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COSELEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(*WALTER HY. ALLEN, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.*)

TO THE

SANITARY AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY

ON THE

Health of the District

AND THE

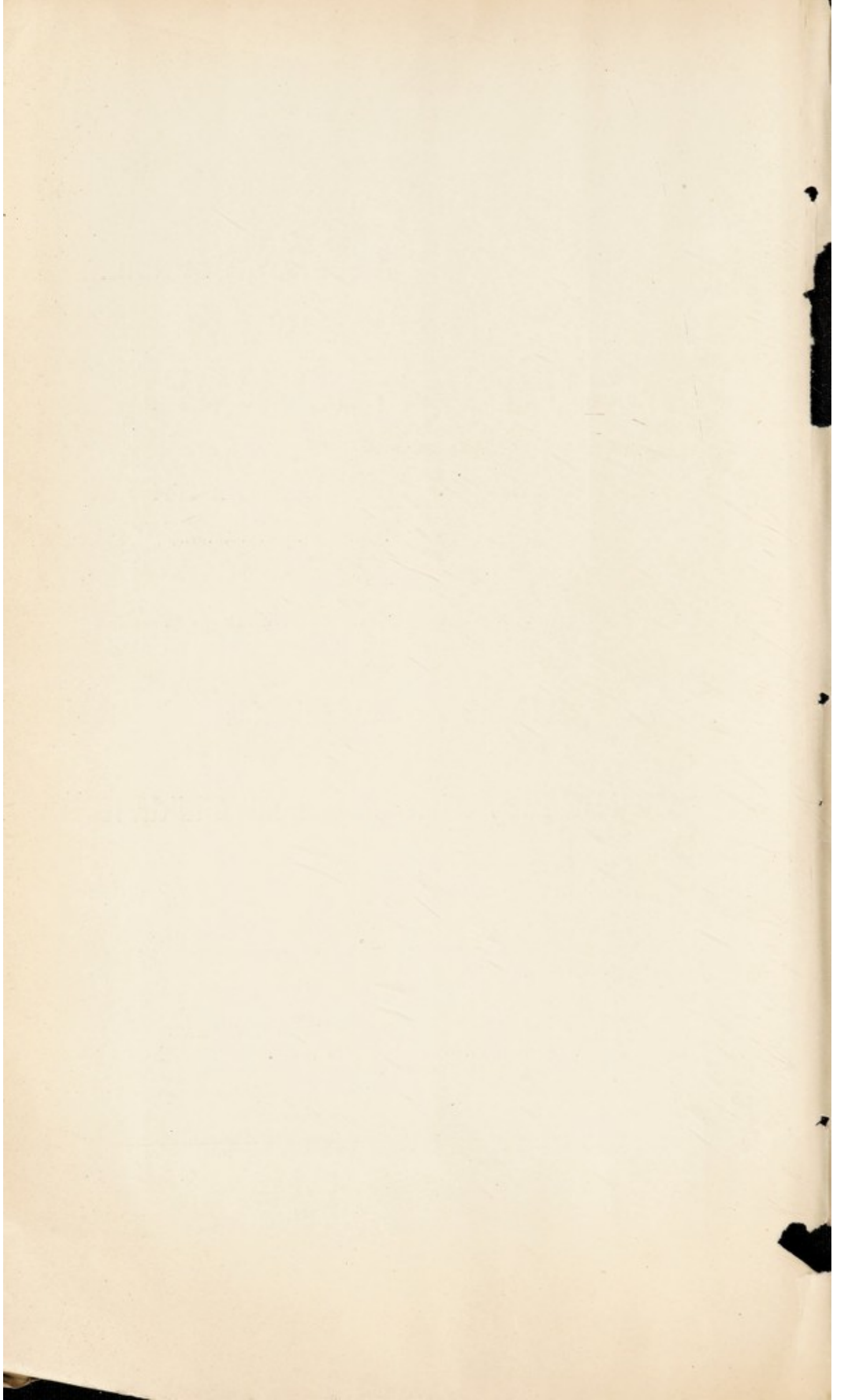
Medical Inspection of School Children

FOR THE YEAR

1915.

*PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SANITARY AND
EDUCATION COMMITTEES.*

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COSELEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR 1915.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Coseley Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to submit to you my Third Annual Report.

The district is bounded on the West by Sedgley.

” ” ” South by Dudley.

” ” ” North by Bilston and Wolverhampton.

” ” ” East by Tipton.

The district is drained by several small streams which eventually enter the Tame.

The area is 3,737 acres, and the population is estimated by the Registrar-General for the middle of the year 1915 at 22,817. Consequently, I have worked out the death rates and other percentages according to that figure.

This gives an average of 6.2 persons per acre.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered in the district was 652, comprising 319 males and 333 females—a decrease of 39 as compared with 1914. Taking the population as 22,817, this gives an annual birth rate of 28.57 per 1,000, or adding 2 which occurred outside the district—one male and one female—of 28.6 per 1,000 per annum.

The deaths registered in the district numbered 367, of which 213 were males and 154 females, giving a death rate of 16 per 1,000, or, adding the 43 transferable deaths which occurred outside the district—22 males and 21 females—a total of 410 deaths, with a death rate of 17.9 per 1,000, an increase of 1.6 on the previous year.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Estimated population at the middle of the year	...	...	...	22,817
Birth rate	...	...	...	28.6
Average birth rate for previous five years	...	...	...	29.5
Recorded death rate	...	...	...	17.9
Average death rate for previous five years	...	...	...	15.46
Infantile death rate per 1,000 births	...	...	...	142
Average infantile death rate per 1,000 births for the previous five years	...	...	...	119.4
Zymotic death rate per 1,000	...	...	...	1.88
Average zymotic death rate for previous five years	...	...	...	1.58
Phthisis death rate per 1,000	...	...	...	.73

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole district during 1915 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate*	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate*					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	22,250	675	675	33.25	283	12.7	...	42	78	118	325	14.6
1911	22,250	650	650	30.33	323	14.5	...	35	79	121	358	16
1912	22,250	572	572	25.93	267	12	...	43	59	102	310	13.9
1913	22,981	741	741	32.4	317	13.7	...	60	99	133	377	16.46
1914	23,048	681	681	29.5	327	13.7	...	50	86	126	377	16.3
1915	22,817	654	654	28.6	367	16	...	43	93	142	410	17.9

* Rates in Columns 5, 7, and 13, calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total Population at all ages	22,841	} At Census of 1911.
Number of inhabited houses	..	...	...	4,872
Average number of persons per house	...	...	...	4.56

The following Table shows the mortality in the various months of the year and the death rate:—

Month.		Deaths.		Rate.
January	(4 weeks)	...	28	15.8
February	(4 weeks)	...	35	19.7
March	(5 weeks)	...	45	20.3
April	(4 weeks)	...	30	16.9
May	(4 weeks)	...	32	19.1
June	(5 weeks)	...	25	10.8
July	(4 weeks)	...	17	9.5
August	(4 weeks)	...	25	14
September	(5 weeks)	...	36	16.1
October	(4 weeks)	...	29	16
November	(4 weeks)	...	27	15
December	(5 weeks)	...	40	18

Thus it will be seen that the mortality was greatest in March, February and December, and least in June, July, August.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following Table gives the deaths and death rate from these diseases during the past five years. There were 42 deaths in 1915, representing a zymotic death rate of 1.8 per 1,000.

Year.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Whooping Cough.	Enteric Fever.	Diarrhoea	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Total.	Rate per 1,000.	
1915	...	0	15	2	3	1	3	18	0	1	43	1.88
1914	...	0	3	2	0	0	2	14	1	1	23	1
1913	...	0	18	0	2	3	1	18	0	1	43	1.88
1912	..	0	15	2	1	5	1	7	1	0	32	1.43
1911	...	0	23	2	1	0	0	28	1	0	55	2.47

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The following Table shows the mortality amongst children under one year, and the proportion per 1,000 births registered for the previous five years :—

Year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Mortality per 1,000 births.
1915	93	142
1914	86	126
1913	99	132
1912	59	102
1911	79	121
1910	78	115

The average number of deaths for 1910-14 was 80, and the average death rate per 1,000 births was 119.4.

In 1915 there were 93 deaths under one year of age, and a mortality of 142 per 1,000 births registered, which shows a regrettable increase.

The Tables show that the births have declined from 681 in 1914 to 654 in 1915—a decrease of 27, equal to five per cent. The question of infant mortality is an increasingly important one, in view of the great loss of life entailed by the War, and it is very disturbing to find such an increase as there is in this year's figures. Unhappily, in all localities associated with the mining industry, there is a very high infantile mortality. Several reasons for this have been advanced, viz. :—The high birth rate per family, which limits the amount of care possible for each child; the fact that miners belong to a lower social strata; the comparatively low standard of domestic cleanliness; and the fact that conservancy methods of excrement and refuse disposal predominate.

It is a noteworthy fact that the mortality of male infants has particularly increased of late years. In 1913 this excess in mortality had leapt to 23 per cent. Before they are three months old, 4 boys die to 3 girls, and of 1,000 infants under a year old 120 boys die to every 96 girls. It is, therefore, very evident that if the manhood of the nation is to be preserved, strong measures must be taken to reduce this very large mortality among infants, and this growing preponderance of deaths among males.

Congenital malformations, premature births, atrophy, debility, marasmus, and atelectasis were responsible for nearly 40 deaths, and as a very large proportion of these deaths occur in the first week, it is evident that measures of a remedial nature must be ante-natal.

SCARLET FEVER.

For the past year the returns show that 49 notifications of the above disease have been received by me, and 2 deaths have occurred from same, two occurring in 1914. In referring to 1914 Annual Report, you will observe that 37 cases were notified, showing an increase of 12 cases as compared with the present year.

A glance at the following Table will show in what districts the cases occurred, and where the disease was most prevalent:—

Ward.					Number of Notifications.
South-East	...	...	...	...	7
Hurst Hill	...	...	...	...	6
West Central	...	...	...	...	11
Highfields	...	...	...	...	20
Springvale	...	...	...	...	5

None of the cases appeared to be of a severe type. Most of the cases were treated at home; a few at the General Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Some difficulty arose in connection with one of the cases at Bloomfield Road. The father (on military duties) was notified by the mother of the child's condition. He obtained leave from his regiment to visit his child without informing his superiors of the nature of the child's condition. Had it not been for the speedy action of the practitioner who was in attendance on the case, serious trouble might have arisen from the father's visit. Before the father's return to his regiment, I had all the man's clothes and belongings sent to the Council for fumigation and thorough disinfection; also on his return his Colonel promised me to have the man put under the care of the Medical Officer of Health, and placed in quarantine. No cases could have arisen from this, or I should have heard from the man's regiment to that effect.

On receipt of notification, the house is visited, and a record made, the School Authorities are notified (if the person is of school age), and disinfectants are supplied. Unfortunately, the majority of houses do not admit of proper isolation and disinfection.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

This disease has been fairly prevalent throughout the year, and accounts for two deaths; one death being complicated by pneumonia, and the other by bronchitis. The same applies to this disease as to measles; not being notifiable it is impossible to ascertain the number of cases that occur in your district annually, and by a number of parents it is thought to be only a child's ailment, and not of a serious nature; but considering that over 5,000 children succumb to it annually, proves that it is a disease not to be treated lightly.

SMALL POX.

It is gratifying to be able to report again the absence of small pox in your district for the past year. From official information I glean exemptions from vaccination are equal in number to last year. According to statistics the following shows the decrease of the number of cases notified during the last four years in England and Wales (including ports):—

Year.					Number of Cases.	
1914	65
1913	115
1912	123
1911	295

MEASLES.

As measles for this year has not been compulsorily notifiable, it is impossible to state the number of cases that have occurred during the past twelve months. I am more in touch with the number of cases in following out my duties as School Medical Officer, which even then is very indefinite. By referring to my Report on the Schools, you will observe I have brought to your notice at which Schools the children appeared to be most affected by the Disease, and at what time of the year the Schools had to be closed to prevent its spread. The Local Government Board has now issued an Order, dated November 27th, 1915, making the notification of measles and German measles compulsory in England and Wales, and it comes into force on January 1st, 1916. It has been generally epidemic throughout the country, but the mortality in the latter part of the year has not been so excessive as in the former. It is a disease very lightly treated by the artisan class; although complications associated with it are of a serious nature. It is surprising how few cases of measles medical men are called in to treat in this district, and then frequently only to find that the patient is suffering from scarlet fever and not measles. I consider it is as important to make this a notifiable disease as any other infection, if we are to reduce the infantile mortality from this source, considering there were over 12,000 deaths, proved by statistics, from it during the first six months of the year, and the average number of deaths occurring annually throughout England and Wales is 11,000.

During the year, 15 children died from this disease, three times as many as died from small pox, scarlet fever, whooping cough and croup put together.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Eight cases were notified to me during the year, an increase of 3 as compared with the past year. I investigated each case, and was only able to trace the origin of one, which was due to eating mussels. None of the cases occurred in connection with any military station.

They were notified from the different Wards:—

Ward.					Number of Cases.	
South-East	1
Hurst Hill	1
West Central	1
Highfields	2
Springvale	3

The number of deaths were 3, as compared with 2 last year.

As in previous years, disinfectants and galvanized receptacles have been provided for the excreta.

The diagnosis of the disease is sometimes difficult, but great help can be obtained by what is known as the Widal reaction, by means of which a little of the blood of the suspected patient is taken and tested in the laboratory.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

One case was reported to me, which proved fatal; the same number occurred last year, which also proved fatal. The case was attended by a certified midwife, a very competent woman, whose clothes, instruments and appliances underwent the necessary disinfection. I forwarded a special report to the County Medical Officer, who had the case investigated. No other cases have arisen from that or any other cause since.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Four cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified to me during the year. All were successfully treated, and no sequelæ arose from any of the cases as far as I can gather.

ERYSIPELAS.

Nineteen cases of erysipelas have been notified to me during the past year; most of the notifications related to facial erysipelas. No deaths resulted from it as compared with one in 1914.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

I have received only one notification of the above; although tracheotomy was performed on the child, death ensued.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.

This disease has not been so prevalent during this year as last. No doubt the leaflets issued throughout the country, encouraging methods of cleanliness and of dealing with the fly peril, has had a good effect on the public, and has been the means of reducing the number of cases. There are numbers of infants lost to the country annually through the filthy habits of the parents in not keeping the infants' bodies clean, and in preparing the food under unclean and unwholesome conditions. Eighteen deaths took place from these diseases, 16 being infants. The disease is intimately associated with foul conditions in the neighbourhood of dwelling houses, and more cleanly yards and entries would do much to reduce the area of this disease.

DIPHTHERIA.

Ten notifications of diphtheria were received during the past year, and 3 deaths were registered. Three swabs were taken from the throats of doubtful cases and sent to the University of Birmingham for examination. One proved to be negative and two positive. In children affected with the disease, before they are allowed to return to school, for the safety of other children, it is most important that every case should have a swab taken from the throat and examined to see whether there are still any diphtheria bacilli remaining. This all medical men and bacteriologists consider to be the only certain test and safeguard from infection. Six cases were treated with anti-toxin with satisfactory results. One case had to be sent to the Wolverhampton Hospital, as it could not be treated and isolated at home. It went on April 14th, and was retained till May 23rd, after making a satisfactory recovery.

The number of cases occurring in each Ward is shown by the table below :—

Ward.	Number of Cases.				
South-East	2
Hurst Hill	1
West Central	2
Highfields	1
Springvale	4

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Fifty-one cases have been notified during the past year. There were 17 deaths reported to me, 13 being from pulmonary, and 4 from other forms.

On receipt of a notification, I visit each case and point out the methods to adopt as to mode of living generally, the need for fresh air, and especially as to the care that is necessary in regard to the safe disposal of the sputum, not only for the benefit to themselves, but for that of contacts.

In some cases the patient is ignorant of the fact that he or she is suffering from tuberculosis. Such ignorance ought not to be, as it is likely to be a source of danger to the community.

The Sanatoria are still insufficient to deal with the large number of cases, and cannot retain the patients long enough to bring about a cure. If a patient is not cured at a Sanatorium, it is well-known he has had a good instruction given him how to live, to house himself, and how to improve his habits generally; and when he leaves the institution is in a far better state of health, and in some cases is able to follow his occupation and earn a further livelihood for his family, but in some cases he goes into the old groove of living, and forgets his education at the Sanatorium, with the result that death ensues earlier than it would otherwise.

Cases are still treated at Moxley, and Dudley and Wolverhampton Dispensaries, at which Institutions incipient cases receive tuberculin injections.

After all deaths from tuberculosis the rooms are thoroughly disinfected by your Inspector.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

During the year 11 specimens of sputum were sent to the Bacteriological Department; one proved to be positive, and 10 to be negative.

The free examination of sputa is a great boon to the practitioners in the diagnosis of doubtful cases, and they are frequently able to discover cases in the very early stages.

The following is a list of the cases that occurred in the different Wards:—

Ward.				Number of Cases.
South-East	...	...	...	19
West Central	...	...	...	8
Hurst Hill	...	...	...	3
Highfields	...	...	...	14
Springvale	...	...	...	7

TABLE III.
URBAN DISTRICT OF COSELEY.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1915.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths of "Residents" whether in or beyond district.										Total Deaths in Institutions in the District
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year	1 and Under 2	2 and Under 5	5 and Under 15	15 and Under 25	25 and Under 45	45 and Under 65	65 and upwards		
All causes { Certified { Uncertified ...	410	93	30	24	18	16	50	86	93		
Enteric Fever ...	3					2	1				
Measles...	15	3	5	5	2						
Scarlet Fever ...	2	1	1								
Whooping Cough ...	1			1							
Diphtheria and Croup ...	3		1	1	1						
Influenza ...	10	1				2	2	4	1		
Erysipelas ...											
Phthisis (Pul'ary Tuberculosis)	17				2	2	8	5			
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1	1									
Other Tuberculous diseases	3		1		1			1			
Cancer, Malignant disease	23					1	1	19	2		
Rheumatic Fever...	5					1	3	1			
Meningitis ...	8	3	2	2	1						
Organic Heart Disease ...	40				2	2	7	17	12		

Bronchitis	30	5	1	1				1	10	12
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	61	15	12	10	2	1	8	8	5	
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	2					1		1		
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	18	16	2							
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1				1					
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	3						2		1	
Alcoholism										
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2		1		1					
Puerperal Fever	1					1				
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1						1			
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	35	35								
Violent Deaths	12	2		1	1	1	5	2	2	
Suicide	1						1			
Other defined diseases ...	112	11	4	3	4	1	13	18	58	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown										
Totals	410	93	30	24	18	16	50	86	93	

The housing question of tubercular cases is a most important factor in the diminution of the number of cases; plenty of light, ventilation and perfect sanitation are the most potent medicine for the eradication of the disease. Proof of this is shown by the following:—

In Liverpool, the Corporation completely demolished a large slum area and replaced it by 2,000 dwellings, accommodating 8,000 people of the very class unhoused by their action; prior to the demolition the average phthisis death rate in the area was 4 per 1,000, but it has now fallen to 1.9 per 1,000, and is considerably lower than in the contiguous districts. Shelters are provided by Insurance Committees, but in all cases are not used as frequently as they might be.

The percentage of deaths per 1,000 of your population is equal to .73.

The following Table shows the ages at which the deaths took place:—

5 years and under	15	...	...	2 deaths.
15 "	"	25	...	2 "
25 "	"	45	...	8 "
45 "	"	65	...	5 "
				—
Total				17 "
				—

There were four deaths from other forms of tuberculosis:—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	1 death
1 and under 2 years	...	...	...	1 "
5 "	15 "	...	...	1 "
45 "	65 "	...	...	1 "
				—
Total				4 "
				—

TABLE IV.
COSELEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1915.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under	1-2	2-3	3-4	Total	4 w'ks	3M'hs	6M'hs	9M'hs	Total
	1 week	w'ks	w'ks	w'ks	under 1 Month.	and under 3M'hs	and under 6M'hs	and under 9M'hs	and under 12M'hs	Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes {										
{ Certified ...										
{ Uncertified ...										
{ Small-pox ...										
{ Chicken-pox ...								3		3
{ Measles ...										1
{ Scarlet Fever ...		1			1					
{ Whooping Cough ...										
{ Diphtheria and Croup ...										
{ Erysipelas ...										
{ Tuberculous Meningitis ...								1		1
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis (b) ...										
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases ...										
{ Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...			2		2		1			3
{ Convulsions ...							1			1
{ Laryngitis ...										
{ Bronchitis ...						2			3	5
{ Pneumonia (all forms) ...						5	2	2	6	15

HOUSING.

The dearth of artisan dwellings still exists in your district, and under our present condition is likely to remain, for no prospect of any speculative enterprise is about to be forthcoming. There are no habitable empty houses in the district; should one house become vacant, numbers of applications are soon made for it.

Some of the houses are so old and dilapidated that it is often a difficult task to know what to do with them, for if all the defects were remedied it would practically be executing the work of demolishing and re-building.

Many properties lying in abeyance in the district could easily be converted into habitable property. During my recent inspection with your Inspector I came across such a block in Chell Street, Bradley; the walls and roofs appear to be in good condition. If such a course could be adopted, it would provide more accommodation and lessen the tendency to overcrowding. Considering the scarcity of labour and the high price of building material, the repairs to properties, remedying defects, and general improvements during the year, I consider, will meet with your satisfaction. Appended is your Sanitary Inspector's Report, comprising a detailed account of the work done to defective properties.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

The following detailed Table shows at a glance what has been done under the above Act:—

Houses listed for Inspection	87
Inspections under and for the purposes of Section 17	80
Considered unfit	80
Represented	82
Closing orders made	27
„ „ deferred	13
„ „ not made	27
„ „ determined	24
Demolition orders made	32
Houses demolished	20
Under consideration at the end of the year	12

Although general sanitary defects have been found at each of the above houses, generally speaking it is on account of dampness and defective ventilation that many are considered unfit for human habitation.

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

Good progress is being made with the work of house to house inspection of the districts; one hundred and eighty houses have been inspected and records kept of same, apart from the number of houses represented in the above Table.

There are thirty-four houses in the district not supplied with tap water.

Eighty houses have been inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, and 82 represented by the Medical Officer of Health as being unfit for human habitation; 55 were dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1875, and 27 were in hand at the close of the year. The defects were mostly dampness, want of cleanliness, defective roofs and spouts. A large number of these were dealt with by personal interviews with the owners or agents of the properties. One thousand two hundred and thirty-five premises have been inspected apart from the Housing Acts.

Seven hundred and seventeen inspections were made where alterations and sanitary improvements were in progress.

Eighty-two cast iron covers and frames have been provided to closet cisterns.

Two hundred and thirty-six premises have had the roofs repaired.

At the close of the year 12 houses were under consideration to which extensive alterations remained to be completed.

In no instance has it been necessary to institute legal proceedings.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SHOPS.

There are 21 dairy farmers occupying 34 cowsheds and stalling 230 milking cows, which are turned out the greater part of the year. There are also 10 milk shops in the district.

One hundred and twenty-two inspections have been made of these premises, and 52 informal notices for cleaning and lime-washing, all of which have been complied with.

More cleanly habits might be adopted in the milking process, *i.e.*, the washing of the milker's hands and the udders and teats of the cows before they are milked.

MILK.

The greater supply of the milk for your district is from local farms, but part of it is imported from dairies outside the district; also a considerable amount of sterilized milk is brought into the district from Wolverhampton. This method of delivering the milk in clean and airtight fitting bottles is one that ought to be encouraged.

The process of sterilization is supposed to kill all germs likely to be in the milk, but some authorities go so far as to say that no sterilization is able to kill tubercular baccilli when once the milk is impregnated with it. When milk is so treated, no doubt some of its nutritious properties are abstracted, one especially, called "vitamine," and by some authorities it is stated that infants who are fed solely on sterilized milk, and have no other food containing vitamine, are prone to disease, generally, especially predisposed to tuberculosis.

The milk supply of this district is altogether inadequate, and it is a business that requires further development. Some mothers are unable to bring up their children from the breast, whilst others have to earn a livelihood for their homes, and leave their infants to the care of others, who have to rear them on cow's milk, hence the shortage of milk.

Forty-three samples of milk were taken, resulting in 3 prosecutions and convictions, and 3 vendors were cautioned.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied to the district from three sources:—

1. South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.
2. Wolverhampton Corporation Waterworks.
3. Bilston Council Waterworks.

I learn from your Sanitary Inspector's Report that there are 34 houses not supplied with tap water.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 48 factories, 92 workshops, including 23 bakehouses, in Coseley district, being 4 more factories than in 1914. Considerable extensions have been made to some of the existing factories, especially the following, viz.:—

Thomas Perry and Sons, Ltd., Highfield Works, Bradley.
John Thompson, Ettingshall.

The superficial area of the above new shopping is approximately 62,000 square feet.

Water flushing trough closets and urinals have been provided where practicable, and in other cases privies have been built.

Water closets have been provided to two of the existing factories.

The sanitary conveniences at the various factories have been cleanly kept, whitewashing being frequently done.

Three water closets have been provided to two existing factories.

Nine water closets have been provided to new factories.

To the factories where sewers are not available privies have been provided.

HOME WORK.

There are 54 outworkers in the district, 9 less than 1914, when there were 63.

No case of infectious disease has been reported from any of the outworkers' homes.

Sanitary improvements have been effected in connection with 608 houses. The following is a list of the number of houses where the principal sanitary defects have been remedied :—

Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	341
„ damp remedied	...	...	...	...	216
„ overcrowding, remedied	...	...	...	...	13
„ provided with improved ventilation	...	...	...	...	51
„ with floors repaired	...	...	...	...	53
„ with roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	236
„ with spouting provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	125
„ with drains cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	83
„ with closets cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	543
„ with metal ash bins provided	...	...	...	...	23
„ with brewhouses cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	134
„ with paving relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	57
„ with sanitary sinks provided	...	...	...	...	59
„ with cast iron covers and frames provided to closet cisterns	...	...	...	...	82
„ with chimneys repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	172

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 10 licensed slaughter houses in the district and one registered, and 35 meat shops, being the same as in 1914. One hundred and thirty-four visits have been made to these premises, which on the whole are clean.

One pair of beast's lungs slightly affected with tuberculosis were found; these were surrendered and promptly destroyed. This is the only instance where unsound meat was exposed for sale. A large quantity of meat is imported from adjoining towns.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SEWERAGE.

Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	141
Privy Vaults	...	...	...	...	3,057
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	20
Water Closets	...	...	...	...	115
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	69
Ashpits	...	...	...	...	1,922

During the year 31 water closets have been provided to houses in place of privies.

NOTIFICATION ACT.

The undermentioned orders have been made during the year 1915 by the Local Government Board, viz. :—

The P. H. (Measles and German Measles) Regulations, 1915, made November 27th, 1915, became operative January 1st, 1916.

Notification of Births (Extension) Act, 1915, made July 29th, 1915, became operative September 1st, 1915.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, ETC.

You will observe that Table —, relating to the above, has not been included in my Report this year. I have received the following communication from the Home Office, which accounts for the omission :—

“ I am directed by the Chief Inspector of Factories to state that, in view of the present emergency, the Home Office do not propose to tabulate the usual statistics dealing with the Medical Officers of Health's Work under the Factory Acts, and therefore are not issuing the printed Forms this year.”

Taking into consideration the critical period through which we are passing, which is bringing about the scarcity of labour, excessive prices of building material, etc., I consider the amount of repairs to property generally, and improved sanitation, in your district, compare very favourably with other districts. The same cause accounts for only one new house being erected.

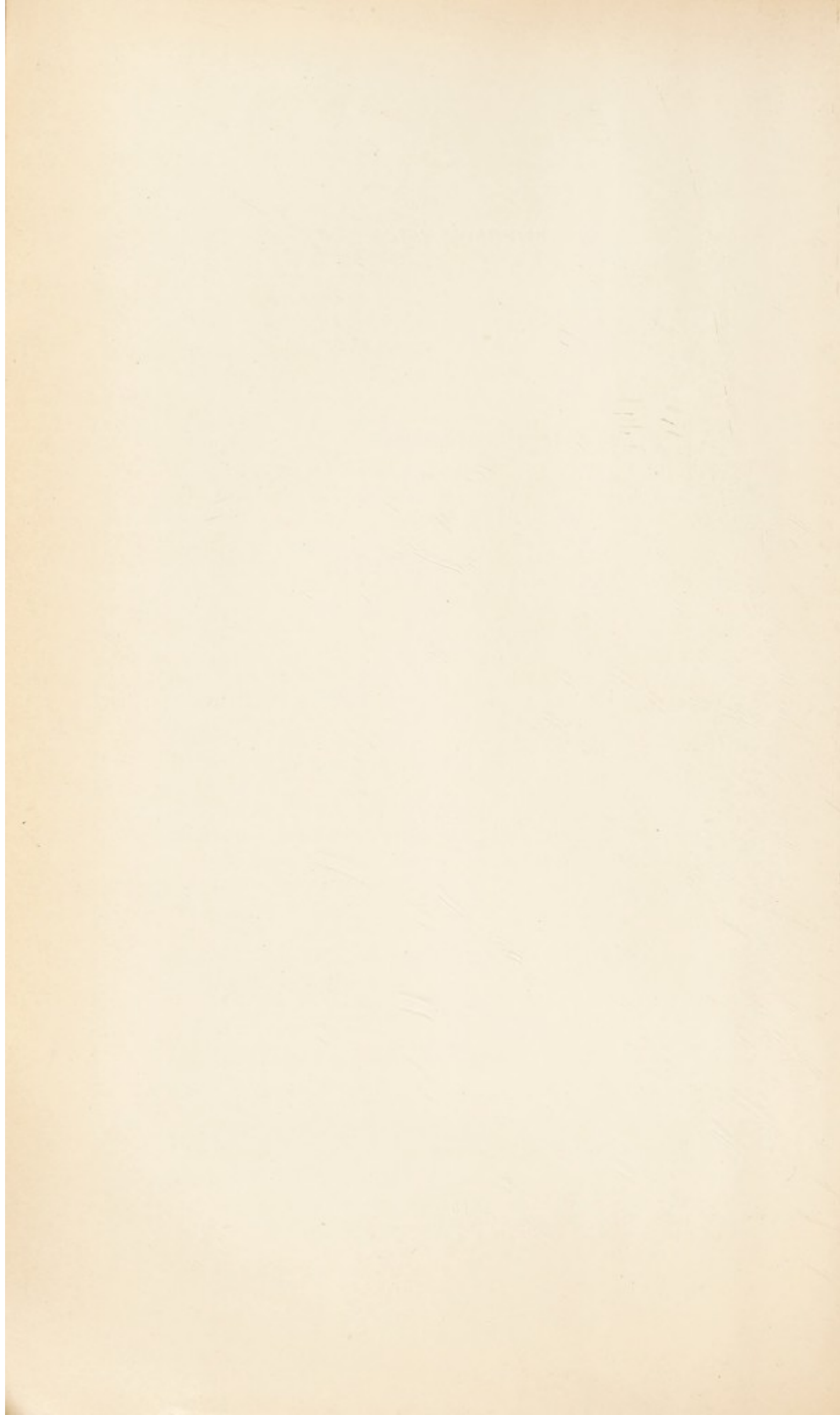
I have great pleasure in tendering my best thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, also your Clerk, for the courteous co-operation shown me during the year; also to my brother officers for the same willing hands extended to me this year as in the past.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WALTER HY. ALLEN, L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.),

Medical Officer of Health.



COSELEY EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERVISOR OF MEDICAL INSPECTION OF
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

(WALTER HY. ALLEN, *L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.*)

FOR THE YEAR

1915.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COSELEY
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

F. J. C. POOLE,
Secretary.



COSELEY EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

Annual Report

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PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

(*WALTER HY. ALLEN, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.*)

FOR THE YEAR 1915.

To the Chairman and Members of the Coseley Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present to you my Third Annual Report as Supervising Medical Officer, the Staff being constituted as follows:—

WALTER HY. ALLEN, School Medical Officer, and also Medical Officer of Health.

CYRIL S. RIGBY, Assistant School Medical Officer.

The work of the School Medical Officer is to supervise the work generally, to visit the Schools, to report on the condition of the School premises, to prepare the Annual and other Reports, and to perform the functions specially assigned to him by the Code.

The duty of the Assistant School Medical Officer is to examine those children required by the Code to be inspected, and to record the result of these inspections. He also signs notices to parents when treatment of defects is called for. The examinations which have taken place during the year have included a new group, viz., of children between the age of 8 and 9 years. Together with the above, all children either entering or leaving School have been examined, as well as others to whom the special attention of the Assistant School Medical Officer has been called. With the co-operation of the School Attendance Officer, cases have been, in some measure, followed up.

The number of children inspected has almost doubled since 1913. In that year 776 children were examined, 369 boys and 407 girls. In 1915 there were 1,443 children examined, 713 boys and 730 girls. This increase is largely due to the fact of the new middle group, there being examined 343 boys and 341 girls between the ages of 8 and 9. In 1916 the number examined is likely to show a further increase.

The Schools examined number 9, six being Council Schools and three non-provided Schools.

ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY THE HEAD TEACHERS.

Questions 1—6 (on the "Condition" Tables) are filled up by the Head Teachers, and they also give valuable assistance in preparing the children for inspection. They also assess the mental condition of the children.

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

Usually the mother is in attendance when the child is inspected. Most cases of absence occur with regard to those whose presence is most necessary. Directions are given as to treatment, and in many cases—though, unfortunately, not in all—these directions are carried out.

The above reservation is particularly applicable to the getting of glasses, and I understand that although the teachers have a fund for practically supplying glasses free, parents often will not take the trouble to procure them

NOTES ON THE SCHOOLS.

MOUNT PLEASANT.

(1.) ENTRANTS.

Number examined:—Boys, 25; girls, 35. Total, 60.

The footgear of the boys is noteworthy poor—10 out of 30, 33 per cent., being marked unsatisfactory.

The boys are also under the average for height and weight.

The percentage of children with verminous heads was very low, only 6 per cent.—average, 14 per cent.

The teeth are also in better condition this year than last year.

(2.) MIDDLE GROUP.

Number examined:—Boys, 54; girls, 52. Total, 106.

The vision in this group seems to need attention, but of 106 examined 21, *i.e.*, 20 per cent., had unsatisfactory vision. As these children have before them the hardest part of their school career, it is essential for their progress that they should obtain glasses.

The percentage of dirty heads is below the average, being 13 per cent., the average for all the Schools being 17 per cent.

One boy, aged 8 8/12 years, weighed 67lbs., and was 4ft. 4½in. high.

A girl, aged 8 4/12, was 4ft. 4in. high, and weighed 65½lbs.

(3.) LEAVERS.

Number examined:—Boys, 57; girls, 51. Total, 108.

The percentage of unclean heads is low—only 10 per cent., as against an average of 14 per cent. for all the Schools.

The nutrition is markedly better, only 2 per cent. being below “normal,” as against 14.7 last year.

A rather noteworthy factor is that this year 21 per cent. of the children have unsatisfactory footgear, as against 12 per cent. last year.

The average weight of the girls is very low, being only 66lbs.

DAISY BANK.

(1.) ENTRANTS.

Number examined:—Boys, 53; girls, 44. Total, 97.

Of the 97 children examined, only one child had unsatisfactory clothing, a marked sign of the present industrial prosperity.

There is a small increase in the percentage of verminous heads. Last year the percentage was 11.8, this year it is 15.5 per cent. There is, however, a great decrease in the number of children with “verminous” bodies—last year’s figures, 17.2; this year’s figures, 8.7, just half.

In regard to the verminous heads, the most noteworthy thing is the high proportion of boys—6 out of 15.

(2.) MIDDLE GROUP.

Number examined:—Boys, 66; girls, 69. Total, 135.

Twenty-six per cent. were returned as having unsatisfactory footgear—the same as Mount Pleasant. The average for all the Schools is 21.5.

The percentage of sound teeth was high—22 per cent., as against 16 per cent. for all the Schools.

Twenty-four per cent. of the children had defective vision—Daisy Bank being the worst of any of the Schools in this respect. Mount Pleasant, 20 per cent.; and Hurst Hill, 21 per cent., were nearly as bad. The average percentage for all the Schools was 12.2.

(3.) LEAVERS.

Number examined:—Boys, 12; girls, 13. Total, 25.

Sixteen per cent. of the children had unsatisfactory clothing, and 40 per cent. unsatisfactory footgear. Last year the percentage of unsatisfactory footgear was 31.9.

Twenty-four per cent. of the children had enlarged tonsils.

There is a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the girls' heads. Last year the percentage of verminous heads was 60—this year it is under 25 per cent.

The teeth of the girls examined were very good, 56 per cent. being returned as "sound"—the average being only 30 per cent.

Twenty-eight per cent. of the children had unsatisfactory vision.

HURST HILL.

(1.) ENTRANTS.

Number examined:—Boys, 41; girls, 33. Total, 74.

Twenty-three per cent. of the children were returned as having unsatisfactory footgear. Last year the figure was 20 per cent.

There was rather a large proportion of girls with dirty heads—14 out of 43. The total percentage of boys and girls was 21.6, as against an average of 13.4 per cent.

There was rather a large percentage of children with four or more carious teeth—47 per cent. as against an average of 36 per cent. There was one case of indistinct utterance.

Only 9.4 per cent. of the children had enlarged tonsils, against an average of 19 per cent.

(2.) MIDDLE GROUP.

Number examined:—Boys, 46; girls, 38. Total, 84.

Eighteen per cent. were returned as having unsatisfactory clothing—a very much higher percentage than any other School—the average being 8 per cent.

Thirty-two per cent. of the children had unsatisfactory footgear, the average for all Schools being 21.5.

Twenty-four per cent. had enlarged tonsils—the only School exceeding this being Christ Church with 38 per cent.

Twenty-one per cent. of the children had unsatisfactory vision—the average for all the Schools being 12.2 per cent.

(3.) LEAVERS.

Number examined:—Boys, 3; girls, 5. Total, 8.

As only 8 children were examined percentages are not to be relied upon. Three out of the 8 children had unsatisfactory clothing and footgear.

There was no case of defective vision.

LANESFIELD.

(1.) ENTRANTS.

Number examined:—Boys, 8; girls, 17. Total, 25.

There are no cases of either unsatisfactory clothing or footgear.

The nutrition is better than in any other School.

Only 8 per cent. had enlarged tonsils, the average for all Schools being 19 per cent.

The teeth are very good, there being 52 per cent. of children with “sound” dentures.

(2.) MIDDLE GROUP.

Number examined:—Boys, 32; girls, 22. Total, 54.

There are no cases of unsatisfactory clothing or footgear.

The only case of defective hearing among the 1,420 children examined was among the “Middle Group” at this School.

(3.) LEAVERS.

Number examined:—Boys, 9; girls, 23. Total, 32.

As in the other two Groups, there was not a single case of unsatisfactory clothing or footgear.

Rather a large proportion of girls had dirty heads, 9 out of 23, *i.e.*, 39 per cent., or 28 per cent. of the total number of boys and girls examined.

Nearly 22 per cent. were suffering from enlarged tonsils.

The average weight of the girls was very high, *viz.*, 76lbs.

TABLE I.—CONDITION.—ENTRANTS.

CONDITION.	MOUNT PLEASANT.			DAISY BANK.			HURST HILL.			LANESFIELD.			BROAD LANES.			PARKFIELD.			CHRIST CHURCH.			ST. CHAD'S.			ST. MARY'S.											
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.									
CLOTHING	Satisfactory	25	35	60	92	52	44	96	99	39	29	68	92	18	27	45	91.8	30	22	52	98	34	54	88	96.7	12	7	19	91	16	22	38	92.7			
	Unsatisfactory	5	5	10	8	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	4	8.2	1	3	4	8.2	1	1	2	2	1	2	3	3.3	2	—	2	9	3	3	7.3			
FOOTGEAR	Satisfactory	20	31	51	79	41	34	75	77	29	21	50	67	15	27	42	85	30	21	51	96	32	45	77	84.6	11	7	18	86	11	23	34	83			
	Unsatisfactory	10	4	14	21	12	10	22	23	12	12	24	23	4	3	7	15	1	1	2	4	3	11	14	15.4	3	—	3	14	5	2	7	17			
NUTRITION	Good	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	5.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	Normal	28	35	63	97	46	44	90	92.4	39	33	72	97	18	30	48	98	31	22	53	100	35	56	91	100	14	7	21	100	16	24	40	97.5			
	Sub-normal	2	—	2	3	2	—	2	2.2	2	—	2	3	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	Bad	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
CLEANLINESS OF HEAD	Vermineous and Unclean	—	4	4	6	6	9	15	15.5	2	14	16	21.6	1	10	11	24	—	—	—	3	6	1	17	18	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	Ringworm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	Other locally infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	All other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
CLEANLINESS OF BODY	Vermineous and Unclean	3	2	5	8	7	1	8	8.7	3	2	5	7	1	1	2	41	1	—	1	2	1	7	8	8	8	1	1	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	
	Ringworm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Other locally infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	All other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TEETH	Dentures sound	10	11	21	32	13	18	31	32	8	10	18	25	10	16	26	53	11	7	18	34.3	5	24	29	31.8	5	1	6	28.5	8	3	11	25.3			
	Less than 4 Carious	12	11	23	36	20	14	34	35	9	12	21	28	5	10	15	30.6	6	6	12	22.8	12	14	26	28.5	5	4	9	43	7	7	14	34			
	Number with 4 or more Carious	8	18	21	32	20	12	32	33	24	11	35	47	4	4	8	16.4	14	9	23	42.9	18	18	36	39.7	4	2	6	28.5	1	15	16	40.7			

TABLE II.—CONDITION.—MIDDLE GROUP.

CONDITION.	MOUNT PLEASANT.			DAISY BANK.			HURST HILL.			LANESFIELD.			BROAD LANES.			PARKFIELD JUN.			CHRIST CHURCH.			ST. MARY'S.								
	Boys	Girls	%	Boys	Girls	%	Boys	Girls	%	Boys	Girls	%	Boys	Girls	%	Boys	Girls	%	Boys	Girls	%	Boys	Girls	%						
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total						
CLOTHING	Satisfactory	44	47	91	86	59	66	125	93	36	33	69	82	32	22	54	21	30	51	98	51	61	112	97	35	31	66	96		
	Unsatisfactory	10	5	15	14	7	3	10	7	10	5	15	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4	3	3	1	2	3	4	
FOOTGEAR	Satisfactory	38	41	79	74	45	55	100	74	27	30	57	68	32	22	54	18	28	46	88	45	53	98	85	31	27	58	84		
	Unsatisfactory	16	11	27	26	21	14	35	26	19	8	27	32	..	..	..	3	3	6	12	8	10	18	15	5	6	11	16	
NUTRITION	Good	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Normal	47	51	98	92	60	66	126	93	41	34	75	89	29	22	51	18	31	49	94	46	60	106	91	33	30	63	91		
	Sub-normal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bad	7	1	8	8	6	2	8	6	5	4	9	10	2	2	4	3	3	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLEANLINESS OF HEAD	Vermineous and Unclean	1	12	13	12	3	18	21	16	4	13	17	20	1	7	8	2	16	18	27	1	6	7	32	1	9	10	14		
	Ringworm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other locally infective	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	All other	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
CLEANLINESS OF BODY	Vermineous and Unclean	1	1	2	2	5	1	6	4	4	1	5	6	2	2	3	1	6	10	27	1	3	4	7	1	..	..	..	..
	Ringworm
	Other locally infective
	All other
TEETH	Good	8	4	12	11	12	19	31	22	4	5	9	10	2	5	7	..	3	10	18	..	6	12	25	13	4	3	7	11	
	Less than 4 Carious	22	26	48	46	23	29	52	39	20	8	28	33	15	4	19	11	14	25	49	21	24	45	39	19	13	32	46		
	No. with 4 or more Carious	34	22	46	44	31	21	52	39	22	25	47	56	15	13	28	10	11	21	39	19	27	46	40	13	17	30	43		

TABLE IV.—CONDITION.—TOTALS.

CONDITION	ENTRANTS						MIDDLE GROUP.						LEAVERS						GRAND TOTALS						FINAL TOTAL.	
	Boys		Girls		%		Boys		Girls		%		Boys		Girls		%		Boys		Girls		%		Total	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1. CLOTHING	Satisfactory	234	94.5	258	96	309	90.1	320	94	115	93.5	115	95.9	658	92.6	691	94.7	1349	93.5					1349	93.5	
	Unsatisfactory	13	5.5	11	4	34	9.9	21	6	8	6.5	5	4.1	55	7.4	39	5.3	94	6.5					94	6.5	
2. FOOTGEAR	Satisfactory	197	79.7	226	84	262	76.4	275	80.6	97	79	108	90	556	78	609	83.4	1165	80.8					1165	80.8	
	Unsatisfactory	50	20.3	43	16	81	23.6	66	19.4	26	21	12	10	157	22	121	16.6	278	19.2					278	19.2	
3. NUTRITION	Good	8	3.4	2	.7	5	1.4	2	.7	2	1.5	1	.8	15	2.1	5	.7	20	1.3					20	1.3	
	Normal	234	94.5	267	99.3	304	89.7	326	95.3	110	89.5	116	97.5	648	90.9	709	97.1	1357	94.2					1357	94.2	
	Sub-normal	5	.2	—	—	34	9.9	13	.4	—	11	9	3	2.5	50	7	16	2.2	66	4.5					66	4.5
	Bad	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—					—	—
	Verminous and Unclean Ringworm	10	4	59	22	16	4.6	100	29.4	4	3	41	34.1	30	4.2	200	27.4	230	15.8					230	15.8	
4. CLEANLINESS OF HEAD	Other locally infective...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—					—	—	
	All other...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—					—	—	
5. CLEANLINESS OF BODY	Verminous and Unclean Ringworm	17	7	16	5.9	25	7	8	2.3	9	6.7	—	—	51	7	24	3.3	75	5.2					75	5.2	
	Other locally infective...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.7	—	—	1	.14	—	—	1	0.7					1	0.7	
	All other...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—					—	—	
6. TEETH	Dentures sound...	73	30	100	37.1	46	13.4	64	19	28	22.8	46	38.3	147	20.6	210	28.7	357	24.7					357	24.7	
	Less than 4 carious	78	31.6	79	29.5	145	42.2	126	37	76	61.8	45	37.5	299	41.9	250	34.4	549	38					549	38	
	No. with more than 4 carious	96	38.4	90	33.4	152	44.4	151	44	19	15.4	29	24.2	267	37.5	270	36.9	537	37.3					537	37.3	

TABLE VI.—AGES OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

SCHOOLS.	UNDER 5		5—6		6—8		8—9		9—12		12—13		OVER 13		TOTALS		GRAND TOTAL
	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	
MOUNT PLEASANT ...	8	13	20	18	2	4	54	52	8	4	49	45	—	2	141	138	279
DAISY BANK ...	15	11	30	30	31	43	32	36	4	1	12	11	3	2	127	134	261
HURST HILL ...	9	8	30	23	17	14	31	24	—	2	3	4	—	1	90	76	166
LANESFIELD ...	3	7	4	9	4	5	25	14	4	4	7	17	2	6	49	62	111
BROAD LANES ...	17	19	1	8	14	8	22	28	2	—	8	9	—	—	64	72	136
PARKFIELDS JUNIOR ...	13	5	18	15	7	6	14	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	52	52	104
CHRIST CHURCH ...	15	10	16	32	20	32	37	42	4	1	5	12	1	2	98	131	229
ST. CHAD'S ...	1	2	10	3	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	7	21
ST. MARY'S ...	6	8	10	15	22	13	15	16	2	6	23	—	—	—	78	58	136
TOTALS ...	87	83	139	153	120	127	230	238	24	18	107	98	6	13	713	730	1443

BROAD LANES.

(1.) ENTRANTS.

Number examined:—Boys, 19; girls, 30. Total, 49.

There is a considerable improvement both in clothing and footgear—clothing this year (unsatisfactory) 8.2 per cent. as against 19.3 per cent. last year; and footgear (unsatisfactory) this year 15 per cent. as against 18.1 per cent. last year.

The children are evidently admitted at an early age to this School—there are 17 boys under 5 years of age (mostly between 3 and 4), and there are 19 girls under the age of five years.

Ten girls out of 30 had verminous heads—the percentage of dirty heads (boys and girls) working out to 24 per cent.

(2.) MIDDLE GROUP.

Number examined:—Boys, 35; girls, 33. Total, 68.

Thirty-four per cent. with unsatisfactory footgear—average for all the Schools 21.5.

Seven per cent. of this Group were marked "Sub-normal" in nutrition. This was only exceeded by Hurst Hill, whose percentage was 10.7, and St. Mary's with 9 per cent.

Twenty-seven per cent. of the children had verminous heads, this only being exceeded by Christ Church with a percentage of unclean heads of 32. The average is 17.

Sixteen girls had nits—of these 10 had nits at their first examination; the other six were marked "Clean." Two children marked "Nits" at their first examination were now classed as "Clean."

(3.) LEAVERS.

Number examined:—Boys, 11; girls, 14. Total, 25.

The clothing and footgear were much more satisfactory than in the other Groups.

Forty-four per cent. of the children had verminous heads.

There was not a single instance of defective vision among the 25 children examined.

PARKFIELD ROAD.

(1.) ENTRANTS.

Number examined:—Boys, 31; girls, 22. Total, 53.

Teeth are, like last year, not good. Out of 53 children examined 23 had four or more carious teeth.

Only 4 per cent. had unsatisfactory footgear.

There were 26.4 children with enlarged tonsils, the average for all the Schools being 19 per cent.

Percentage of children with verminous heads very low—only 6 per cent.

(2.) MIDDLE GROUP.

Number examined:—Boys, 21; girls, 31. Total, 52.

The number of children with unsatisfactory clothing and footgear was much below the average.

The percentage of verminous heads is low, compared with the average, viz., 12 per cent. as against an average of 17 per cent.

The vision is good—4 per cent. unsatisfactory, as compared with the average, 12.2.

The teeth of this Group are much better than the teeth of the "Entrants."

CHRIST CHURCH.

(1.) ENTRANTS.

Number examined:—Boys, 35; girls, 56. Total, 91.

Twenty per cent. of children had verminous heads as against an average for all the Schools of 14 per cent.

Seventeen girls out of 56 examined had dirty heads.

Twenty-two per cent. of the children had enlarged tonsils.

Only 5 boys had sound teeth out of 35 examined.

The boys seem to begin School earlier than the girls. Of the 35 boys examined, 15 were under five years of age, and only four over six years. Of the 56 girls examined, 12 only were under five, and 12 were over six.

(2.) MIDDLE GROUP.

Number examined:—Boys, 53; girls, 63. Total, 116.

The percentage of verminous heads is very high, 32 per cent.

Thirty-four girls out of the 63 examined had dirty heads.

Thirty-eight per cent. of the children were suffering from enlarged tonsils, this Group being by far the worst in this particular.

Unsatisfactory vision was only 10 per cent., as against an average for all the Schools of 12.2.

In 30 boys, whose teeth were marked "Good" at their first medical examination, the average of decayed teeth was less than one. Twenty-four girls, whose teeth were similarly marked "Good," averaged $1\frac{1}{2}$ decayed teeth. This points to the fact that the boys are the ones who take care of their teeth.

Thirty-four had nits in their heads. Of these 23 had nits when first examined. Eleven had nits who, at their first examination, were marked "Clean." On the other hand, 8 children who, at their first examination, had nits, were marked "Clean" at their second examination.

(3.) LEAVERS.

Number examined :—Boys, 6; girls, 14. Total, 20.

Ten girls out of 14 examined had verminous heads, this being 50 per cent. of all the boys and girls examined.

Thirty-five per cent. had enlarged tonsils.

Nutrition was below the average, 10 per cent. being sub-normal.

ST. CHAD'S.

(1.) ENTRANTS.

Number examined :—Boys, 14; girls, 7. Total, 21.

None of the children are shown as having verminous heads.

Teeth were above the average.

ST. MARY'S.

(1.) ENTRANTS.

Number examined :—Boys, 16; girls, 25. Total, 41.

Only 2.5 per cent. of the children had verminous heads—just one girl out of the 41 examined.

Over 36 per cent. of the children had enlarged tonsils, the largest percentage of any School.

There is a marked improvement in cleanliness of the "Entrants" Group. Out of 41 examined not one child had a dirty body, and only one a dirty head. Last year 10.4 per cent. had dirty heads and 28.6 dirty bodies. This year the percentage is 2.5 and nil.

(2.) MIDDLE GROUP.

Number examined :—Boys, 36; girls, 33. Total, 69.

Nine per cent. of the children are classed as sub-normal.

Percentage of verminous heads comparatively low—14 per cent. against an average of 17 per cent.

Twenty per cent. of the children had enlarged tonsils.

Teeth were rather poor.

Out of 33 girls examined there was not one case of unsatisfactory vision.

Nine of the girls had nits in their heads. Of these, 5 had nits at their first examination. Four girls marked "Clean" at their first examination were now marked "Verminous," and four children who had nits at their first examination are at this examination marked "Clean."

The teeth of both the girls and boys seem poor, only 4 boys and 3 girls having "sound" dentures.

(3.) LEAVERS.

Number examined:—Boys, 25; girls, —. Total, 25.

No girls—leavers—were examined, so the percentage of clean heads is very much above the average.

There was only one boy with an unclean head, and none had unclean bodies.

Teeth were above the average.

Twenty-four per cent. had enlarged tonsils.

GENERAL NOTES ON THE TABLES.

CLOTHING.

There is a great improvement in the clothing, the percentage of "unsatisfactory" clothing being 6.5 per cent. Last year it was 11.7; in 1913 it was 12.9 per cent, and in 1912, 21.4 per cent.

FOOTGEAR.

This was very slightly worse than either 1914 or 1913, the percentage being:—

1915—19 per cent. 1914—18.6 per cent. 1913—18.7 per cent.

For the two years preceding 1913 the percentage was about 24.

NUTRITION.

Generally, the nutrition seems better than last year. The percentage of sub-normal children was this year 4.7; last year it was 8.2.

Lanesfield still is ahead of all the Schools in this respect, as it is also in the matter of satisfactory clothing and footgear.

CLEANLINESS OF HEAD.

There is a very slight improvement in this matter, the figures for the last three years being :—

1915—16.2 per cent. 1914—17.6 per cent. 1913—20.1 per cent.

I think a sustained campaign should be carried on in the Schools to remedy this unsatisfactory condition.

CLEANLINESS OF BODY.

There were not so many dirty bodies as last year, and the improvement was specially noticeable at Daisy Bank, Hurst Hill, Broad Lanes, Christ Church, and St. Mary's. Last year 22 children were marked as having unclean bodies; this year there was not one.

HEARING AND EAR CONDITIONS.

Not a single case was found of unsatisfactory ear conditions, and there was only one case of defective hearing out of all the 1,420 children examined.

SPEECH.

Out of all the children examined there was only one case of unsatisfactory speech—a stammerer.

VISION.

Only the vision of children who can read is tested, and among such children there were 12.7 per cent. as compared with 22 per cent. last year. The Schools where the vision seems to be worst are Mount Pleasant, Daisy Bank, and Hurst Hill.

SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR EPIDEMICS DURING 1915.

On January 28th both Mount Pleasant Junior and Christ Church Infants were closed for an epidemic of measles and mumps, and re-opened on February 15th.

Broad Lanes Infants and Christ Church Infants were closed on April 1st for an epidemic of measles, and re-opened on May 10th.

In December, 1914, Daisy Bank Mixed and Infant Schools were closed for an epidemic of measles and mumps; the Mixed re-opened on January 11th, 1915, and the Infants on January 18th, 1915; the latter School not being quite ready after cleaning.

TEETH.

There are still a large percentage of children with defective teeth, and one hopes that teachers will do all they can to train children to systematically take care of their teeth. One of the most important factors for the keeping of a child in a good state of health depends upon the healthy state of its mouth. No child who is absorbing into its system the poisonous properties caused by decayed teeth can either look or feel well. Most medical men now recognise the intimate relations existing between a healthy mouth and a healthy body, to say nothing of the innumerable pathological conditions consequent on and aggravated by the serious condition described under the general term of "oral sepsis." It is a recognised fact that one tooth alone from which pus is exuding may contain virulent bacteria, and lead to constant ailing and consequent backwardness at School. As a proof of this, one of the leading dentists at a London Hospital collected together at the Michael Faraday School in Walworth a number of dental charts, which indicated in detail the worst cases of "oral sepsis" in the School, and asked the Head Master to let him know how the children stood in regard to their general application and school work. All these children without exception were much below the average of their age, and it is not unreasonable to suggest that this wretched condition and low position in the School were largely dependent upon the filthy condition of their mouths. If periodical visits could be made by a dentist to the Schools for examination of the children's teeth, the amount of cost incurred for same would be more than repaid by the improved health of the children, also a more satisfactory grant would be forthcoming.

Considerable repairs and decorations have been done to the following Schools, School houses, and out-houses :—

DAISY BANK, HURST HILL, ST. MARY'S.

MOUNT PLEASANT (School house).

LANESFIELD (Out-houses and furniture re-varnished).

Dr. Langdon visited your Schools on December 8th. Your Assistant Medical Inspector, Secretary, and myself met him at Mount Pleasant Schools. He fully appreciated the methods adopted by your Assistant Medical Inspector for the inspection of the children, but was surprised that a School Nurse had not yet been appointed to help in the inspection; he urged the necessity for such an appointment to be made during his last visit to the Schools in 1914.

In conclusion of my Report, I wish to offer my best thanks to your Secretary for the willing help he has rendered me during the past year, also to the teachers for the assistance rendered by them.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WALTER HENRY ALLEN, L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
School Medical Officer.

