgate and school feeding centres at Elton School, Bircle School, and Bell School, and additional centres at other schools are to be established. This is a step in the right direction.

At the feeding centres, school children are provided with a nutritious meal which is hot, appetising, and varies from day to day.

5. The incidence of infectious diseases amongst the school population has been low in the year under review, apart from slight epidemics of measles and whooping cough in March and April.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified in 1941 was 29, as against 21 in 1940; 56 in 1939; 99 in 1938; 57 in 1937; 87 in 1936; and in 1935 was 205.

Diphtheria cases notified in 1941 were 18, and the number notified in 1940 was 8; in 1931, 63; in 1938, 107; in 1937, 75; in 1936, 150; and in 1935 was 101.

Up to date 2,613 school children have been immunised against diphtheria. This represents 43.5 per cent. of the school population who have been protected against the disease.

There were no cases of tuberculosis found amongst the Bury school children during 1941.

6. The Artificial Sunlight Therapy Clinic continued during the year to benefit cases of general debility, bronchitis, bronchial catarrh, anæmia, skin diseases and rickets found among the school children and recommended to attend the clinic.

In all 2,446 attendances were made by the children selected for this mode of therapy in 1941.

Almost without exception all the children benefited not only as to the specific ailment, but as to their general health.

The mothers of the children have expressed their gratitude at the improvement in health of the cases so treated.

7. At the Secondary Schools 506 scholars were medically inspected during the year.

Few defects were found amongst the scholars; the chief ones were defective vision, enlarged tonsils, and poor posture.

In surveying the nutrition of the secondary school children it was found that approximately 89 per cent. were of normal nutrition, 7 per cent. were of excellent nutrition, 3 per cent. were of slightly subnormal nutrition, and none were of poor nutrition.

The approximate percentages for normal nutrition in the years 1940, 1939, 1938, 1937, 1936 and 1935 were 77 per cent., 67 per cent., 65 per cent., 57 per cent., 51 per cent., and 64 per cent., respectively.

The approximate percentages for poor nutrition for the same years, in the same order, were nil, 0.4 per cent., 1 per cent., 0.7 per cent., 0.3 per cent. and 1 per cent., respectively.

8. Other features contained in the Report are as follows:—

The number of cases (429) of skin diseases found amongst Bury school children was about the average found in former years, and there were as before few cases (7) of ringworm.

External eye diseases (76) were less than formerly.

The number of cases (46) of ear disease and defective hearing remained about the same.

At the Minor Ailments Clinic the attendances were 4,464 in 1941, as compared with 3,692 attendances in 1940.

About the average number of children (435) were submitted for refraction at the Ophthalmic Clinic.

Only five new cases of crippling defects were dealt with at the Orthopædic Centre. Thirty-eight cases of minor orthopædic defects made 764 visits for treatment at the Remedial Exercises Clinic at The Wylde. •

Dealing with the dental inspections and treatments, 3,799 children were inspected at routine and special inspections by the Dental Surgeon, 1,741 fillings and 3,860 extractions were made during the year.

To parents and guardians who have had the good sense to have the children under their care immunised against diphtheria, I think this Committee owe thanks. Crippling by the disease is always a matter of regret and a fatality deplorable.

If all school children were immunised against this disease, which is mainly spread by contact with school children, and the majority of children of tender years were so protected, diphtheria would become very rare indeed.

There appears to be a belief that immunisation is somewhat similar to vaccination.

It differs in that there is no painful scabbing; at no time does the child become the least upset in health, and there is no scarring left.

I would urge parents and guardians who have not made available to the children under their care this simple and harmless treatment, to think well about the matter, or if they have omitted to consider it, to do so now, without delay, and to ask themselves whether by withholding immunisation they are acting in the best interests of the children under their care, and of other children, especially those of younger years, who come in contact with the child.

As in most other things it avails nothing to be sorry after a catastrophe has happened, which could have been prevented by easy means with very little trouble.

Parents and guardians can enquire about diphtheria immunisation at the Wylde Clinic and at the Public Health Offices.

Children are immunised at the school clinic, and appointments can be made on almost any morning.

Although 2,613 school children have been immunised in Bury, diphtheria will not be absent from this area until all school children and the majority of pre-school children are immunised.

Compared with American towns, where practically every child has been immunised, and where as a result diphtheria has been completely prevented, our achievement has been a puny one.

The chief reasons why most children have not been immunised here has been the apathy of some parents, especially parents of young children.

Parents who have had their children immunised have the satisfaction of knowing that the children are protected against a crippling and often fatal disease.

As the school children have been subjected to war conditions since September, 1939, a comparison of a full year under such conditions with previous pre-war years is not only interesting but necessary.

The number of grossly unclean and verminous children found in 1941, although not large, was increased in comparison with former pre-war years.

Cases of scabies were comparatively few in number and were less than in some years of peace time.

The nutrition of the school children showed a big improvement in 1941 when compared with all other years in which surveys for nutrition were carried out. Cases of poor nutrition were very few, whilst the figure for normal nutrition was the best obtained so far.

A low incidence of cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever, diseases chiefly affecting children, was found in 1941, and in fact there have been remarkably few cases of other diseases in war years as compared with pre-war years.

The number of cases of skin diseases, ear diseases, and defective hearing cases for refraction remaining about the same in the year under review as in former years. External eye diseases are fewer. About the same number of cases of bronchitis were found.

The important work carried out by the School Nurses of following up cases of children found suffering from some disease or defect, to ensure that appropriate treatment was given, was pursued with great zeal and with good effects during 1941.

There has been the closest co-operation between the School Medical Service and the service of the Public Health Department.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Dr. Mackinnon, Dr. Ratcliffe, Mr. Jackson, the School Nurses and the clerical staff of the School Medical and Health Departments for the assistance they have given in the important work of the school medical department. I also wish to thank the Director of Education and his staff and the Head Teachers of the various schools for the help given to me, whilst I wish to make special mention of the very useful work carried out by Mrs. Rainey, Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C.

I wish to thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for the courtesy and consideration you have given me during the year under review.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G. M. DAVIDSON LOBBAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
School Medical Officer.

REVIEW OF THE FACTS DISCLOSED BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Tonsils and Adenoids.—During the year 58 (5, E*) children were found to be suffering from enlarged tonsils requiring treatment, while 148 were suffering from enlargement without evidence of ill-effect, and were referred for observation. Eight (2, E*) children were referred for treatment and 7 for observation for adenoids, while the figure for children suffering from both conditions together was 20 requiring treatment and 7 observation. In addition 29 (1, E*) children were referred for treatment for other defects of the nose and throat.

Comparative figures for the previous four years are:—

Enlarged Tonsils:	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Children requiring treatment	128	177	45	41
Children referred for observation... ..	111	166	82	57
Adenoids:				
Children requiring treatment	40	32	6	5
Children referred for observation... ..	34	12	4	—
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids:				
Children requiring treatment	41	24	48	25
Children referred for observation... ..	—	—	—	1
Other defects of nose and throat:				
Children requiring treatment or observation	19	19	22	32

Tuberculosis.—No cases of suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis were discovered.

Bronchitis.—Eighty-six (2, E*) cases of Bronchitis were discovered during the year and 49 were referred for treatment and 37 for observation. Most of the children notified on Form 40a D suffered from Bronchitis. Many other cases found were not sufficiently severe to be notified, but they required Ultra Violet Light treatment—from which much benefit was derived.

The number of cases of Bronchitis discovered and referred for treatment in previous years was:—1937, 44; 1938, 89; 1939, 71; 1940, 65.

* Includes Evacuees.

Skin.—A number of cases of Skin Disease were discovered during the Routine Inspections, and many more were sent as "specials" to the clinic for treatment. Among the cases of Skin Disease found were:—

	(a) Referred for Treatment	(b) Referred for Observation only
Ringworm, Scalp	—	—
Ringworm, Body	7	—
Scabies	50 (1, E*)...	1
Impetigo	83 (10, E*)..	2
Other Skin Diseases (Non-Tuberculous).	346 (28, E*)..	27

The figures for previous years are:—

	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Ringworm, Scalp:				
(a) Referred for treatment... ..	2	—	4	—
(b) Referred for observation only	—	—	—	—
Ringworm, Body:				
(a) Referred for treatment... ..	3	9	1	2
(b) Referred for observation only	—	—	—	—
Scabies:				
(a) Referred for treatment... ..	83	36	29	16
(b) Referred for observation only	—	—	—	—
Impetigo:				
(a) Referred for treatment... ..	88	88	45	73
(b) Referred for observation only	—	—	—	—
Other Skin Diseases (non-Tuberculous):				
(a) Referred for treatment... ..	334	394	260	290
(b) Referred for observation only	19	7	14	29

External Eye Disease.—81 cases of external eye disease were found during the year, 76 of which were referred for treatment. The following table shows the nature of these cases:—

	(a) Referred for Treatment.	(b) Referred for Observation only
Blepharitis	8	1
Conjunctivitis	37	1
Corneal Opacities	—	—
Other	30	3
Keratitis	1	—

* Includes Evacuees.

The figures for previous years are:—

	1937	1938.	1939	1940.
Blepharitis:				
(a) Referred for treatment... ..	29	47	51	22
(b) Referred for observation... ..	—	—	—	1
Conjunctivitis:				
(a) Referred for treatment... ..	19	47	27	42
(b) Referred for observation... ..	—	—	—	—
Corneal Opacities:				
(a) Referred for treatment	2	—	—	2
(b) Referred for observation... ..	—	—	—	—
Other:				
(a) Referred for treatment... ..	26	74	58	63
(b) Referred for observation	4	14	4	—

Defective Vision and Squint.—435 (12, E*) cases of defective vision and squint were found. Of these 368 were cases of defective vision and 67 cases of squint. 391 were referred for treatment and 44 for observation only.

Previous figures are:—

	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Cases of defective vision and squint found... ..	381	546	608	505
Cases of defective vision and squint referred for treatment	329	523	553	454
Cases of defective vision and squint referred for observation	52	23	55	51

Ear Diseases and Hearing.—Ten children were found to be suffering from defective hearing, and 36 (4, E*) from other ear diseases. Children who have been treated at the clinic are called up subsequently from time to time, in order that any recurrence may be detected.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The position at the end of 1941 with regard to the immunisation of school children was that 2,613 children of school age were immunised against diphtheria. Of the children fully immunised none contracted diphtheria. Partial immunisation mitigated the effects of the disease and probably staved off fatal consequences in the few cases of partially immunised children who contracted the disease.

* Includes Evacuees.

" FOLLOWING UP."

Medical Inspection is obviously of very little use unless those children who are found to be suffering from some disease or defect are " followed up " in order to ensure that the necessary treatment is obtained.

During the year the School Nurses have carried out the following visits, etc. :—

Number of visits to school departments in connection with medical inspection	453
Number of visits to schools to examine children for cleanliness	377
Number of visits and re-visits to homes	294
„ examinations for cleanliness	16,434

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

Minor Ailments.—A Clinic for the treatment of Minor Ailments is held at The Wylde. The accommodation consists of waiting room, dressing room, consulting room, and nurses' room.

The Clinic is open six days a week during school terms. Children attend from 9 to 10 a.m., when they are seen by the Medical Officer. They are either treated or referred to their own doctor in the case of children having a regular medical attendant.

A child may attend other clinics such as the Sunlight, Immunisation, Remedial Exercises Clinic, etc. The record of its attendances at all Clinics and the results obtained are placed on a key card, which gives a complete clinical medical history of each school child.

The number of children attending the Minor Ailments Clinic during the year 1941 is shown in the following table :—

Number of children attending from 1940	129 (5 E*)
„ „ discharged during 1940	1,143 (101 E*)
„ „ still attending at end of 1941	77 (2 E*)
„ fresh children who attended during 1941 ...	1,100 (98 E*)
„ attendances	4,464 (297 E*)
Clinic open days	309
Average attendance per child	3.63
Average daily attendance	14.44

In addition to the above, 481 (12 E*) children attended on three or four successive days for mydriatic application before seeing the School Oculist for purpose of refraction. This represents 1,684 attendances which are not included in the total attendances in the previous table.

* Includes Evacuees.

Comparative figures for previous years are as follows:—

	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Number of fresh children who attended Clinic	1,015	1,178	856	916
Number of attendances	5,374	5,269	3,823	3,692
Average attendance per child	5.1	4.2	3.9	3.66
Average daily attendance	18.3	18.3	13.1	12.35
Children attending for mydriatic application.	381	456	478	423

Altogether 672 (52, E*) parents were seen at the Clinic during the course of the year. This was largely in connection with defects found in the course of Medical Inspection.

Much prolonged treatment is caused by some children ceasing to attend the Clinic before being cured, and then relapsing and coming back in as bad a state as they were at the commencement of their treatment.

Tonsils and Adenoids.—Many of the cases requiring operative interference are treated by general practitioners. New arrangements came into force during 1930 with the Board of the Bury Infirmary under which certain cases are treated at that Institution. No charge is made by the Board to the Education Committee, and correspondingly no charge is made by the Education Committee to parents of children treated. The Local Authority makes an annual grant to the Infirmary in connection with this scheme.

The following table contains particulars of the cases treated during the last five years:—

	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Total number of cases receiving some form of treatment	172	159	168	123	137 (5 E*)
Number of cases receiving operative treatment under the local Authority's Scheme	61	21	22	17	13 (3 E*)
Number of cases receiving operative treatment by private practitioner or otherwise	85	74	86	38	80 (2 E*)

Tuberculosis.—The following table shows the number of cases of definite Tuberculosis which have received Institutional treatment during the year:—

At Liverpool Open-Air Hospital for Children, Leasowe:

	No.	Total No. of Days
Boys	2	423
Girl	1	349

At Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry:

Boys	1	28
Girl	1	4

At Bury Infirmary:

Boys	4	71
Girl	1	49

* Includes Evacuees.

Skin Disease.—The majority of the cases of Skin Disease occurring among school children were treated at the Minor Ailments Clinic.

External Eye Disease and Vision.—All cases of External Eye Disease are now referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Local Authority at the School Ophthalmic Clinic. The majority of children suffering from defective vision are also examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

The following table gives particulars of the children treated during the past five years:—

	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
No. of children submitted to refraction	381	456	480	423	435 (12 E*)
„ „ already provided with suitable spectacles..	90	49	74	99	64
„ „ not requiring spectacles	43	58	51	39	44
„ „ for whom spectacles were prescribed ...	248	349	355	285	327 (9 E*)
„ „ who had obtained the necessary spectacles by the end of the year	242	254	315	255	244 (6 E*)

In cases where the parent cannot afford to pay for glasses the Education Committee pay the cost wholly or in part. The number of cases in which such assistance was rendered during 1941 was 12 (5, E*). In each instance spectacles were provided free.

Some parents are still too dilatory in obtaining spectacles, and even when they do obtain them they do not insist on the child wearing them.

Ear Disease and Hearing.—No special treatment is provided apart from that which may be obtained at the School Clinic. 43 cases of Minor Ear Defect have been treated.

Cases offering difficulty are referred for opinion and treatment if necessary to the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist at Bury Infirmary.

Dental Defects.—See Table IV. at end of this report.

Crippling Defects of Orthopædics.—An arrangement is in force under which Orthopædic cases from Bury are treated under the Scheme of the Lancashire County Council.

An Orthopædic Clinic is held once weekly at the "Uplands," Whitefield.

* Includes Evacuees.

At Ancoats Hospital, Manchester, cases are seen for further opinion or for further examination, including X-ray photographs. Apart from examination and out-patient treatment, only short stay cases are admitted to the Wards of the Ancoats Hospital.

At Biddulph Hospital, near Congleton, which Hospital belongs to the Lancashire County Council, in-patient treatment is afforded.

Particulars of cases dealt with at the Orthopædic Clinic during the year are given below :—

NEW CASES :—

First Consultation with Surgeon	5
Second or subsequent Consultations with Surgeon...	—

OLD CASES :—

Total Consultations with Surgeon	26
Total Consultations with Surgeon—all cases	31

NEW CASES.—Analysis of Defects :—

Genu Valgum	1
Defective Posture	2
Torticollis... ..	1
Neck Deformity	1
	—
	5

No children were admitted to Ancoats Hospital during the year.

REMEDIAL EXERCISES.

Special classes for remedial exercises were held at the School Clinic during 1941. The cases and attendances were as follows :—

(a) Analysis of Cases :—

Bad posture	19
Flat feet	3
Mouth Breathing	13
Old Poliomyelitis	1
Knock knees	1
Torticollis	1
	—
	38

(b) Attendances 764

Average attendance per child, 20.2.

ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT TREATMENT.

The treatment of Minor Ailments among the school children was extended in scope and increased in efficiency by the purchase of a Mercury Vapour Ultra-Violet Light Lamp.

Artificial Sunlight Clinic Cases and Attendances :—

(a) Analysis of Cases.

Anæmia	4
Malnutrition	7
Bronchitis	42 (2, E*)
Adenitis (not T.B.)	3
Skin	6
General Debility	85 (9, E*)
Alopecia	3
Otitis Media	1
Rickets	1
Enlarged Tonsils	2
Asthma... ..	1
Chorea	3
Catarrh	1
Frequent Colds and Sore Throats..	4
Cough	5

Total 167

Tuberculous, glands...	9
„ abdomen	3

Total 12 Total under both heads, 179

(b) Attendances.

Miscellaneous cases—167 children made 2253 attendances

Tubercular cases — 12 children made 193 attendances

Average attendance per child=13.66.

The total attendances and average attendance per child for previous years are given below :—

	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Total attendances... ..	2,418	4,144	3,305	3,516
Average attendance per child ...	13.9	19.45	15.88	18.77

* Includes Evacuees.

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

Notice is sent to the parent of every child of the date and time of inspection at school, and the parent is invited to attend. The percentage of parents attending was:—

" Entrants "	73.45%
" Second Age Group "	41.53%
" Third Age Group "	4.39%

OPEN-AIR EDUCATION.

There are no open-air or residential schools in the Borough.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

The following report is submitted:—

The Organiser of Physical Training joined H.M. Forces on the 4th September, 1940.

The Education Committee have continued to pay grants towards the maintenance of school playing fields and to supply games materials.

The teaching of Physical Education in schools of the Authority is based upon the Board of Education Syllabus for Physical Training, 1933, has been continued.

Under existing war conditions difficulties have been experienced in the case of the training of the boys, owing to the call to H.M. Forces of a number of the younger men teachers. The older men assistant teachers have, it is very gratifying to state, undergone training courses for physical training, and it is hoped that the standard of this very important section may be maintained.

The two new gymnasia, which have been completed, afford the very best accommodation for the teaching of physical training to the scholars in the senior schools.

Keep Fit classes are taken and are enjoyed.

The appointment of an Organiser of Youth Activities should lead to a much wider use of these gymnasia.

SCHOOL BATHS.

The Technical College Baths Superintendent and teacher of boys' swimming was called to H.M. Forces on the 28th August, 1941. Temporary arrangements were made for his work to be undertaken by others, and it can be said that, in the circumstances, swimming instruction has, during the last year, been a successful feature.

PROVISION OF MEALS.

During the year it was found necessary to provide to school children 93,945 meals, comprising 27,680 dinners and 66,265 one-third pint bottles of milk. The dinners were provided by and served at four restaurants situate in various parts of the town. The average cost per dinner was 5.8d., and the cost per bottle of milk was .46d.

The cases are selected by the application of a scale which takes into consideration income and number in family. This arrangement, however, does not debar other children from receiving free dinners and/or free milk, inasmuch as the Authority is also guided in the selection of children for supplementary nourishment by reports of teachers, school nurses and school attendance officers, and all cases of suspected malnutrition are immediately referred to the School Medical Officer for examination and report, and if free dinners and/or milk are recommended such provision is made.

BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE, AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

No schools for the treatment of these children have so far been provided by the Local Education Authority, but Blind and Deaf children are sent to outside institutions.

During 1941 the following children were maintained in special schools or hospitals:—

Blind	3	Orthopaedic cases... ..	7
Deaf	3	Tuberculous	11
Physically defective ...	12	Epileptic	1

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

No nursery schools have been provided in the area.

INSTITUTIONS.

Children in hospitals or other institutions are visited periodically by the School Medical Officer, who discusses with doctors in charge the progress made by the patients.

EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

During the year 89 children have been examined as to their fitness to undertake employment (usually the delivery of newspapers) out of school hours.

In many cases, these children have been employed for several weeks before the necessary certificate has been obtained. It is necessary, therefore, to stress the point that all individuals, employing school children, must ask the children to produce the necessary certificate, otherwise if the practice mentioned above is persisted in, stronger action will have to be taken.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

During the year 1941 the total number of children inspected was 506. Particulars as to age and sex will be found in the following table:—

Age	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Boys ..	—	18	58	68	86	57	18	2	—	307
Girls ..	10	34	29	51	37	27	8	3	—	199
Totals..	10	52	87	119	123	84	26	5	—	506

Total number of visits of School Medical Staff for the purposes of Medical Inspection:—

Doctor	16
School Nurse	23

Interference with the school routine was, as far as possible, avoided. The Head Masters of the two schools very kindly placed their rooms at my disposal, and I desire to express my thanks to them and to the other members of the staff for their interest in the work of Medical Inspection and for their valuable assistance.

Nutrition.—The following Table shows the classification of the nutrition of the pupils examined at the Secondary Schools during the year under review:—

	No. of Pupils Examined	Excellent		Normal		Slightly Sub Normal.		Poor.	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boys	307	18	5.86	278	90.56	11	3.58	—	—
Girls	199	18	9.05	173	86.93	8	4.02	—	—
Totals...	506	36	7.11	451	89.13	19	3.76	—	—

REMEDIAL EXERCISES.

Special classes for Remedial Exercises were arranged for the year 1941.

One child from a Secondary School made 13 attendances at these classes.

ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT TREATMENT.

The treatment of minor ailments by ultra-violet light therapy is available to Secondary School children, and the following information is given re cases and attendances:—

Analysis of cases:

Cervical Adenitis (non T.B.)	...	...	1
Debility	...	...	1
Tubercular Glands	...	...	1 (E*)
			—
			3
			—

Attendances:

Miscellaneous cases	...	...	25
Tuberculous cases	...	...	7
			—
			32
			—

* Includes Evacuees.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspections, 1941.**A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.**

(1) Entrants 1,356. Second Age Group 443. Third Age Group 478. Total, 2,277.

(2) Number of other Routine Inspections: Nil.
Grand total, 2,277.

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-inspections, 3,355 (142 E*)

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the Year in the Routine Age Groups.

Number of Children Inspected	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly sub-norm'l)		D. Bad	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2,277	23	1.01	2,134	93.72	115	5.05	5	.22

TABLE III.

Group I. Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanness) :

Total number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme ... 866* (70 E)

Group II. Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint :

Errors of refraction (including squint) ... 426* (12 E)

Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.) ... 9

Total ... 435* (12 E)

Number of children for whom spectacles were

(a) Prescribed ... 327* (9 E)

(b) Obtained ... 244* (6 E)

Note: *Includes Evacuees.

Group III. Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Received operative treatment	93* (5 E)
Received other forms of treatment	44
Total number treated	137* (5 E)

TABLE IV.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist—

(a) Routine Age Groups:

Age	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
Number	20	324	304	384	370	375	353	365	288	63	2,846 *(78E)

(b) Specials 953

(c) Total (Routine and Specials) 3,799

(2) Number found to require treatment 3,346

(3) Number actually treated 2,292

(4) Attendances made by children for treatment 2,499

(5) Half-days devoted to—

Inspection 28

Treatment 342

Total 370

(6) Fillings:—

Permanent Teeth 1,689* (49 E)

Temporary Teeth 52

Total 1,741* (49 E)

(7) Extractions:—

Permanent Teeth 533* (6 E)

Temporary Teeth 3,327* (44 E)

Total 3,860* (50 E)

(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics for
extractions 11

(9) Other operations:—

Permanent Teeth 174* (6 E)

Temporary Teeth 201* (2 E)

Total 375* (8 E)

Note: * Includes Evacuees.

TABLE V.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(1) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised person	5
(2) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons	16,434
(3) Number of individual children found unclean...	62* (3 E)
(4) Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	17
(5) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921... ..	13 children (5 families)
(b) Under the School Attendance By-laws	—

TABLE VI.

BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.

Number of totally or almost totally blind and deaf children who are NOT at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs. The return should relate to all such children, including evacuees resident in the Authority's area:—

	At a Public Elementary School	At an Institution other than a Special School	At No School or Institution
Blind Children	2	—	—
Deaf Children	2	—	—

Note : * Includes Evacuees.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.—Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1941, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928 None.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.—Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1941, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928 None.

