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COSELEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*(W. M. CLENDINNEN, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.)*

TO THE

SANITARY AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY

ON THE

Health of the District

AND THE

Medical Inspection of School Children

FOR THE YEAR

1908.

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

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# COSELEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Annual Report

OF

### THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FOR 1908.

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

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour of submitting my Fourteenth Annual Report.

The District has Sedgley for its boundary on the West, the County Borough of Dudley on the South, Wolverhampton and Bilston on the North, and Tipton on the East. Its general altitude is high, being about 730 feet at the highest point adjoining Sedgley, and, falling towards the East, as low as 470 feet above sea level.

The natural drainage is by three or four small streams flowing eastwards into tributaries of the Tame.

The subsoil is mostly heavy clay, and the subsoil water is in some parts exceedingly near the surface.

The area of the District is 3,973 acres, and the population, which has not altered much during the last 40 years, is 22,218, according to the last census, giving an average of 5.6 persons per acre.

The population, which consists chiefly of colliers and ironworkers is, however, by no means evenly distributed, but is concentrated at several points forming nine hamlets, the intervening portions of the District being more rural as regards density of population.

Subsidences of the surface are frequent, and the ground is much honeycombed and fissured owing to mining operations.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year was 757, comprising 377 males, and 380 females, an increase of 8, as compared with 1907.

Taking the population at 22,250, this gives an annual birth-rate of 34.02 per thousand.

The deaths registered were 318, comprising 169 males and 149 females, being a decrease of 49, as compared with last year, and giving a death-rate of 14.29 per thousand per annum, or adding 22 deaths of residents occurring outside the district (of which 12 were males and 10 females), 15.28 per thousand per annum.

**TABLE I.**  
**URBAN DISTRICT OF COSELEY.**

**Vital Statistics of whole district during 1908 and previous years.**

YEAR	Populatio estimated to middle of each Year	Births		Deaths under One Year of Age		Total Deaths at all Ages		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond District	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District	
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number	Rate*				Number	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	22,000	798	36.2	135	160	423	19.2	..	..	..	..	..
1899	22,000	821	37.3	152	185	415	18.9	..	..	..	..	..
1900	22,000	777	35.3	136	175	453	20.6	..	..	16	469	21.3
1901	22,218	791	35.6	135	170	404	18.18	..	..	14	418	18.8
1902	22,218	807	36.3	134	166	365	16.6	..	..	18	387	17.4
1903	22,250	809	36.3	109	134	394	17.7	..	..	15	409	18.4
1904	22,250	754	33.8	126	167	361	16.2	..	..	13	374	16.8
1905	22,250	813	36.5	102	125	359	16.13	..	..	22	381	17
1906	22,250	773	34.7	97	125	336	15.1	..	..	22	358	16
1907	22,250	749	33.8	116	152	367	16.4	..	..	26	303	17.6
Averages for years 1898-1907	22,163	789	35.5	124	156	388	17.5	..	..	18	398	17.8
1908	22,250	757	34.02	92	120	318	14.29	..	..	22	340	15.28

\* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages	...	...	...	22,218	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	4,655	
Average number of persons per house	...	...	...	4.77	
Area of District, in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	...	...	...	3,973	

TABLE SHOWING DEATHS AND DEATH-RATE EACH MONTH OCCURRING IN THE DISTRICT.

Month	Deaths	Rate	Month	Deaths	Rate
January (4 weeks)	34	48.1	July (4 weeks)	27	15.7
February (4 weeks)	29	16.9	August (4 weeks)	18	10.5
March (5 weeks)	26	12.18	September (5 weeks)	29	13.5
April (4 weeks)	34	19.8	October (4 weeks)	16	9.8
May (4 weeks)	28	16.36	November (4 weeks)	23	13.3
June (5 weeks)	21	9.8	December (5 weeks)	33	15.0

### ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following table gives the deaths and death-rate from these diseases during the past five years. There were 52 deaths in 1908, representing a zymotic death-rate of 2.33 per thousand.

	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria and Membranous Group	Whooping Cough	Enteric Fever	Diarrhoea	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever	Totals	Rate per 1,000
1908 ...	0	17	4	3	4	1	22	2	0	53	2.38
1907 ...	0	15	2	2	10	3	11	2	0	45	2.02
1906 ...	0	0	7	3	8	6	17	0	1	42	1.88
1905 ...	0	19	7	1	7	4	10	2	1	51	2.29
1904 ...	0	7	7	1	12	5	13	0	0	45	2.02

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The following table shows the mortality amongst children under one year, and the population per thousand births registered for the previous five years:—

Year	Deaths under One Year	Mortality per 1,000 Births
1907 ...	116	152
1906 ...	97	125
1905 ...	102	125
1904 ...	126	167
1903 ...	109	134

Average number of deaths for years 1903—1907, 110.

Average death-rate per thousand births, 140.

In 1908 there were 92 deaths under one year of age, and a mortality of 120 per thousand births registered.

The birth-rate is lower than the average for the past ten years.

TABLE II.

COSELEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1908 and previous years.

Names of Localities	1 COSELEY PROPER				2 BRIERLY				3 ETTINGSHALL				4 WOODSFETTON				5				6				7				
	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births Registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births Registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births Registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births Registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births Registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 Year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births Registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 Year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births Registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 Year	
1898 ..	6,988	..	150	41	6,276	..	139	49	6,391	..	119	40	2,244	..	15	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1899 ..	6,988	..	151	54	6,276	..	124	50	6,391	..	100	36	2,244	..	40	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1900 ..	6,988	..	165	40	6,276	..	136	52	6,391	..	134	37	2,244	..	34	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1901 ..	6,822	281	150	45	5,891	256	113	49	7,318	187	109	29	2,187	67	46	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1902 ..	6,822	250	115	39	5,891	255	139	52	7,318	232	99	33	2,187	70	34	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1903 ..	6,822	222	127	31	5,891	232	118	32	7,318	290	122	37	2,187	65	42	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1904 ..	6,822	224	125	49	5,891	234	107	37	7,318	234	108	32	2,187	62	31	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1905 ..	6,822	263	138	30	5,891	262	90	32	7,318	214	102	28	2,187	78	42	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1906 ..	6,822	237	88	21	5,891	222	117	39	7,318	243	116	32	2,187	71	37	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1907 ..	6,822	201	103	28	5,819	243	131	43	7,318	240	130	36	2,187	70	29	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Av'g's of Y'rs. 1898 to 1907	6,871	239	131	38	6,006	243	121	43	7,039	234	113	34	2,204	69	35	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1908 ..	23,250	243	109	29	..	221	87	30	..	230	105	25	..	63	39	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

While the zymotic death-rate, owing to the prevalence of Measles and Summer Diarrhoea, is above the average for the past five years, the general death-rate is lower than it has been since 1894, and the Infantile Mortality rate is also lower.

There have been 40 less deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia than in 1907, and 4 less deaths from Cancer.

Of the deaths amongst infants, 33 were due to premature births, injury at birth, debility, or congenital defect. Of the remainder, no doubt fully 50 per cent. may be looked upon as distinctly preventable and arising from want of care and improper clothing and feeding. The Notification of Births Act, 1907, is designed, by obtaining an earlier intimation of births than at present, to remedy this, and your Council will do well to seriously consider its adoption in conjunction with your scheme for the amelioration of defects in school children.

I recommend that the practice of giving printed instructions on the feeding and management of infants, to the parents when the birth is registered, be continued, as the cards have been much appreciated by certain of the parents. I consider that the teaching of the elementary rules of health, including infant feeding, should be carried out in every school.

#### SMALLPOX.

This disease has been entirely absent from the district throughout the year.

#### MEASLES.

This disease, not being included in the list of diseases to be notified under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, it is often difficult to obtain a satisfactory account of an outbreak.

17 deaths resulted from Measles, all in children under 5 years of age. The epidemic, which existed at the end of 1907, continued into 1908, and 9 deaths were registered in January and February—8 being in Coseley proper.

On the 9th January, I recommended the closure of the Infant Department of Mount Pleasant Council Schools for 14 days owing to the disease.

Later the disease interfered with school attendance in the Etingshall Division, and the Infant Department of Hurst Hill Council Schools was closed for 14 days on April 27th.

7 deaths occurred in the Etingshall Division in April, May and June.

On September 18th, the Infant Department of Broad Lanes Council Schools was closed for a fortnight owing to Measles and Whooping Cough. Before re-opening the Schools were disinfected.

**TABLE III.**  
**URBAN DISTRICT OF COSELEY.**  
*Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY																
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years					COSELEY	BRIERLY	KTTING-SHALL	WOOD-SETTON													
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65							65 and up-wards										
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	11	5	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	13	...	1	3	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	40	16	19	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	18	1	7	2	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	3	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	85	1	22	11	18	1	24	39	18	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Isolation Hospital, none.

The system of notification by the teacher of absent children which is now carried out is of great service, and should be continued. Careful records should be kept in the schools of the diseases from which a child has suffered. Children coming from houses in which Measles exists are admitted to school if they have previously suffered from the disease.

#### SCARLET FEVER.

In 1906 I presented a Special Report on Scarlet Fever, showing that this disease is endemic in the district.

During the first quarter of 1908, 15 cases were reported, in the second quarter 10 cases, in the third quarter 7, and in the last quarter 8.

4 deaths resulted this year.

On receipt of notification the house is visited, and a record made of the number of rooms and general sanitary conditions of the premises, the number of inmates and their occupation, the day and Sunday Schools attended, and particulars taken of the sources of the water and milk supply.

The notifications are communicated to the School Authorities on the day of receipt, and by their regulations all children from infected houses are excluded from school for a period of eight weeks.

On my recommendation, printed stamped post cards have been supplied, on which the Medical Attendant can notify when an infected house is ready for disinfection.

There is no provision for isolation of this or other general infectious diseases, and when a case occurs in connection with a milkshop or on outworkers' premises, its absence is a great drawback.

I remember one case where bailiffs were in possession and wanted to remove the furniture from a house where a domestic servant suffering from Scarlet Fever was—she being temporarily lodging on the premises.

The Inspector uses a Mackenzie spray for disinfection, but thorough disinfection in the majority of cases is impracticable without a steam disinfectant.

#### PUERPERAL FEVER.

Three cases of Puerperal Fever were reported, but no deaths occurred.

One case occurred at 6 Chapel Street. The patient had been attended by a registered midwife. The Local Supervising Authority were informed of the facts, and their Inspector made a local enquiry.

Nuisances existed at the premises due to defective spouting, brew-house cills and drain, and dirty and defective closet.

At the other two cases there were no insanitary conditions at the premises.

### WHOOPIING COUGH.

In September, the Infant Department of Broad Lanes Council Schools was closed for a fortnight owing to this disease, which caused 4 deaths during the year.

### DIPHThERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

11 cases of this disease were notified, and 3 proved fatal. Your Council have now decided to supply antitoxin free to those unable to pay for it.

### PHTHISIS.

Seventeen (17) deaths resulted from Pulmonary Consumption, and 14 from other forms of Tuberculosis.

12 of the deaths from Consumption occurred in persons between 25 and 65 years of age, while 12 of the deaths from other tubercular diseases were in children under five years of age.

The close connection which exists between housing conditions, and the condition as regards ventilation, etc., of workshops where artisans spend their working hours, is becoming more definitely demonstrated.

In domestic dwellings the chief desiderata are plenty of air and sunlight, good ventilation, and cutting off of the ground air and water.

Other preventive measures are the prevention of Infection by transference of the disease from person to person, and, (this especially refers to Tuberculosis in various forms in children) the stringent precautions for preventing the sale or consumption of Tuberculous Milk.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulation Act, 1908, which came into force on 1st January, 1909, is devised to obtain notification to the Medical Officer of Health of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurring amongst poor persons who are attended by Parish Doctors, and it will be the duty of Sanitary Authorities to look after these cases by doing what they can to prevent the spread of infection.

Your Council will do well, as I have before advised, to distribute leaflets, giving information about the disease, and the means to prevent the spread of infection.

There is no other system of Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in your district.

Houses where deaths have occurred have been disinfected.

Institutional treatment in Sanatoria is a valuable means of educating persons suffering from Phthisis as to the precautions necessary, and should be again considered.

### ENTERIC FEVER.

There is no single disease, the absence or prevalence of which is regarded as a surer criterion of the condition in respect to sanitation of a district than is Typhoid Fever.

Some few years ago, when portions of the district were unsupplied with "tap" water, a greater incidence of the disease was noted in these localities than in those where the public water supply was general. By degrees, however, the Water Company have been induced to extend their mains, so that very few houses now remain which are unsupplied with "tap" water.

Owing to the large percentage of old, and more or less defective houses, with unpaved yards and cesspit closets, organic pollution of the soil is present, and this is the chief condition which now conduces to the occurrence of Enteric Fever in your district, favoured by the habits of the poorer working classes in visiting their sick neighbours, and generally acting in utter disregard to the danger of spreading infection.

In 1908, 18 cases were reported from 16 houses, as against 22 cases in 18 houses in 1907. In January 5 cases were reported, all in the Brierley Division. In my monthly report I stated "Four of the five cases were women and children, which points to the conclusion that the source of the disease lies in the homes and their surroundings. I have instructed the Inspector to see that disinfectants are freely supplied.

The following nuisances require remedy in connection with these cases :

79 Wesley Street, general repairs, already under notice.

8 Allen's Row, privies, brewhouse and drains defective."

In February, 6 cases were reported, 5 being women and children.

At 12 Daisy Street, where a case occurred, and which proved to be the only fatal one during the year, the quarry floor, spouting, and chimneys were defective, the house and outbuildings dirty, the surface drains uneven, and closets unventilated.

In March, one case was reported from 3 Bissell Terrace.

In April, one case in a youth was reported from 18, Lorne Street. Defective paving, closet cesspits and limewashing require attention.

In May a case was reported from 57 Clifton Street, where the yard paving was defective and limewashing and cleansing of outbuildings required.

In July 2 cases were reported at 7 White Street and 59 Broad Street, respectively.

In both cases the closets and brewhouses were defective and dirty.

In September a case was reported from 11 Tipton Road, where the closet cesspits were defective.

In December a case was reported from 14 Hollywell Street, which had evidently been contracted in a neighbouring district.

In all cases enquiries are made as to the milk supply, the number of inhabitants, and their occupation, etc.





Immediately on receipt of notification the closet is ordered to be emptied and disinfectants supplied, together with a galvanized iron receptacle, with lid, for the reception of the evacuations.

There is no disease the outcome of which depends so much on nursing as Enteric Fever, and this is one strong reason for advocating isolation in a proper hospital. The District Nurse, who is privately supported, has been of great service in these cases, and the Nursing Association should be strongly supported in the interests of the public health.

Kerbing and channelling are required in Ivy House Lane where surface water from new houses is causing a nuisance. The condition of Webb Street and other un-made streets is insanitary and should receive your attention.

#### DIARRHŒA.

Twenty-two (22) deaths resulted from Diarrhœa, 20 of these being under one year of age. In this number is included all deaths from Enteritis in infants under 12 months.

This is exactly double the number of deaths which were recorded last year when the death-rate from Diarrhœa was exceptionally low all over the country.

This was attributed to the wet summer of 1907, whereas the summer of 1908 was fine and dry.

As I have before frequently pointed out this disease is to a large extent preventable.

Yards and entries should have an impermeable surface, ashpits should be kept dry and all accumulation of refuse should be frequently removed.

All houses should be provided with cool, well-lighted and ventilated pantries, as the want of these induces putrefactive changes in food, which favour the disease. Milk should always be kept covered.

#### HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

During the year, apart from enquiries made regarding infectious diseases, I have inspected and reported on various properties, amongst others Havacre Lane, Yew Tree Lane, Bridge Street and Bissell Street in Coseley proper; Mill Street, Barlow Street, Upper Etingshall Road, and Caddick Street in Etingshall; Regent Street and Brook Road in Woodsetton; Daisy Street, Hilly Road, Hallgreen Street, Lane Street and Ash Street in Brierly.

Sixty houses were dealt with under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, with the following results: 3 obstructive building were demolished, 24 closed voluntarily, 8 closed by justices orders and afterwards demolished, 22 demolished voluntarily, 2 houses converted into one house, and one remains to be dealt with. Of the 24 houses closed voluntarily 11 should be demolished, the others are being repaired or

are capable of being repaired. The demolition of the 11 houses should not be lost sight of. Of the houses remaining undealt with at the time of writing my last annual report one has been demolished.

Paving of back yards and entries, which is a much needed improvement, was carried out in 20 instances. Altogether, 1,018 houses have been inspected during the year, necessitating 497 notices under the Housing and Public Health Acts, for structural defects and foul conditions, and four for overcrowding.

The chief defects met with are dampness of houses, due to absence of damp courses, defective spouting, decayed mortar and brickwork, and absence of paving; defective walls and roofs, dilapidated out-buildings and defective drains.

Owing to the large number of old houses this work necessitates a great deal of time, but your Council are to be congratulated on the results of the steady work which has been done in this direction during recent years. Overcrowding is prevalent and difficult to deal with, as in the majority of instances in which it has apparently been abated it seems probable that the nuisance has simply been transferred to another house. The difficulty is that the lower paid working classes, who have often large families, are unable to pay the rents demanded for the accommodation a sanitarian would deem necessary. On the other hand many of the better paid artisans should be well able to provide their families with more sanitary dwellings than they occupy. The worst cases of overcrowding, however, are due to more than one family occupying one small house, which is usually foul and insanitary. Every effort is made to suppress such cases.

#### NEW BUILDINGS.

Twenty-eight houses were erected during the year. The work of supervision over new buildings is now being carried out in a more satisfactory manner than formerly, and the builders are more alive to the requirements of your Bye Laws.

Under your new Bye Laws it is illegal to allow a new house to be occupied until a certificate of fitness has been received.

#### EXCREMENT AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

This is carried out by the Council's own workmen, under a Superintendent. More frequent removal is desirable.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co., and also by the Wolverhampton Corporation Waterworks and the Bilston Urban Council Waterworks. All these waters are satisfactory for

**TABLE V.**  
**COSELEY URBAN DISTRICT.**  
**Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.**

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total Deaths under one year																
	Un'r We'k	1-2 W'ks	2-3 W'ks	3-4 W'ks	Total under 1 month	1-2 M'hs	2-3 M'hs	3-4 M'hs	4-5 M'hs	5-6 M'hs	6-7 M'hs	7-8 M'hs	8-9 M'hs	9-10 M'hs	10-11 M'hs	11-12 M'hs	Total Deaths under one year
All Causes {	Certified ...	22	1	7	1	14	5	8	3	5	3	7	6	1	3	5	92
	Uncertified ...																
Common Infectious Diseases	Influenza ...																
	Small-pox ...																
	Chicken-pox ...																
	Measles ...											1	1	1	2	2	7
	Scarlet Fever ...																
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Diphtheria: Croup ...																
	Whooping Cough ...																1
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Diarrhoea ...					1											1
	Enteritis, Muco-Enteritis, Gastro-Enteritis					4		2	2	2	1	1	1		1		14
	Gastritis, Gastro-Intestinal Catarrh ...						2					1	1				4
Wasting Diseases	Premature Birth ...	12		2													14
	Congenital Defects ...	2						1					1				6
	Injury at Birth ...	1															1
	Want of Breast-milk ...																
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	3	1	3		7	2	1	1				1				12	



**TABLE VI.**

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year 1908 in the Urban District of Coseley.

	Number of		Abatement Notices		Nuisances abated after notice by		
	Inspections and Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority	
Dwelling houses & Schools	{ Foul Conditions ...	1018	1355	253	184	1098	
	{ Structural Defects						
	{ Overcrowding ...	4	4	4	...	4	...
	{ Unfit for Habitation ...	60	60	27	33	21	27
	{ Lodging-houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Dairies, Milkshops, and	46	29	24	...	28	...
	{ Cowsheds ...						
	{ Bakehouses ...	20	8	7	...	6	...
	{ Slaughter-houses, Meat & Fish Shops ...	149	6	6	...	6	...
	{ Canal Boats ...	238	32	18	...	14	...
	{ Ashpits and Privies ...	239	210	98	60	96	62
	{ Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	7	7	7	...	7	...
	{ Water Closets ...	1	1	1	...	1	...
	House Drainage	{ Defective Traps ...	17	17	7	10	7
{ No Disconnection							
{ Other Faults ...							
{ Water Supply (to provide the public supply) ...		27	...	27	...	27	...
{ Pigsties ...		14	14	14	...	14	...
{ Animals improperly kept		3	3	3	...	3	...
{ Offensive Trades ...		...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Smoke Nuisances ...		...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
<b>TOTALS</b>	1843	1746	496	287	1431		
Unwholesome Food	{ Number of Seizures ...	...	...	...	...	2	
	{ Condemned by Magistrate ...	...	...	...	...	2	
	{ Prosecutions for exposing for sale	...	...	...	...	2	
	{ Convictions	...	...	...	...	2	
	{ Samples taken for Analysis ...	...	...	...	...	...	
Food and Drugs Act	{ Number found adulterated, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	
	{ Proceedings taken ...	...	...	...	...	...	
	{ Number of Convictions ...	...	...	...	...	...	
	{ Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	
	{ " " condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	...	...	
<b>Precautions against Infectious Disease.</b>							
	{ Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	...	...	1	
	{ Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	19	
	{ Schools	...	...	...	...	10	
	{ Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	
	{ Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	
	{ Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or things	...	...	...	...	...	
	{ Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	

(Signed) DAVID PRICE,  
Inspector of Nuisances.

domestic purposes. 27 houses, apart from new houses, have been connected to the public water supply during the year. Very few houses are now dependent on wells, and these will be dealt with in the course of time.

#### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 18 slaughter houses on the register. These have been regularly inspected and six notices for limewashing, etc., were served and complied with.

Renewal of licence in one case was refused owing to structural unfitness. As a matter of fact the majority of the slaughter houses are not up-to-date, structurally, but they are kept clean.

#### MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

There are about 35 meat shops, 16 fried fish shops, and in addition about 30 hawkers of fish and rabbits, trade in the district.

Many visits were paid to these, and in the majority of cases nothing unsatisfactory was discovered.

Over 1 cwt. of unsound fish was seized from a hawker's cart, and your Council instituted proceedings under Section 117, Public Health Act, 1875, with the result that a fine of £10 and costs was inflicted.

Over 1 cwt. of unsound meat was seized at a shop, and similar proceedings resulted in a fine of £20 and costs being imposed.

#### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 20 owners occupying 28 cowsheds and 15 milkshops in the district.

The defects mentioned in my last Annual Report have been to some extent remedied. 24 notices for structural defects, water supply, and limewashing were required and have been complied with, so that gradual improvements are being effected. More cleanly methods are required in the production of milk.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 47 Factories and 112 Workshops, including 15 Bakehouses. These have been inspected by the Inspector and myself. Section 22, Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, is in force.

Eight notices for lime-washing and cleansing Bakehouses were served. One Bakehouse is still in an insanitary condition, notwithstanding notice.

There are no underground Bakehouses, nor any with sleeping accommodation in close proximity thereto.

There are no Laundries.

No failure to affix abstract of the Act, under Section 133, was discovered.

## TABLE VII.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and  
Homework.

## 1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

PREMISES	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
FACTORIES ... .. (including Factory Laundries)	31	3	...
WORKSHOPS ... .. (including Workshop Laundries)	55	12	...
WORKPLACES ... .. (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	1	1	...
TOTAL ...	87	16	...

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	3	3	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ... ..	1	...	...	...
Sanitary accommo- dation { insufficient ... ..	4	4	...	...
{ unsuitable or defective ... ..	...	...	...	...
{ not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake- houses (ss. 97 to 100)... ..	8	8	...	...
Other offences ... .. (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	...	...	...	...
TOTAL ...	16	15	...	...

**TABLE VII. — Continued.**  
3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK (1)	OUTWORKERS LISTS, SECTION 107										OUTWORK IN UNWHOLE-SOME PREMISES, SECTION 08		OUTWORK IN UNWHOLE-SOME PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110		
	Lists received from Employers				Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils (8)	Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils (9)	Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists (10)	Prosecutions		Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises (13)	In-stances served (14)	Notices served (15)	In-stances (16)	Orders made (S. 110) (17)	Prosecution (Sec. 109, 110) (18)
	Sending twice in the year		Sending once in the year					Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists. (11)	Failing to send lists (12)						
	Lists (2)	Con-tractors (3)	Outworkers (4)	Con-tractors (5)	Outworkers (6)	Work-men (7)									
Wearing Apparel— (1) making, &c.	2	2	86	1	1	4	53	14	1	...	96	1	1	...	...
TOTAL ...	2	2	86	1	1	4	53	14	1	...	96	1	1	...	...

**4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.**

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year (1)	Number (2)
Bakehouses ...	15
Boots and Saddlery ...	18
Tailoring ...	6
Joinery, etc. ...	26
Iron and Tin Workers ...	17
Dressmakers ...	6
Miscellaneous ...	24
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>122</b>

**5.—OTHER MATTERS.**

Class (1)	No. (2)
Matters Notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)...	3
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5)	2
Other ..	...
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):—	
Certificates granted during the year	...
In use at the end of the year	...

## HOME WORK.

Two tailoring firms in the district give out work, and home work is given out by 12 firms outside. Notice was given to one of the firms in the district to supply lists of outworkers. There are 96 outworkers and their homes have been inspected during the year. One notice was served prohibiting home work on unwholesome premises.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. M. CLENDINNEN, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Coseley,

Feb. 10th, 1909.





COSELEY EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

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Annual Report

OF THE

SUPERVISOR OF MEDICAL INSPECTION OF  
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

(*W. M. CLENDINNEN, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.*)

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Coseley Education Committee.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my First Annual Report as Supervisor of your system of Medical Inspection of School Children. There are eight Public Elementary Schools under your control, five Council and three Voluntary, accommodating 4,535 children.

The population is industrial, the industries being mining, iron, and allied trades. Some notes of the physical characteristics of the district will be found in my report as Medical Officer of Health.

Population, 22,250; Rateable Value, £67,210; District Rate, 2s. 3d.; Poor Rate, 4s. 8d., including 1s. 8½d. Education Expenses.

Your staff are:—Supervisor (who is also Medical Officer of Health), W. M. Clendinnen, M.R.C.S., Eng., 1894, L.R.C.P., Lond., 1894, M.B., Bac. Surg., Univ., Birm., 1902.

Inspecting Officer, Thomas Johnson, M.R.C.S., Eng., 1876, L.R.C.P., Edin., 1876, and the respective duties are defined in the following resolutions of your committee:—

(a) That it is the duty of Dr. T. Johnson to conduct all examinations of the children at their respective schools in school hours, and in the manner prescribed by the Board of Education in their circulars 576 and 582.

(b) That it is the duty of Dr. W. M. Clendinnen, as Supervisor of the Medical Inspection of School Children, to receive the reports of the results of the examinations, and compile therefrom the statistics and Annual Report to the Local Education Authority, as required under Section 13 of circular 576 of the Board of Education.

(c) That all enquiries as to further information required by the Supervisor, and all other communications in connection with the examination so made, shall be sent in writing to the Secretary of the Education Committee, to be dealt with by him.\*

There is no School Nurse.

The Board's Schedule of Medical Inspection has been followed.

In response to my enquiry I have received the following statement from your Secretary:—

#### (1) ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY HEAD TEACHERS.

The Head Teachers fill in questions No. 1 to 7, inclusive, on the Schedule, and also give assistance with the mothers, in preparing the children for examination.

#### (2) INVITATION TO PARENTS.

The parents or guardians of all children examined were invited to be present, by sending them printed forms in sealed envelopes, by hand. About 90 per cent. attended.

The co-operation of the parents in the opinion of the Inspector, in assisting to remedy defects, unfortunately leaves a good deal to be desired.

#### (3) SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS.

In most cases two classes had to be taken together to liberate a room where the examinations could take place, but, as the weather happened to be very fine at the time some schools were visited, classes were occasionally drafted into the playgrounds. This, at any rate, prevented unduly overcrowding the classrooms. It was in the smaller schools that the school arrangements were disturbed to the greatest extent; and where assistant teachers had to be placed in charge of two classes, in order that the Head Teacher could be present at the examinations.

(4) Fifty visits were paid by the Inspector to the different schools.

(5) All children with any radical defects—as shown by the cards—will be re-examined to ascertain whether the instructions have been carried out.

(6) The time in examining the admissions have averaged about 7½ minutes, and the exits about 9 minutes.

#### SANITARY STATE OF THE SCHOOLS.

There are five Council and three Voluntary Schools under your control, and during the year I have made a sanitary survey of them all.

The Inspector of Nuisances has accompanied me on most of my visits, and the record of the conditions of each School has been made as complete as practicable.

\*Since writing the above I have been informed that I have been "named" and "recognised" by the Board of Education as School Medical Officer. It is essential to this position that I should have full control, and be consulted on all points of the work.

It will be seen that some of these Schools are ill adapted for the purposes for which they are used. Some of them were built at a time when less attention was given to the matter of light and ventilation than is at present the case.

One of the outstanding features concerning the sanitary condition of the Schools, which readily arrests notice, is the limited attention which is paid to the cleanliness of the floors. I believe that in most of the Schools these are only scrubbed during the holidays, i.e., three or four times a year. The floor is that part of the School which receives the most, and the most offensive, dirt; a mere sweeping is of small use in removing this dirt. In my opinion this is a matter which should receive attention. Proper scrapers or mats should be provided, and their use insisted upon. Sawdust, wet by some disinfectant, should be used to moisten the floor before sweeping. Dry sweeping, as practised at present, is very injurious. Unnecessary charts, etc., on the walls should be discouraged as resting places for dust. The lavatory and sanitary conveniences require attention in most of the Schools, as also the cloak rooms.

The woodwork, etc., in many of the Schools is in urgent need of paint. In some cases attention should be given to the communications of the different class rooms with the outer air. It would be easy in some cases to obviate class rooms being used as passages from other rooms in going from one part of the building to another, or to the playground, by putting in another door. This is the case in St. Mary's Boys' School, in Lanesfield School, in Daisy Bank Mixed School, and Christ Church Infants' School.

#### FLOOR SPACE AND CUBIC CAPACITY.

Each class room has been measured and its floor space and cubic capacity calculated; in measuring the latter no account has been taken of any space above 13 feet from the floor; such space is of no advantage as far as the supply of fresh air to the scholars is concerned. The number of scholars present in each class room at one visit was noted, and in no case was there overcrowding on the basis of 10 square feet for Council and 8 square feet for Voluntary Schools. Ten square feet is little enough if the admission of sufficient fresh air, without draughts, is to be obtained. In America the minimum floor space prescribed for each child is 15 square feet.

#### LIGHTING.

The window space in each class room has been measured, the direction of the light has been noted, obstruction of the light by neighbouring buildings or trees, or by the use of ground glass, where this did not seem necessary, has been recorded.

The light should preferably come from the left side, and windows should reach to the ceiling as near as possible, as one third of the total light admitted by a window is furnished by the upper fourth.

Note has also been made of the means provided for artificial lighting. In a few cases incandescent burners are used, and these being more hygienic than ordinary burners should be extended.

At Daisy Bank Mixed School some of the windows are narrow, with iron frames and small panes, and do not reach the ceiling. The natural light in three of the class rooms is insufficient, and the artificial light is mostly very bad and much complained of by the teachers.

At West Coseley Mixed School the natural lighting requires improvement, windows reaching higher up, with large panes instead of the present small ones, should be provided. The artificial lighting is also insufficient.

At Lanesfield Council School in one class room the natural and artificial lighting are both poor.

At St. Mary's Boys' School the natural light is fair but somewhat obstructed by building on the west.

At St. Mary's Girls' and Infants' School there is a window with frosted glass, and there seems no reason why it should not be provided with clear glass, and the lighting improved thereby.

At Christ Church Mixed School the natural lighting is good, but could be improved by cutting down some trees which obstruct it. The artificial lighting is good in this School.

#### VENTILATION.

The amount of openable window in each class room has been measured, and where other ventilators are provided these have been noted. There is a prescribed minimum of size for inlets and outlets, according to the number of children in each room; the actual size of ventilators, however, is not the only point in relation to them which is of significance; their position, character, and efficiency are also important; often such ventilators are made to open and shut, and when this is the case they are often shut, and being more or less inaccessible or out of sight they remain shut; the sizes of the openings on the inner and outer sides are also often disproportionate.

If windows are properly situated, i.e., on opposite sides of a room, and proper attention is given to them, no other ventilation is required. They are best provided with hopper openings. All your schools are naturally ventilated, and one great advantage of this is that it permits of an object lesson being given to the children in the matter of the open window. In some cases outlets are provided in the roof, which the teacher does not know how to open. In West Coseley Mixed School the ventilation requires improvement. A larger amount of windows should be made to open, and hoppers should be provided.

In West Coseley Infants' School the cloak-room window is faulty and not made to open. In the large room hoppers are required, and the

necessary furniture for opening the windows should be provided. At Lanesfield Council School one class-room has altogether insufficient ventilation. One window of this room opens into a cloak room and lavatory. It should be moved into an outside wall. In this room there are windows so high as to be inaccessible, and no cords are provided to open them.

In another room, where it is designed that fresh warm air should be introduced by a device known as Galton's grates, it was found that the openings of tubes, where the outside air is taken, were sunk and covered up by the paving of the playground. The same condition was found at Daisy Bank Mixed School, and shows the liability of such devices to become worse than useless, owing to the intelligent looking after which they require but do not get; while in this connection mention may be made of the condition of Tobin's tubes at Broad Lanes Infants' School. They take air from gratings outside, whence it passes under the floor of the corridor. These gratings are choked up.

At St. Mary's Girls' School one window could be made to open, and this would give cross ventilation.

At Christ Church Infants' School the ventilation of one room could be improved by increasing the area of openable window, and by providing some permanent inlets.

Owing to the absence of fireplaces at Mount Pleasant Boys' School the ventilation requires to be well maintained, more especially as the School is of the Central Hall type, and true cross ventilation is not practicable. The class rooms are provided with air inlets in the walls and connected with fixed roof extractors. The same system is in use at Hurst Hill and Daisy Bank Schools.

#### FURNITURE.

Much attention has in recent years been given to the question of school furniture, and there are now on the market many satisfactory forms of school desks, so arranged that the child can sit close to the desk, with the seat and back so adjusted that the child does not sit in bent and cramped positions. This is a matter of very considerable importance, and where the seats and backs are not adjustable it is necessary that they should be adapted to the size of the children using them, as bad positions tend to induce spinal and other deformities, and to strain the eyesight.

In your schools there is a great want of uniformity in desks and seats. Some are modern and satisfactory, but many of the old ones have the seats too far from the desk, and cause stooping. This is the case especially at Daisy Bank, Lanesfield, and St. Mary's. At West Coseley Infants, desks in the baby room pinch the children's fingers.

Baby rooms would be as well without galleries and desks.

In many cases a left hand light could be obtained by some re-arrangement of the furniture, and this is important, seeing the number of young children whose sight is injured by doing work in a bad or unsuitable light.

### HEATING

Notes have been made of the means of heating employed in the different schools. Two of the schools are heated by low pressure hot pipes systems.

One school is heated entirely by coke stoves, except the Infants' Department, where open fires are used.

The remainder are heated by stoves and open fire.

In some cases the fireplaces are broken. In some rooms thermometers were not in use at the time of inspection.

### WALLS AND ROOFS.

In some cases the wall surfaces are not smooth enough to facilitate cleanliness. Some of the walls are dirty, and this remark applies also to the windows. The dirty condition and unsuitable colouring of some of the walls diminish the light. At Daisy Bank Schools complaint was made of the entrance of rain water in six places, apparently due to defective roof guttering.

At Lanesfield a large quantity of plastering had fallen from the ceiling in one classroom. At Mount Pleasant and Lanesfield there are fractured walls. The boarded floors at West Coseley School are in very bad condition. Some repairs are also required to the flooring at Daisy Bank, Lanesfield and Broad Lanes. Corridors and lavatory floors should be paved with quarries, and not floored with timber, as is the case at Broad Lanes. The spouting in many cases requires cleansing.

### CLOAKROOMS, LAVATORIES, Etc.

A cloakroom ought not to be a mere passage; it should be properly lighted and well-ventilated. Means of heating should be provided. Notes have been made of the accommodation provided, the number of pegs, their arrangement, and the supply of towel rails and towels. Pegs are numbered in some cases, but not in all. The lavatory accommodation in some of the schools is not in a sanitary condition, nor is the accommodation adequate for the number of children. A better supply of soap and towels is required.

Proper drinking water should be available. In some cases this is so, but at Broad Lanes Infant School, for instance, all the water is drawn from tanks. These are situate in the room which is used as cloakroom and lavatory combined, and the surface of the water in the tanks had a thick coating of dust at the time of inspection.

































This is only what would be expected, seeing that a lot of dust is raised every time the floor is swept. Similar tanks are in use at Mount Pleasant Schools, and although a separate tap which brings water direct from the main is provided, water can only be obtained from it by application to the teacher in charge of the key, and it is therefore highly probable that the children drink the water from the taps in connection with the tanks. At West Coseley Infant School there is no lavatory accommodation, and a stand is required for the middle of the cloakroom.

#### PLAYGROUNDS.

At Daisy Bank School the surface of the playground is concreted. At the other schools the surface is ordinary earth, on which dry furnace ashes are spread at varying intervals. In the case of Mount Pleasant School trouble is caused by the ashes choking the drain gullies in times of heavy rain. The surface of most of the playgrounds is uneven and not well-constructed for the carrying off of rain water. At St. Mary's Infants' School a quantity of coke was lying about the playground, and the children walking on it at the time of inspection. At St. Mary's Boys' School there is a soft water cistern under a portion of the playground. It is not used, and only covered with boards at ground level, and would be better filled up. At the same school the appearance of the ashpit suggested that great waste of coal was taking place. It seems that riddles should be provided. In many cases the air-bricks provided for floor ventilation are choked.

#### SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Notes have been made of the closet accommodation, the urinals, and drains. The closets are all ordinary ones, connected with sunk cesspits. In most cases these are not constructed so as to facilitate cleansing, the cesspits are not properly ventilated and covered, nor are they watertight, whilst their size permits of the accumulation of too large a quantity of filth.

The urinals in most cases require attention. They should be fitted with non-absorbent material, and means of flushing provided. The drains at Daisy Bank and Lanesfield Schools were in a bad condition at the time of inspection. At the latter school they had been badly laid, improperly jointed, and had become choked.

Some of the defects above mentioned have now been remedied, or are in hand. It would be wise to take one matter in hand at a time, and so gradually effect the improvements required.

The children inspected during the year have been new admissions and those leaving. The former group varies in age from three to eight years. It appears unnecessary to pay detailed attention to children under five years of age, assessing their mental capacity, attendance, and so forth; but this has been done, and I give the figures for what they are worth.

As a guide to the time at which children should come up for their second inspection, and in order to produce as large as possible a proportion of the figures in one age group, and to thereby enhance their value, the children should be selected for inspection on an age basis, or by the year of their birth.

For instance, in the coming year, all children born in 1904 (and not yet inspected) could be inspected in one group (together with any children born before 1904 who are admitted during the year) for first inspections; of those children born since 1904 records need only be made of those who appear to have something wrong with them, and these should be treated as special cases.

For second inspections, those born in 1901 should be dealt with, and those born in 1897, together with any others leaving during the year, for third inspections.

I have drawn up a separate table for each school, showing the number of children inspected, classified for age at date of inspection and for sex, and showing conditions and defects recorded, and the number of children in respect of whom it is recorded that directions were given for treatment to be obtained.

As I pointed out to your Committee in my letter of September 15th last, far greater uniformity is required in the method of recording the results of inspections. More care is also required to see that there are no omissions.

Where it is apparent that the figures in certain columns on the tables should total to the number of children in the Age Group concerned, and they do not do so, it is owing to omissions on the records supplied to me. Of course these discrepancies reduce the value of the tables.

There are no records of re-examinations or of special cases presented by the teachers.

#### AGE.

The age is not correctly stated in all cases, and in some is only given in years.

In one case a girl is recorded as being five months older than her brother.

#### HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS AVERAGE.

This is given in English and Metric System. Apparent discrepancies may be accounted for by the small number of children in some groups.

1 inch = 2.54 centimetres.

1 lb. = .4535714 kilogrammes.

It is interesting to note that the Senior Girls are heavier and taller than the Boys of the same age. This has been observed by several investigators.

Your schools are supplied with dial weighing machines. It would be wise to submit the weighing machines and measuring standards to the Inspector of Weights and Measures.

The main point to know for each boy or girl is whether growth is occurring at a rate which is exceptional for him or her. Stoppage of growth or increase in weight might be due to insufficient food or clothing, the onset of some disease, or excessive mental work. On the other hand too rapid an increase in stature diminishes the mental powers.

#### ATTENDANCE.

In some cases it has been recognised that it is useless to assess attendance in young infants, but most cases have been classified, and are included on the tables.

For uniformity attendance would be best expressed by a vulgar fraction formed by the possible and actual attendances of the year.

Bad attendance is caused chiefly by bad home conditions, or by illness, and a complete record of attendance is therefore a useful guide.

#### CLOTHING.

It appears from the records that limited attention has been paid to the question of unsuitable or insufficient clothing. In some cases boots and stockings have been described as poor when the body clothes are up to average.

#### NUTRITION.

This is difficult to assess, and cannot be done by teachers. Nearly all the cases of anæmia, some of presumed tuberculosis, and others such as rickets and bronchiectasis, are classified as being in a good state of nutrition.

#### CLEANLINESS AND CONDITION OF SKIN.

Twenty-five per cent. of all the children were recorded as having vermin in the head, and over 15 per cent. had dirty bodies.

Some cases are recorded as "nits' body."

Printed instructions should be given for getting rid of vermin.

Verminous children should be separated from the others in the class, and their parents informed that this has been done. If this does not produce the desired effect a threat of exclusion should be given. Boys' and girls' hair should be kept short to get rid of vermin.

## TEETH.

Seventy-two per cent. had decayed teeth according to the records.

It would be useful to have a chart in the schools describing the evils and means of prevention of decayed teeth.

## NOSE AND THROAT.

13.3 per cent. had enlarged tonsils, but only five children were presumed to be suffering from adenoids.

*Eighteen* DEFECTIVE VISION.

Over ~~ten~~ per cent. were recorded as having abnormal vision, though in many cases it was no more than  $\frac{6}{9}$ . The vision of 63 children over six years of age was not recorded.

Snellen's Test Types Table VI. are in use at the schools.

Several cases are recorded of  $\frac{6}{15}$ ,  $\frac{6}{21}$ ,  $\frac{6}{32}$  vision.

I am not aware how these figures are arrived at.

Children with  $\frac{6}{36}$  or  $\frac{6}{18}$  vision should be in front rows at lessons.

The eyes of children with bad vision, worse than  $\frac{6}{9}$ , should be further examined. Eyesight is perhaps the most important matter in schools.

## DEFECTIVE HEARING.

Two per cent. had defective hearing. This is a low percentage. High degrees of deafness may escape notice in a public elementary school.

The ears of all children who have returned after measles, diphtheria, and scarlet fever should be examined.

## SCABIES, Etc.

Only five cases of scabies and two of ringworm are recorded.

## DIRECTIONS.

In many cases no directions are recorded as having been given, nor is it recorded that the necessary treatment was being carried out. As instances, oral sepsis and bronchitis, necrosis of jaw, with bad teeth, suppurating ears with defective hearing, dirty and verminous heads.

## CONCLUSION.

The number of verminous children points to the necessity of the appointment of a school nurse. Each child should have its own peg in the cloakroom, and the pegs should be sufficiently far apart to prevent different children's clothes coming into contact.

Medical inspection will do no good unless benefit to the individual child results. I have no information as to the number of defects remedied. This should be enquired into, and further notices sent to the parents if action has not been taken by them. It is waste of time, energy, and money to be instructing children who are physically defective and consequently incapable of progress, if medical treatment will remove their defects and thereby increase their fitness to assimilate knowledge with greater comfort to themselves and their teachers.

There is no hospital in your district. The nearest hospitals available are at Wolverhampton (about 4 miles) and Dudley (2½ miles). There is no provision for the treatment of defective teeth, apart from private work, and this is a subject which will require anxious consideration. The only measures available for controlling the spread of infectious disease are described in my report as Medical Officer of Health.

The stopping of the Epidemic Grant is a serious handicap in this matter.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. M. CLENDINNEN, M.B.

Coseley,

February 10th, 1909.

## SUMMARY OF DEFECTS WITH PERCENTAGES ON TOTAL INSPECTIONS.

Total Children ... .. 898.

ATTENDANCE.							Per cent.	Total	No record
Good	...	...	...	...	...	669	81.8	} 817	81
Fair	...	...	...	...	...	102	12.4		
Bad	...	...	...	...	...	46	5.6		
CLOTHING.									
Good	...	...	...	...	...	504	57.0	} 881	17
Average	...	...	...	...	...	283	32.1		
Bad	...	...	...	...	...	94	10.6		
NUTRITION.									
Good	...	...	...	...	...	526	65.3	} 805	93
Normal	...	...	...	...	...	244	30.3		
Below Normal	...	...	...	...	...	33	4.0		
Bad	...	...	...	...	...	2	.24		
CLEANLINESS AND CONDITION OF SKIN.									
HEAD.									
Clean	...	...	...	...	...	524	66.3	} 790	108
Verminous	...	...	...	...	...	227	28.7		
Dirty	...	...	...	...	...	39	4.9		
BODY.									
Clean	...	...	...	...	...	751	84.1	} 892	6
Somewhat Dirty	...	...	...	...	...	64	7.1		
Dirty	...	...	...	...	...	77	8.6		
TEETH.									
No Caries	...	...	...	...	...	253	30.3	} 834	64
One or two Decayed	...	...	...	...	...	227	27.2		
More Decayed	...	...	...	...	...	269	32.2		
Several Decayed	...	...	...	...	...	85	10.1		

## NOSE AND THROAT.

	Per cent.	Totals	No record
Nasal Catarrh ... ..	27	3	
Pharyngeal Catarrh ... ..	5	.5	
Enlarged Tonsils ... ..	120	13.3	
Adenoids ... ..	5	.5	
Enlarged Submaxillary and Cervical Glands	15	1.6	
Goitre ... ..	11	1.2	
Eye Disease ... ..	8	.8	
Defective Vision ... ..	53	18.0	
Ear Disease ... ..	10	1.1	
Defective Hearing ... ..	18	2.0	
Defective Speech ... ..	31	3.4	
Heart Disease ... ..	2	.2	

## MENTAL CONDITION.

Bright ... ..	683	76.4	} 893 5
Fair ... ..	157	17.5	
Dull ... ..	52	5.8	
Backward ... ..	1	.1	
Anæmia ... ..	33	3.6	
Lung Defects ... ..	21	2.3	
Nervous Disease ... ..	1	.1	
Tuberculosis ... ..	8	.9	
Rickets ... ..	9	1.0	
Deformities ... ..	3	.3	
Infectious Diseases ... ..	4	.4	
Scabies ... ..	5	.5	
Ringworm ... ..	2	.2	
Eczema ... ..	5	.5	
Number of children, parents of whom were directed as to remedy of defects ...	318	35.3	
Directions to teachers in five cases.			

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