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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BURY

REPORT

ON THE

Medical Inspection of School Children

For the Year ended 31st December, 1944.

K. K. WOOD, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TITHEBARN STREET, BURY.

April, 1945.

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the work of the School Medical Department for 1944. The method of medical inspection carried out was the same as that adopted in the previous year.

There has been a slight increase in the number of Minor Ailments treated, especially amongst evacuees. The chief increase to be noted is in skin conditions. The numbers of cases of Scabies, Impetigo, and other skin conditions have increased. The number of Scabies cases treated was 333 (59 E), against 263 (35 E) last year.

The general nutrition of the children remains good. The fact that 98 per cent. of the children are reported as having normal nutrition is very satisfactory. No cases of bad nutrition have been reported.

There has been no large outbreak of infectious disease. Diphtheria Immunisation has continued. At the end of the year 71.9 per cent. of children between the ages of 5 and 15 had been immunised. There were no deaths from diphtheria amongst children who had been immunised.

There has been an increase, 26 cases against 16 last year, in the number of children receiving institutional treatment for Tuberculosis.

A sanitary survey of the schools has been made for report to the Committee.

The amount of work carried out can be seen from the figures in the body of the report. The School Dental work has fallen behind, owing to the absence of the full-time dentist.

I would like to thank all the members of the Staff of the School Medical Department for their efficient work and their

assistance to me when taking over the Department. Also I would express my thanks to Mr. Tomlinson, the Director of Education, for his help.

To you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Education Committee, I would like to record my indebtedness for your interest in the School Medical Service.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

K. K. Wood.

School Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER FOR 1944.

Area of Bury in acres 7,434
Population (Registrar-General's estimate at mid-year 1943) ..52,660
Number of school children on register at end of 1944—

Elementary 6,491
Secondary 645

There are 7 provided schools (including the High School and Junior Technical) and 20 non-provided schools in the Borough.

REVIEW OF THE FACTS DISCLOSED BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Tonsils and Adenoids.—During the year 280 (8 E*) children were found to be suffering from enlarged tonsils requiring treatment, while 56 were suffering from enlargement without evidence of ill-effect, and were referred for observation. Six children were referred for treatment for adenoids, while the figure for children suffering from both conditions together was 21 requiring treatment and 2 observation. In addition 31 (4 E*) children were referred for treatment for other defects of the nose and throat.

Comparative figures for the previous four years are:—

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Enlarged Tonsils:				
Children requiring treatment ...	41	58	37	76 (2 E*)
Children referred for observation	57	148	133	14
Adenoids:				
Children requiring treatment ...	5	8	11 (1 E*)	9 (1 E*)
Children referred for observation	—	7	5	—
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids:				
Children requiring treatment ...	25	20	28	91 (2 E*)
Children referred for observation	1	7	4	1
Other defects of nose and throat:				
Children requiring treatment or observation	32	29	66 (2 E*)	73 (2 E*)

Tuberculosis.—One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 13 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were discovered.

Bronchitis.—19 (2 E*) cases of Bronchitis were discovered during the year, 15 (2 E*) were referred for treatment and 4 for observation.

The number of cases of Bronchitis discovered in previous years was:—1940, 65; 1941, 86; 1942, 52; 1943, 121.

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:—

* Includes Evacuees.

	(a) Referred for Treatment	(b) Referred for Observation only
Scabies	333 (59 E*)	—
Ringworm, Scalp	—	—
Ringworm, Body	4 (1 E*)	—
Impetigo	130 (9 E*)	—
Other Skin Diseases (Non-Tuberculous). 522 (82 E*)	...	7

The figures for previous years are:—

Ringworm, Scalp:	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
(a) Referred for treatment	—	—	—	—
(b) Referred for observation only	—	—	—	—
Ringworm, Body:				
(a) Referred for treatment	2	7	1	5
(b) Referred for observation only	—	—	—	—
Scabies:				
(a) Referred for treatment	16	50	177 (21 E*)	263 (35 E*)
(b) Referred for observation only	—	—	1	—
Impetigo:				
(a) Referred for treatment	73	83	135 (8 E*)	103
(b) Referred for observation only	—	2	—	—
Other Skin Diseases (non-Tuberculous):				
(a) Referred for treatment	290	346	448 (21 E*)	497 (23 E*)
(b) Referred for observation only	29	27	26	2

External Eye Disease.—76 (7 E*) cases of external eye disease were found during the year, 51 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	4 (1 E*)	8
Conjunctivitis	34 (4 E*)	—
Corneal Opacities	1	—
Other	12 (2 E*)	17
Keratitis	—	—

The figures for previous years are:—

Blepharitis:	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
(a) Referred for treatment	22	8	10 (1 E*)	5
(b) Referred for observation	1	1	3	—
Conjunctivitis:				
(a) Referred for treatment	42	37	38 (4 E*)	33 (1 E*)
(b) Referred for observation	—	1	—	—
Corneal Opacities:				
(a) Referred for treatment	2	—	1	—
(b) Referred for observation	—	—	—	—
Keratitis:				
(a) Referred for treatment	—	—	—	1
(b) Referred for observation	—	—	—	—
Other:				
(a) Referred for treatment	63	30	48 (3 E*)	29 (2 E*)
(b) Referred for observation	—	3	1	—

* Includes Evacuees.

Defective Vision and Squint.—383 (12 E*) cases of defective vision and squint were found. Of these 304 were cases of defective vision and 79 cases of squint. 368 were referred for treatment and 15 for observation only.

Previous figures are:—

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Cases of defective vision and squint found	505	435	509 (12 E*)	428 (6 E*)
Cases of defective vision and squint referred for treatment	454	391	471	423
Cases of defective vision and squint referred for observation	51	44	38	5

Ear Disease and Hearing.—Two children were found to be suffering from defective hearing, and 79 (15 E*) from other ear diseases.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The position at the end of 1944 with regard to the immunisation of school children was that 4,748 children of school age were wholly immunised against diphtheria.

" FOLLOWING UP."

The method of " following up " has been the same as in previous years.

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

Number of visits to school departments in connection with medical inspection	135
Number of visits to schools to examine children for cleanliness	263
Number of visits and re-visits to homes	331
„ examinations for cleanliness	18,683

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

Minor Ailments.—A Clinic for the treatment of Minor Ailments is held daily at The Wyld. Children attending without an appointment should come between the hours of 9 and 10 a.m.

The number of children attending the Minor Ailments Clinic during the year 1944 is shown in the following table:—

Number of children attending from 1943	141 (6 E*)
„ „ discharged during 1944	1,671 (247 E*)
„ „ still attending at end of 1944	134 (11 E*)
„ fresh children who attended during 1944	1,664 (252 E*)
„ attendances	8,137 (1051 E*)
Clinic open days	297
Average attendance per child	4.51
Average daily attendance	27.4

* Includes Evacuees.

In addition to the above, 368 children attended on three or four successive days for mydriatic application before seeing the School Oculist for purpose of refraction. This represents 1,288 attendances which are not included in the total attendances in the previous table.

Comparative figures for previous years are as follows:—

Number of fresh children who attended Clinic	1940. 916	1941. 1,100	1942. 1,312 (79 E*)	1943. 1,633 (84 E*)
Number of attendances	3,692	4,464	6,855 (446 E*)	7,771 (264 E*)
Average attendance per child...	3.66	3.63	4.94	4.46
Average daily attendance	12.35	14.44	22.18	25.73
Children attending for mydriatic application	423	481	402	389 (6 E*)

Altogether 1,382 (230 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.

Tonsils and Adenoids.—The following table contains particulars of the cases treated during the last five years:—

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Total number of cases receiving some form of treatment	123	137 (5 E*)	221 (4 E*)	318 (11 E*)	345 (2 E*)
Number of cases receiving operative treatment under the local Authority's Scheme	17	13 (3 E*)	44 (4 E*)	57 (3 E*)	55 (1 E*)
Number of cases receiving operative treatment by private practitioner or otherwise	38	80 (2 E*)	111	152 (4 E*)	81 (1 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	11	2,165
Girls	11	1,926

At Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry:

Girl	1	83
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At Halifax Sanatorium:

Boy	1	141
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At Jericho Hospital, Bury:

Girls	2	225
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Skin Disease.—The majority of the cases of Skin Disease occurring among school children were treated at the Minor Ailments Clinic.

* Includes Evacuees.

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:—

No. of children submitted to refraction ...	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
... ..	423	435 (12 E*)	402 (12 E*)	389 (6 E*)	368 (12 E*)
No. of children already provided with suitable spectacles ...	99	64	85	81	72
No. of children not requiring spectacles ...	39	44	27	47	53
No. of children for whom spectacles were prescribed ...	285	327 (9 E*)	290 (7 E*)	250 (3 E*)	239 (12 E*)
No. of children who had obtained the necessary spectacles by the end of the year	255	244 (6 E*)	200 (7 E*)	160 (3 E*)	162

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 1944 was 10 (4 E*). In 9 instances spectacles were provided free, and half cost in 1 case.

Ear Disease and Hearing.—No special treatment is provided apart from that which may be obtained at the School Clinic. 79 (15 E*) 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, or to the Department for the Deaf, Manchester University.

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.

* Includes Evacuees.

An Orthopædic Clinic is held at the "Uplands," Whitefield, on Wednesdays. The Orthopædic Surgeon attends monthly.

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 Grange Orthopædic Hospital 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	15
Second or subsequent consultations with Surgeon ...	5

OLD CASES:—

Total Consultations with Surgeon	36
All Cases—Total Consultation with Surgeon	56

Six children were admitted to Biddulph Hospital during the year.

REMEDIAL EXERCISES.

Special classes for remedial exercises were held at the School Clinic during 1944. Seventy-four cases attended, making 963 attendances, an average of 13 attendances per child.

ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT TREATMENT.

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

Artificial Sunlight Clinic Cases and Attendances:—

(a) Analysis of Cases:—

General Debility	46
Bronchitis	44
Anæmia	11
Frequent Colds	14
Cough	8
Catarrh	2
Glands (non-T.B.)	12
Subnormal Nutrition	3
Asthma	2
Skin	4
Rheumatism	1
Blepharitis	2
Otorrhœa	1
Enlarged Tonsils	8
Rickets	2
Steatorrhœa	1
Suspected T.B. Abdomen	1
Deformity	1
Coeliac Disease	1
T.B. Contact	1

Total 165

Tuberculosis, Glands	5
" Abdomen	2
" Spine	1
" Knee	1
Total	9
Total under both heads	174

(b) Attendances.

Miscellaneous cases—165 children made 3,073 attendances.

Tubercular cases — 9 children made 161 attendances.

Average attendance per child=18.1.

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

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Total attendances	3,516	2,446	2,328	2,752
Average attendance per child... ..	18.77	13.66	18.93	15.3

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

The percentage of parents attending at routine inspections was:—

"Entrants"	74.1%
"Second Age Group"	None examined.
"Third Age Group"	1.1%

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 supply games materials so far as they were available.

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

Mr. Charles Nuttall has since February, 1944, rendered service as teacher of physical training and games for the boys in the Bury High School, Junior Technical School, and a number of Senior Schools.

SCHOOL BATHS.

A swimming bath is provided in the New Technical School. The water is treated with ozone, and in addition on occasion a chlorine preparation has been added. The bath is used by school

children and also by certain Service personnel. The use of this bath has been so great that the filtering and sterilising plant has been overloaded. Three samples of the bath water have been taken for examination.

PROVISION OF MEALS.

During the year, school children were provided with 132,275 meals, comprising 41,805 dinners, and 90,470 one-third pint bottles of milk.

A second canteen is now in the process of building on land on Walshaw Road, Bury. The implementing of the Ministry of Education Circular 21 will involve a large extension of the School Meals Service by provision of Canteens and Dining Halls.

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 1944 the following types of children were maintained in special schools or hospitals:—

Blind	6	Orthopaedic cases	13
Deaf	5	Tuberculous	27
Delicate—Physically defective	8	Heart Disease	2

SPEECH DEFECTS.

A preliminary investigation has shown that there are 397 children suffering from some form of speech defect. Further investigations are being made, and the Committee has decided to engage a Speech Therapist to deal with these cases.

EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

During the year 60 children have been examined as to their fitness to undertake employment (usually the delivery of newspapers) out of school hours.

EVACUATION.

The facilities of the School Medical Service have been available for the use of evacuated children of school age. The number of attendances made are given in parenthesis opposite the various items.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

During the year 1944 the total number of children inspected was 185. 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	—	—	—	83	68	31	3	—	—	185
Girls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	83	68	31	3	—	—	185

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

Doctor	4
School Nurse	14

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	185	—	—	184	99.5	1	0.5	—	—
Girls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	185	—	—	184	99.5	1	0.5	—	—

REMEDIAL EXERCISES.

One Secondary School child made 38 attendances at special classes for Remedial Exercises during the year 1944.

MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC.

The number of Secondary School children attending the Minor Ailments Clinic during the year was 30.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspections, 1944.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(1) Entrants 874. Second Age Group, none. Third Age Group 437. Total, 1,311.

(2) Number of other Routine Inspections: Nil.
Grand total, 1,311.

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-inspections, 4,404 (412 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.	%
1,311	—	—	1,287	98·2	24	1·8	—	—

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 ... 1,690* (247 E)

Group II. Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint under the Authority's Scheme:

Errors of refraction (including squint) ... 364* (12 E)

Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.) ... 4

Total ... 368* (12 E)

Note: *Includes Evacuees.

Number of children for whom spectacles
were

(a) Prescribed...	239
(b) Obtained ...	162

Group III. Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat,
under the Authority's Scheme :

Received operative treatment ...	55*	(1 E)
Received other forms of treatment ...	264	
Total number treated ...	319*	(1 E)

TABLE IV.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist—

(a) Routine Age Groups ...	1,381
(b) Specials ...	1,003
(c) Total (Routine and Specials) ...	2,384

(2) Number found to require treatment ... 2,066

(3) Number actually treated ... 1,822

(4) Attendances made by children for treatment ... 2,092

(5) Half-days devoted to—

Inspection ...	16
Treatment ...	161

Total ... 177

(6) Fillings :—

Permanent Teeth ...	200
Temporary Teeth ...	4

Total ... 204

(7) Extractions :—

Permanent Teeth ...	193
Temporary Teeth ...	1,582

Total ... 1,775

Note : *Includes Evacuees.

(8) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions	Nil
(9) Other operations:—	
Permanent Teeth	231
Temporary Teeth	195
Total	426

TABLE V.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(1) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised persons	7
(2) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons	18,683
(3) Number of individual children found unclean...	1,048
(4) Number of individual children cleansed volun- tarily	26
(5) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	—
(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	—	1
Deaf Children 	2	—	1

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.—Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1943, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928 4





