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Cumberland County Council.

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

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# REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer,

F. H. MORISON, M.D., D.P.H., &c.,

ON THE

Medical Inspection of School  
Children.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 1916.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.

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EDUCATION (MEDICAL) DEPARTMENT,

48 WARWICK ROAD,

CARLISLE.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee of the  
Cumberland County Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Ninth Annual Report for the year 1916 as your School Medical Officer.

It will be noticed that no "Routine" Medical Inspection has been carried on during the year, but, fortunately, during the latter half of the year Dr. Mark Fraser was able to devote the whole of his time to School work.

I hope shortly to secure the services of a Lady Assistant, the greater part of whose time will be given up to School work.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

F. H. MORISON,

*School Medical Officer.*

*June, 1916.*

## STAFF.

Your School Medical Officer is still without any Medical Assistants, they having left for service on the dates mentioned in the Report for 1915.

Dr. Mark S. Fraser returned to the Department from Military Service in May, 1916, and again rejoined the Army for further service in February, 1917.

During the time he was in the County the whole of his time was devoted to School Medical Service.

No routine Medical Inspection was undertaken, but he examined all known defectives, as well as those to whom his attention was specially drawn by several Head Teachers, Attendance Officers or Nurses. The Nurses have regularly visited the Schools, particularly with the object of maintaining cleanliness, seeing that minor defects were treated, and seeing that those children requiring medical attention from Private Practitioners were receiving it.

## IMPROVEMENTS TO SCHOOLS.

The following improvements have been completed during the year, or are in progress under the superintendence of Mr. Joseph Foster, M.S.A., Architect to the Committee :—

- Cockermouth, Fairfield.*—Improvements to drainage.  
*Hayton (Oughterside).*—New outbuildings and repairs.  
*Midgeholme.*—Improvements to drainage and general repairs.  
*Seaton (New School).*—Now completed.  
*Blennerhasset.*—Repairs to boundary wall.  
*Little Clifton.*—New boiler and repairs to roof.  
*Stainburn.*—New stove fitted.  
*Great Broughton.*—New boundary wall.  
*Longtown.*—New stoves.  
*Aspatria National.*—New outoffices.  
*Hallbankgate.*—New ceiling.  
*Dearham.*—Improvements to boiler.  
*Renwick.*—New windows and improvements to ventilation.  
*Chapel Brow Cl.*—Repairs to gables.  
*Brampton Cl.*—Improvements to screen, and erection of fences  
*Nether Denton Cl.*—New spouting to house.  
*Penrith, Brunswick Road Cl.*—New flushing tanks to latrines.  
*Moor Row Cl.*—Repairs to playgrounds.  
*Lamplugh Cl.*—General repairs.  
*Waverbridge Cl.*—Improvements to chimney.  
*Maryport Manual Instruction Centre.*—General repairs.

- Maryport Cookery Centre.*—New gas service.  
*Flimby Lodge School.*—Fitted up as Cookery and Manual Instruction Centres.  
*Netherton Infants' Cl.*—General repairs.  
*Grasslot Cl.*—General repairs.  
*High Hesket Vol.*—New floor.

The Architect has received instructions to prepare plans, etc., for the following works to be carried out on conclusion of the war—

- Newton Arlosh Council School.*—New drainage scheme, alterations to windows, &c.  
*Aspatria Council School.*—Extensive alterations and additions  
*Holme St. Cuthbert's.*—Erection of new offices, &c.  
*Egremont.*—New Council School for girls.  
*Egremont, Bookwell.*—Extensive alterations and additions.  
*Frizington.*—Improvements to ventilation.  
*Great Orton.*—New cloakrooms and drainage.  
*Welton.*—Improvements to lighting, &c.  
*Cummersdale.*—New drainage scheme, conversion of privies into w.c's, &c.  
*Millom, Holborn Hill.*—Extensive alterations.  
*Dearham.*—Extensive alterations.  
*Flimby.*—New School for infants, and extensive alterations to existing premises.  
*Distington.*—New classroom, &c.  
*Maryport, George Street.*—Extensive alterations.  
*Cleator Old National.*—Extensive alterations.  
*Wigton.*—New School for infants.  
*Cleator, Montreal.*—New School for infants.  
*Penrith, Brunswick Road.*—Extensive alterations and additions.  
*Longtown.*—Additions to house.

#### SCHOOL CLOSURE.

Owing to the prevalence of Infectious Disease, more particularly measles, whooping cough and influenza, it has been necessary to close a large number of Schools. The schedule hereunder shows the number of Schools closed, and the cause of closure :—

For Measles	..	..	..	13 Schools have been closed
„ Diphtheria	..	..	..	6
„ Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	21
„ Influenza	..	..	..	33
„ Whooping Cough	..	..	..	5
„ Mumps	..	..	..	4
„ Other Causes	..	..	..	19

## CHILDREN EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL.

The table hereunder shows the number of children it has been necessary to exclude during the year :—

Cause of Exclusion.	By whom excluded.		Head Teachers.
	S.M.O.	Temporary Permanent	
Anæmia .. .. .	7	1	—
Appendicitis .. .. .	4	—	—
Adenitis .. .. .	1	—	—
Abdominal Glands .. .. .	1	—	—
Asthma .. .. .	1	1	—
Bright's Disease .. .. .	1	—	—
Blepharitis .. .. .	2	—	—
Chorea .. .. .	18	—	—
Corneal Ulcer .. .. .	6	—	—
Debility .. .. .	8	1	—
Defective Vision .. .. .	2	—	—
Deafness .. .. .	1	—	—
Delicate .. .. .	1	—	—
Dirt .. .. .	—	—	45
Epilepsy .. .. .	4	1	—
Eczema .. .. .	2	—	—
Enteritis .. .. .	1	—	—
Gastritis .. .. .	1	—	—
Heart Disease .. .. .	15	1	—
Infectious Disease .. .. .	23	—	357
Impetigo .. .. .	28	25	—
Infantile Paralysis .. .. .	1	—	—
Keratitis .. .. .	1	—	—
Lupus .. .. .	1	1	—
Lung Troubles (other) .. .. .	—	11	—
Mental Deficiency .. .. .	2	4	—
Malnutrition .. .. .	1	—	—
Neuralgia .. .. .	—	1	—
Otorrhœa .. .. .	5	—	—
Ophthalmia .. .. .	1	—	—
Other Reasons .. .. .	11	—	202
Phthisis and Pretubercular .. .. .	115	4	—
Pleurisy .. .. .	2	—	—
Polypus .. .. .	1	—	—
Pneumonia .. .. .	1	—	—
Rheumatism .. .. .	3	2	—
Ringworm .. .. .	53	—	52
Spinal Disease .. .. .	4	—	—
Scabies .. .. .	6	—	28
Synovitis .. .. .	1	—	—
Tuberculosis (other forms) .. .. .	20	1	—
Talipes .. .. .	1	—	—

*RINGWORM.*

During the year 90 cases of Ringworm were found, as compared to 47 cases during the year ended 1915; these 90 cases are made up as follows:—

	<i>Code Groups.</i>	<i>Specials.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Head .. .. .	10	62	72
Body .. .. .	5	13	18
			90

*DEATHS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.*

49 deaths of School children were reported during the year, being an decrease of 13 on the previous year. The causes of death are recorded as under:—

Accidents .. .. .	4
Appendicitis .. .. .	3
Bright's Disease .. .. .	1
Blood Poisoning .. .. .	3
Bowels (Inflammation of) .. .. .	4
Brain, Hæmorrhage of .. .. .	3
Croup .. .. .	1
Diphtheria .. .. .	5
Diabetes .. .. .	1
Epilepsy .. .. .	1
Fever .. .. .	1
Fits .. .. .	1
Heart Failure .. .. .	1
Kidney Trouble .. .. .	1
Meningitis .. .. .	4
Phthisis .. .. .	4
Pneumonia .. .. .	5
Peritonitis .. .. .	1
Rheumatism .. .. .	1
Rheumatic Fever .. .. .	2
Spinal Trouble .. .. .	1
Sympharenoma .. .. .	1

*TREATMENT.*

As mentioned in my last Report, the suggested scheme of treatment which has already been fully dealt with in an earlier report, has not yet been started, owing to the depletion of the Medical and Nursing Staffs, and it has been difficult to secure the treatment of our cases by Private Practitioners, owing to so many having joined the army.

The preliminary steps which were taken to start School Clinics had also to be abandoned, owing to the war.

During the year the Nurses paid 1,232 visits in efforts to secure treatment for 1,086 cases.

435 cases were referred to various Medical Practitioners for treatment. In 21 cases the parents objected to, and for other reasons 279 did not get treatment.

86 were treated, 37 are in suspense, and 23 were for one reason or another refused treatment.

Of the minor ailments treated by the Nurses under the direction of the School Medical Officer were :—

63 cases of Blepharitis.

28 „ Slightly enlarged tonsils.

451 other minor ailments, and

109 cases although not notified, were treated by private practitioners.

#### *EXAMINATION OF PROSPECTIVE PUPIL TEACHERS.*

During the year under review, I have medically examined 88 cases, 70 girls and 18 boys, for the teaching profession. All the boys were passed, and of the 70 girls examined, it was found necessary to reject 4 upon medical grounds.

#### *NUMBERS EXAMINED.*

During the year under review, the number of children examined under the heading "Code" Group has been 2,037, and the number examined as "Special" cases has been 4,077.

Of the former number (2,037) 266 or 13.05% were referred for treatment, and 1,215, of 59.6% were required to be kept under observation.

Similarly with regard to the "Specials" (4,077), 804, or 19.7%, were referred for treatment, and 2,278, or 55.8%, were for further observation

At each School, after the known or suspected defectives were examined, an inspection of the remainder of the children was made to pick out any delicate looking or obviously defective children. In addition to these, the parents of any children who had been absent for some considerable time were written to, and requested to bring their children to School for re-examination. In this way all the more urgent cases have been dealt with. The number of children so inspected at the various Schools amount to 8,189.



RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL  
INSPECTION DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DEC., 1916

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	CODE GROUPS.			SPECIALS.	
	(1.)	No. referred for treatment.	No. requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	No. referred for treatment.	No. requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
					(5.)
Malnutrition .. ..	1	10	2	5	
Uncleanliness, Head ..	1	67	12	232	
Body ..	—	21	3	29	
Ringworm, Head .. ..	—	9	1	62	
Body .. ..	—	4	1	13	
Skin Scabies .. ..	—	6	—	37	
Impetigo .. ..	7	22	7	83	
Other Disease .. ..	7	24	7	120	
Eye Defective Vision and Squint .. ..	83	208	156	162	
External Eye Disease .. ..	15	46	103	83	
Ear Defective Hearing .. ..	6	32	11	38	
Ear Disease .. ..	6	23	11	39	
Teeth Dental Disease .. ..	—	—	—	—	
Nose & Throat Enlarged Tonsils .. ..	50	98	265	197	
Adenoids .. ..	17	19	48	48	
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids .. ..	14	18	74	41	
Defective Speech .. ..	3	25	2	37	
Heart & Circulation. Heart Disease—					
Organic .. ..	7	93	6	151	
Functional .. ..	—	49	1	67	
Anæmia .. ..	10	57	29	72	
Lungs Pulmonary Tuberculosis—					
Definite .. ..	—	6	6	76	
Suspected .. ..	1	7	1	17	
Chronic Bronchitis .. ..	2	3	3	7	
Other Disease .. ..	17	209	31	325	
Nervous System. Epilepsy .. ..	—	—	1	6	
Chorea .. ..	—	1	—	12	
Other Disease .. ..	—	3	1	12	
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—					
Glands .. ..	—	6	2	14	
Bones and Joints .. ..	—	—	—	2	
Other Forms .. ..	—	3	1	16	
Rickets .. ..	—	—	1	2	
Deformities .. ..	9	32	3	43	
Other Defects or Diseases .. ..	10	114	15	230	
Total .. ..	266	1215	804	2278	