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EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY EDUCATION
COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Principal School Medical Officer

1954

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1

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY HALL, IPSWICH.

May, 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the annual report on the work of the School Health Service for 1954.

It is very satisfactory that the statistics for the year as given in this Report show that there has been no falling off in the health, general condition and cleanliness of the pupils attending the Committee's schools.

During the year Dr. M. A. Dawson and Dr. J. B. Kershaw left the Committee's service and this reduction in medical staff, though only temporary, considerably affected the work of the medical inspection in schools. In his report on the School Dental Service, the Principal School Dental Officer mentions the death of his Dental Attendant, Miss E. E. Cable, and I associate myself with him in expressing regret at the passing of such an old and loyal servant of the Committee.

During the past few years the duties laid upon School Medical Officers have steadily multiplied, and it is clear that consideration must soon be given to increasing the establishment of these officers if a satisfactory level of work is to be maintained.

As in past years the Chairman and Members of the School Welfare Sub-Committee have given me full encouragement and support, and the Chief Education Officer, his teaching and administrative staff, together with my own professional and clerical staff have all striven to promote the efficiency of the School Health Service. It is with pleasure, therefore, that I take this opportunity to record my thanks to all concerned.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

S. T. G. GRAY,

Principal School Medical Officer.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

1. (a) Staff.

Principal School Medical Officer:

S. T. G. Gray, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

School Medical Officers:

M. A. Dawson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (resigned 28/2/54).

K. M. Harding, M.D., D.P.H.

C. H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

J. B. Kershaw, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (resigned 10/10/54).

J. F. Morrison, M.D., D.C.H. (part-time from 14/6/54).

G. E. Pryce, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O. (part-time).

The aggregate of time given to School Health Service work is equivalent to the services of 2.5 full-time Officers.

Speech Therapists:

Miss S. Barker, L.C.S.T. (from 26/1/54).

Miss J. Bennett-Baggs, L.C.S.T. (from 11/1/54).

Mrs. E. A. Smyth, L.C.S.T.

Principal School Dental Officer:

Mr. C. D. Macpherson, L.D.S.

School Dental Officer:

Mr. J. E. Benfield, L.D.S.

County Nursing Officer:

Miss M. Vaughan-Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

School Nurses: Miss E. L. Almblad, Miss B. C. Broughton, Miss J. P. Cosnett (from 15/11/54), Miss W. M. Deakin, Miss B. L. Frost, Miss M. N. Hardingham, Miss P. M. Harvey, Miss P. J. Lambert, Miss S. Leighton, Miss L. Luff, Miss M. M. Pearsons, Miss A. Rooney (from 1/1/54), Miss M. Scott (part-time), Miss K. Smith, Miss R. V. Stiles (till 17/10/54), Miss O. L. Swann (part-time), Miss S. J. Williams.

The aggregate of time given to School Health Service work is equivalent to the services of 5.83 full-time School Nurses.

Dental Attendants:

Miss E. E. Cable (deceased 10/8/54).

Miss M. Burrows (from 13/9/54).

Miss S. Forster.

1. (b) School Clinics.

The following are the permanent clinics in the Education Authority's area:—

County Area:

<i>Place.</i>	<i>Address.</i>	<i>Services Provided.</i>
Ipswich ...	The County Hall	Dental (Orthodontic), by appointment only.
Leiston ...	The County Health Clinic, "Daneway," Haylings Rd.	Dental. Speech Therapy.
Saxmundham	The County Health Clinic, Saxmundham	Speech Therapy. Child Psychiatry (by Regional Hospital Board).
Stowmarket	The County Health Clinic, Lockington Road	Speech Therapy. Ophthalmic (by Regional Hospital Board).

Lowestoft Excepted District:

Connaught House Clinic, 123 High Street.	Minor ailments.
Kirkley Clinic, Southwell Road	Minor ailments. Dental. Speech Therapy.

2. **Co-operation with other Public Health Services.**—As during last year liaison between all concerned with the health of the school child has been satisfactory.

PRIMARY, SECONDARY MODERN AND GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

3. **Hygiene and Sanitation in Schools.**—During the last twelve months only a limited amount of improvement work has been possible, but 22 schools have benefited as follows:—

New cesspools	... ..	1 school
Improvements to drainage of new drainage	... ..	3 schools
New or additional closets	... ..	2 schools
Connection to main water supply	... ..	15 schools
New washbasins	... ..	9 schools

4. **Medical Inspection in Schools.**—The area of the administrative County for school purposes, excluding the Borough of Lowestoft, is 543,812 acres, with a population of 174,224 (1951 census), 215 schools in the County are under the control of the Education Committee (197 Primary, 10 Secondary Modern, 7 Secondary Grammar and Ashley Downs Special School, Lowestoft).

The number of children on the school register at the end of the December term was 23,255.

East Suffolk
(excluding Lowestoft).

1952	...	...	22,193 (including 1,648 at Secondary Grammar Schools).
1953	...	...	22,846 (including 1,758 at Secondary Grammar Schools).
1954	...	...	23,255 (including 1,846 at Secondary Grammar Schools).

(a) *Routine Medical Inspection.*—The following routine examinations were made during the year:—

			1954.	1953.	1952.
Entrants	...	...	2,052	2,697	3,666
Second Age Group	...	...	1,742	1,901	2,270
Third Age Group	...	...	1,208	1,627	1,952

(b) *Other Inspections.*

Ashley Downs Special School	...	65
*Special Examinations and Re-examinations		4,451
Total	...	9,518
*Special examinations, 243		
Total number of individual children examined was	... ..	8,611

5. Findings of Medical Inspection.

(a)

	Number of Children examined.	GENERAL CONDITION.					
		Good.		Fair.		Poor.	
		No.	Per-centage.	No.	Per-centage.	No.	Per-centage.
1953	6225	3575	57.43	2593	41.65	57	0.91
1954	5067	2881	56.85	2154	42.51	32	0.63

(b) *Uncleanliness.**Vermin Tables.*

	No. of Visits to Schools by School Nurses.	No. of home visits.	Number of Examinations by School Nurses.			Number of Children examined and found verminous.					
						New Cases, for first time.			Individual Repeat Cases.		
			Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1949	890	198	26599	26682	53281	90	261	351	77	243	320
1950	829	262	27185	26380	53565	67	156	223	18	82	100
1951	791	146	27753	26582	54335	26	120	146	6	41	47
1952	548	80	23076	22173	45249	27	85	112	11	32	43
1953	743	196	30854	29195	60049	48	124	172	20	64	84
1954	689	151	31121	29327	60448	35	110	145	9	35	44

The number of children found to be verminous for each 1,000 head examinations was:—

1949	...	...	6.62
1950	...	...	4.16
1951	...	...	2.70
1952	...	...	2.49
1953	...	...	2.86
1954	...	...	2.39

(c) *Ringworm of the Head.*—No cases of ringworm of the head were diagnosed or treated through the School Health Service during 1954.

(d) *Visual Defects and External Eye Diseases.*

Year.	Defective Vision.	
	Referred for Treatment.	Observation Cases.
1953	416	741
1954	246	761

Year.	External Eye Disease.	
	Referred for Treatment.	Observation Cases.
1953	18	27
1954	8	37

(e) Nose and Throat Defects.

Year.	Tonsils and Adenoids.	
	Referred for Treatment.	Observation Cases.
1953	113	322
1954	31	304

6. Following Up.

During the year the School Nurses made 1,380 visits to the homes of children in need of medical and surgical treatment to ensure that the parents consulted the family doctor and carried out his recommendations.

7. Medical Treatment.

(a) Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.—There are no Minor Ailment Clinics in the County, and children suffering from these conditions were referred to their private Medical Practitioner when treatment was required.

(b) Visual Defects and External Eye Diseases:—The arrangements made for this work to be carried out through the Supplementary Ophthalmic Services under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, appear to be working satisfactorily. These arrangements are supplemented by the Regional Hospital Board, who have at present one ophthalmic clinic in operation in the County, held in the Committee's clinic premises at Stowmarket. Information so far obtained by follow-up home visits shows that of 238 children whose sight was tested by ophthalmic medical practitioners or ophthalmic opticians, 193 were prescribed glasses and 173 have obtained them. In 4 cases no change of existing spectacles was required and in 40 cases glasses were found to be unnecessary at present. One child with a squint was recommended for operative treatment.

*(c) Nose and Throat Defects.**Tonsils and Adenoids.*

Since all children who are considered by the School Medical Officers at routine medical inspections to require treatment for nose and throat defects are now referred to their own doctors, it is not possible to provide any accurate statistics. Information so far obtained by follow-up home visits shows that 48 children have received operative treatment, while 7 were not considered to require it at present.

Other Conditions.

Twenty-four children were referred for treatment for various nasal conditions and, as far as can be ascertained, 10 of these have actually been treated.

(d) Dental Inspection and Treatment.

The Principal School Dental Officer, Mr. C. D. Macpherson, L.D.S., reports as follows:—

“The Education Committee, at their meeting on 9th February, 1954, approved the provision of a second dental trailer and a portable X-ray apparatus. This additional equipment has been in use during the last six months, to the advantage of both patient and operator. The trailer provides the facilities of an equipped surgery which is independent of local conditions. The X-ray apparatus is a valuable adjunct to dental and orthodontic diagnosis.

From observation of the dental condition of 5 year old children at school inspections it appears that the incidence of dental caries is rising steadily in children of pre-school age. It is desirable that parents should be made aware of the importance of the temporary teeth, not only for efficient mastication, but for their vital role in the ultimate conformation of the jaws and permanent teeth. As shortage of Dental Officers precludes the attendance of a Dental Officer at Child Welfare Clinics, it is intended that leaflets will be available to inform parents on the measures recommended to safeguard the teeth of their infants.

Dental defects remain high amongst children of school age, but it is pleasant to report that the standard of oral hygiene is improving slowly, and there is evidence that more children are receiving regular dental treatment.

It is with deep regret that I record the death of Miss E. E. Cable last August. Miss Cable had been a Dental Attendant in the County for 32 years and she had served her officers with great ability and careful attention. Her sense of duty was inspiring, and her knowledge of, and kindness to, children, made her their friend. It is sad she did not live to enjoy the retirement she had so richly deserved.”

(e) Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

Since, during 1950, the responsibility for the making of appointments for school-children to see the Orthopaedic Surgeon at the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital was passed to the Hospital Management Committee it has not been possible to establish an effective system for the exchange of information. No statistics relating to this form of treatment can therefore be given.

(f) Child Guidance.

The Ipswich Group Hospital Management Committee's Consultant Psychiatrist, Dr. J. G. Howells, has kindly submitted the following short statistical summary of the work carried out by his Department during the year in respect of children residing in the Committee's area:—

“Cases on current treatment list on 1.1.54	...	64
New Cases—East Suffolk (excluding Lowestoft and Ipswich)	... ..	122
Referred by—G.P.s and Hospitals	...	90
School Medical Officer	...	29
Courts	... ..	3
		—
		122
		—
Clinic Interviews	...	1,593
School Visits	...	35
Home Visits	...	90

Dr. Howells also observes:—

There has been a further increase in the number of cases referred and seen during 1954. It is probable that the optimum number of cases that can be seen at the present level of staff has been reached. It is interesting to look back a few years to see how the number referred has increased. The number of children seen for full investigation in 1947 was 43. In 1954 the number was 122. Thus there has been a three-fold increase.

Looking back over the years it is clear how more and more recognition is being given to the importance of home factors as one of the causes of mental ill health in children. This mental ill health, of course, denotes neurosis, since insanity (psychosis) is almost unknown in childhood. The National Association of Mental Health, in their evidence to the Committee on Maladjusted Children at the Ministry of Education, stated "The school is very seldom, if ever, a sole cause of maladjustment." The school, however, plays an essential part in discovering disturbed children and in supporting them against an adverse home. Concentration on the home has resulted in close attention being paid to the pre-school child, there being great advantage in seeing a child at as early an age as possible. In 1947 3.7% of children referred were under 5 years of age; in 1954 this had improved to 15%.

Going with the recognition that factors within the family are all-important in causing a child's disturbance there has been a great improvement in the technique for studying the family. One disturbed child in the family often means that all the children are disturbed. It is the child with the most awkward symptom, e.g., enuresis or aggressive behaviour, who is referred but his siblings may be equally disturbed but have less dramatic symptoms. The emotional stress usually emanates from one or other parent, and the degree of the parents' disturbance must be assessed and treated. From Child Psychiatry has come Family Psychiatry.

The increasing number of cases referred does not imply an increasing amount of mental ill health. It merely denotes the greater general awareness of the importance of obtaining treatment for the child concerned. There is no evidence that rural areas have more or less neurosis than urban areas. There may be more children referred from urban areas but this simply reflects the greater availability of clinics.

During 1954 a half-day clinic at Saxmundham has been working each week throughout the year. This has been a great help to families living in a large area from which quite a long journey is necessary to reach either Ipswich or Lowestoft."

(g) *Speech Therapy.*

Since Miss S. Barker, L.C.S.T., and Miss J. Bennett-Baggs, L.C.S.T. joined the Committee's staff at the beginning of the year, the full establishment of three Speech Therapists has been maintained throughout the County. Miss Barker has undertaken work in the Excepted District of Lowestoft and in Beccles and Bungay, and has also treated children at Ashley Downs Special School. Miss Bennett-Baggs has worked in the northern part of the County area and Mrs. Smyth in the south.

Mrs. Smyth reports as follows:—

“During the past year my case load has numbered 110 cases, classified as follows:

Cleft palate	...	...	11
Stammer	...	...	12
Dysphonia	...	...	1
Rhotasism	...	...	1
Slight Spastic	...	...	3
Dyslalia	...	...	61
Lateral Sigmatism	...	...	21
			110

Owing to the wide area involved, the system of fortnightly visits has been continued, using three main central clinics, and covering the remaining area involved by visiting the schools concerned, which number twenty-two.

Because of the large numbers requiring treatment, and the short period spent in each School, I have recommended parents and teachers to carry out exercises between each visit, and, when they do so, the improvement is marked.

I would like to pay tribute to those teachers, who by their enthusiasm, stimulate the child's interest and keenness between each visit of the Speech Therapist, as this is a tremendous help towards curing the speech defect.

We are continually faced with a very real problem, namely, should one devote precious time to treating just a few serious cases, or carry out the supervision of as many cases as possible. It was decided to adopt the latter course, which decision I think has been justified.”

Miss Bennett-Baggs observes:—

“The size and nature of my area is similar to that for which Mrs. Smyth is responsible, though owing to lack of public transport facilities there are fewer centralised clinics.

No. of schools where clinics are held	...	...	28
No. of centralised clinics	...	...	1
No. of cases at present	...	...	121
Types:			
Dyslalia	...	...	66
Lateral Sigmatism	...	...	20
Stammer	...	...	24
Cleft Palate	...	...	3
Rhotasism	...	...	7
Laryngectomy	...	...	1
			121

Due to the heavy case load it was decided to cover as much ground as possible by using a fortnightly schedule of treatment sessions.

For treatment to have its full effect under these conditions, co-operation from both the school and parent is extremely necessary. This has been clearly demonstrated by those schools who have so whole-heartedly co-operated and to whom I convey my thanks.”

8. Infectious and Contagious Diseases.

The table below shows the number of children known to have been excluded from school, either suffering from, or being contacts of the infectious and contagious diseases named.

	<i>No. of Cases.</i>		
Chicken-pox	491
Diphtheria	—
Measles	663
Mumps	558
Scarlet Fever	153
Whooping Cough	510
German Measles	178
Impetigo	34
Ringworm (skin)	1
Scabies	4
Jaundice	29
Poliomyelitis	17
Tonsillitis	40
Conjunctivitis	8
Influenza	1
Paratyphoid	3

School Closures:—There was no need to close any school on account of infectious disease during 1954.

9. Physical Training and Remedial Exercises.

The Committee's Chief Organiser of Physical Education, Mr. H. Stott, reports as follows:—

The number of children reported to be in need of remedial exercises during 1954 was 124. The Organisers saw all these cases and prescribed suitable exercises. Copies of detailed directions were adequately distributed to children, parents and teachers and it is considered that the system used was fruitful.

There is ready co-operation from all concerned and undoubtedly the children had every opportunity to benefit from the steps taken.

(a) Total number of children concerned:

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
255	113	240	282	124

(b) Distribution of cases in age groups:—

	<i>Under</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Boys</i>	12	12	
1950	62	34	96
1951	38	21	59
1952	72	54	126
1953	88	64	152
1954	42	21	63
	<i>Under</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Girls</i>	12	12	
1950	77	82	159
1951	26	28	54
1952	54	60	114
1953	55	75	130
1954	38	23	61

(c) Distribution of cases in schools.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
County Grammar ...	42	18	24	9	12
County Modern, Area and Full Standard ...	122	51	128	167	47
Junior and Infant ...	91	44	88	106	65

10. School Meals.

The number of children taking meals in 1954 was about 14,460 or 62.2% of the children at school, compared with 62.9% in 1953.

Extensions of Canteen facilities have been made in several schools. The new school, Kesgrave Heath, has both kitchen and dining room. A new kitchen and dining room has been built at Grundisburgh Primary so that full provision of meals, which had been reduced owing to lack of accommodation, has been restored. New kitchens have been opened at Stonham Aspal (previously served from Stowmarket) and Walberswick. A dining room has been added to the kitchen at Butley where meals had previously been served in inconvenient classrooms.

Chediston, Frostenden and Alderton which had only improvised and inadequate washing-up facilities have now had new sculleries built.

Westhall Canteen which was closed in October, 1951, owing to fallen demand has now been re-opened, but Bawdsey has been closed due to lack of numbers.

Teachers have continued to give great help in Canteen supervision, and this is gratefully appreciated by the Education Committee.

11. Provision of Milk for School Children.

During the year local education authorities assumed responsibility to provide milk for pupils at schools maintained by them, each child receiving a free daily allowance of one third pint.

At the end of the year two schools were temporarily without a milk supply; a suitable supply of pasteurised milk has since been secured, so that liquid milk is provided in all the 214 schools in the County (excluding Lowestoft).

1. Popularity of the Scheme.

During the year liquid milk was delivered to all schools in the County and of 23,250 children on the roll in October, 17,684, that is 75.2% were receiving milk; the corresponding figure for 1953 being 76.9% and for 1952, 75%.

2. Delivery.

At the end of the year all school milks were supplied in one third pint bottles.

The milk was delivered by 43 dairymen, 37 of these obtain milk pasteurised and bottled at 18 licensed pasteurisation establishments. The remaining 6 deliver milk produced and bottled at their own dairies.

3. Quality of Milk.**(a) General.**

The County Medical Officer of Health must approve all supplies and where possible the milk should be either pasteurised or tuberculin tested. Such a supply was obtained for all schools with the exception of Thrandeston and Metfield; during the latter part of the year, however, a suitable pasteurised supply was secured for Metfield, leaving only one school in the County where non-designated raw milk was consumed.

On 1st October, legislation came into force which prevented a dairyman bottling on his own premises pasteurised milk received in bulk from another source. In the past quite a large proportion of pasteurised milk delivered to schools was bottled this way, and this legislation has eliminated a very likely source of contamination of school milk. It is interesting to note that during 1952 and 1953 in all cases where pasteurised milk failed the test for efficient pasteurisation and in many cases where the keeping quality proved unsatisfactory, milk has been obtained and bottled in this manner.

The grades of milk approved by the County Medical Officer are shown in the table below, figures for 1953 are given in parenthesis. It will be noticed that there was a further marked decrease in the number of schools receiving raw milk.

**Types of milk approved by the County Medical Officer,
December, 1954.**

	<i>No. of Schools</i>	<i>Percentage of all Schools</i>	<i>No. of 1/3rd pints daily</i>	<i>Percentage of total supply</i>
Pasteurised ...	196 (175)	92.45 (82.5)	16,379 (15,588)	96.34 (88.8)
Tuberculin Tested ...	15 (35)	7.08 (16.5)	613 (1,908)	3.61 (10.8)
Undesignated ...	1 (2)	0.47 (0.9)	9 (52)	0.05 (0.3)

(b) *Supervision of Supplies.*

The positions of the Health Department Sanitary Officers were vacant for much of the year and the following information relates to the winter term only.

Of the 18 sources of pasteurised milk, 8 are situated within the County, and in these cases supervision of supplies was maintained by inspection of dairies and pasteurisation plant, examination of bottles and other equipment, and sampling of milk delivered to the schools. In all other cases a close liaison was maintained with officers of the appropriate Food and Drugs Authorities for this purpose.

Samples of milk were examined for the following purposes:—

(i) *Freedom from Infection.*

All raw milk supplies were examined for infections of bovine origin. 15 samples were examined and all were found to be negative for tubercle and brucella organisms.

(ii) *Keeping Quality and Efficiency of Pasteurisation.*

Twenty-two samples were taken for these purposes and only 1 sample failed the statutory test. In this case a sample of "pasteurised milk" was not properly pasteurised; the result was passed to the Food and Drugs Authority concerned and investigations there revealed a minor defect in the process, which was immediately rectified.

(iii) *Chemical Quality.*

Nine samples of school milk were examined for this purpose and in 2 cases the samples were below the legal presumptive standard for butter fat. Follow-up samples proved satisfactory and the suppliers were warned.

12. Co-operation with Voluntary Bodies.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

As in the past, the Officers of the Society have this year been very helpful in ensuring that in certain cases children received medical treatment. They have also been of great assistance in the more general aspect of the welfare of children attending the Committee's schools.

13. Handicapped Pupils.—The Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulations, 1953, detail ten categories of defects which require special educational treatment, and the following statistics indicate the progress that has been made in ascertaining and dealing with children who come within the scope of the Regulations. More detailed statistical information will be found in the Tables at the end of this Report.

Educationally Subnormal.—The following table shows the number of educationally subnormal children at present ascertained in the County, 52 of whom are at present in residential Special Schools.

Year	No. of Educationally Subnormal Children on Register at end of year.	No. of Children mentally tested during year	Classified as—				
			Requiring treatment in a Special School		Requiring special class at an ordinary School	Retarded only, not requiring any Special Education	Notified to Local Authority as being ineducable.
			Res.	Day			
1953	158	71	37	1	16	5	12
1954	161	51	31	—	6	—	14

Other Defects—

	<i>Total. ascertained.</i>	<i>At Special School.</i>
Blind Pupils	2	1
Partially Blind Pupils	5	3
Deaf Pupils	17	14
Partially Deaf Pupils	7	5
Delicate Pupils	6	1
Epileptic Pupils	4	4
Maladjusted Pupils	22	10
Physically Handicapped Pupils	15	5
Pupils suffering from Speech Defect	—	—
Multiple Defects.		
Educationally Subnormal and Physically Handicapped	2	—
Educationally Subnormal and Maladjusted	3	2
Educationally Subnormal and Epileptic	2	1
Epileptic and Educationally Subnormal and Maladjusted	1	1
Physically Handicapped and Educationally Subnormal	1	—
Educationally Sub-Normal, Physically Handicapped and Partially Sighted	1	—

14. Full Time Courses of Higher Education for Handicapped Children.

The following was the position at the end of the year:—

Blind Awards :—

Students in training	...	...	...	1
Students awaiting training	...	...	...	—

Cripple Awards :—

Students in training	...	...	...	4
Students awaiting training	...	...	...	1

Deaf Awards :—

Students in training	...	...	...	—
Students awaiting training	...	...	...	—

15. Nursery Schools.

There are at present no Nursery Schools in the County.

EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURN, 1954.

TABLE I.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	2,052
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	1,742
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	1,208
				Total	...	5,002

Number of other Periodic Inspections	...	...	...	...	65
			Grand Total	...	5,067

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	243
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	...	...	4,208
			Total	...	4,451

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

GROUP. (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint). (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table II.A. (3)	Total individual pupils. (4)
Entrants	34	52	74
Second Age Group ...	21	24	41
Third Age Group ...	23	25	34
Total (prescribed groups)	78	101	149
Other Periodic Inspections	—	17	15
GRAND TOTAL ...	78	118	164

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954.

NOTE:—All defects noted at medical inspection as requiring treatment are included in this return, *whether or not this treatment was begun before the date of the inspection.*

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease.	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS.		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.	
		No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
		Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4	Skin	6	60	—	1
5	Eyes—				
	(a) Vision	78	676	5	18
	(b) Squint	17	71	—	1
	(c) Other	—	32	—	5
6	Ears—				
	(a) Hearing	3	32	—	—
	(b) Otitis Media ...	2	54	—	2
	(c) Other	2	26	—	2
7	Nose and Throat ...	27	420	—	8
8	Speech	8	50	1	4
9	Cervical glands ...	—	128	1	—
10	Heart & Circulation ...	—	60	—	2
11	Lungs	—	122	—	2
12	Developmental—				
	(a) Hernia	2	9	—	—
	(b) Other	2	21	—	—
13	Orthopaedic—				
	(a) Posture	16	96	—	5
	(b) Flat Foot	16	105	1	1
	(c) Other	10	175	2	7
14	Nervous System—				
	(a) Epilepsy	1	7	—	—
	(b) Other	—	7	1	—
15	Psychological—				
	(a) Development ...	8	29	—	—
	(b) Stability	—	32	—	1
16	Other	11	120	1	2

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS

Age Groups.	No. of Pupils Inspected.	A. (Good).		B. (Fair).		C. (Poor).	
		No.	% of col. 2.	No.	% of col. 2.	No.	% of col. 2.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	2,052	1,092	53.21	939	45.76	21	1.02
Second Age Group	1,742	979	56.12	756	43.39	7	0.40
Third Age Group ...	1,208	773	63.99	433	35.84	2	0.17
Other Periodic Inspections ...	65	37	56.92	26	40.00	2	3.07
Total	5,067	2,881	56.85	2,154	42.51	32	0.63

TABLE III.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorized persons	60,448
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested ...	145
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944) ...	—
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944) ...	—

TABLE IV.

TREATMENT TABLES.

Notes.

(a) Treatment provided by the Authority includes all defects treated or under treatment during the year by the Authority's own staff, however brought to the Authority's notice i.e. whether by periodic inspection, special inspection, or otherwise, during the year in question or previously.

(b) Treatment provided otherwise than by the Authority includes all treatment known by the Authority to have been so provided, including treatment undertaken in school clinics by the Regional Hospital Board.

GROUP 1.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table III).

				Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year.	
				By the Authority.	Otherwise.
Ringworm (i) Scalp	...	...	—	} Nil.	} As far as known.
(ii) Body	...	...	—
Scabies	...	...	—
Impetigo	...	...	—
Other skin diseases	...	...	—
	Total	...	—		4

GROUP 2.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

				Number of cases dealt with.	
				By the Authority.	Otherwise.
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	...	...	—	} Nil	} As far as known.
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	...	...	— *
Total	...	...	—
Number of Pupils for whom spectacles were					
(a) Prescribed	...	...	— *		193
(b) Obtained	...	...	— *		173

* Including cases dealt with under arrangements with the Supplementary Ophthalmic Services.

GROUP 3.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE & THROAT.

	Number of Cases treated.		
	By the Authority.	Otherwise.	
Received operative treatment—			
(a) for diseases of the ear	—	—	} As far as known.
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	—	48	
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—	2	
Received other forms of treatment ...	—	41	
Total	—	91	

GROUP 4.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

	4		} As far as known
	By the Authority.	Otherwise.	
(a) Number treated as in-patients in Hospitals			}
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g., in clinics or out-patients depart- ments	Nil	21	

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT.

	Number of cases treated	
	In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	Elsewhere
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	Nil	186

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY.

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	375	Not known

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN.

	Number of cases treated		
	By the Authority	Otherwise	
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments ...	—	9	} As far as known
(b) Other than (a) above (specify)			
1. Appendicitis	—	3	
2. Enuresis	—	2	
3. Enlarged Glands	—	3	
4. Undescended tests	—	3	
5. Other defects	—	14	
Total ...	—	34	

TABLE V.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—					
(a) Periodic ... ..	...	...	...	...	8,368
(b) Specials ... ..	...	...	...	...	134
			Total (1)	...	8,502
(2) Number found to require treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	5,035
(3) Number referred for treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	5,035
(4) Number actually treated ... ..	...	...	...	...	3,598
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	4,180
(6) Half-days devoted to:	Inspection ... ..	...	...	...	86
	Treatment ... ..	...	...	...	692
		Total (6)	...	...	778
(7) Fillings:	Permanent Teeth ... ..	...	...	...	2,699
	Temporary Teeth ... ..	...	...	...	301
		Total (7)	...	...	3,000
(8) Number of Teeth filled:	Permanent Teeth ... ..	...	...	...	2,529
	Temporary Teeth ... ..	...	...	...	285
		Total (8)	...	...	2,814
(9) Extractions:	Permanent Teeth ... ..	...	...	...	416
	Temporary Teeth ... ..	...	...	...	2,650
		Total (9)	...	...	3,066
(10) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction ... ..	...	...	...	...	17
(11) Other Operations:	Permanent Teeth ... ..	...	...	...	431
	Temporary Teeth ... ..	...	...	...	722
		Total (11)	...	...	1,153

In addition, 177 attendances were made for orthodontic treatment in 40 sessions and 23 appliances and dentures were fitted.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS REQUIRING EDUCATION AT SPECIAL
SCHOOLS OR BOARDING IN BOARDING HOMES.

	(1) Blind. (2) Partially sighted.		(3) Deaf. (4) Partially deaf.		(5) Delicate (6) Physically handicapped.		(7) Educa- tionally sub- normal. (8) Mal- adjusted.		(9) Epi- leptic.	Total 1-9
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
In the calendar year ending 31st Dec., 1954 :										
A. Handicapped Pupils <i>newly placed</i> in Special Schools or Homes ...	—	—	2	1	1	2	10	3	1	20
B. Handicapped Pupils <i>newly ascertained</i> as requiring education at Special Schools or boarding in Homes ...	1	2	—	1	1	5	27	8	1	46
On or about December 1st:—										
C. Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area:—										
(i) attending Special Schools as :										
(a) Day Pupils ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Boarding Pupils ...	1	3	13	5	1	5	53	10	4	95
(ii) Boarded in Homes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) attending independent schools under arrangements made by the Authority ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL (C) ...	1	3	14	5	1	5	53	10	4	96
D. Number of Handicapped Pupils being educated under arrangements made under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944:										
(a) in hospitals ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) elsewhere ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
E. Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area requiring places in special schools (including any such unplaced children who are temporarily receiving home tuition or whose parents have not yet consented to their attending a Special School).	1	2	3	2	5	10	73	12	4	112

Number of children reported during the year—

(a) under Section 57 (3) (excluding any returned under (b))	14
(b) under Section 57 (3) relying on Section 57 (4) ...	Nil
(c) under Section 57 (5)	3

of the Education Act, 1944.

Amount spent on arrangements under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944, for the education of handicapped pupils otherwise than at school, in the financial year ended 31st March, 1954 £105 9 3

BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT.
(EXCEPTED DISTRICT).

The following report on the work of the School Health Service during 1954 has been prepared by Dr. A. C. Gee, School Medical Officer for Lowestoft.

"From the statistics for Periodic Medical Inspections carried out during 1954, it will be seen that the high birthrate of the years following the war is now making itself felt in the younger age groups in the schools. The number of entrants inspected is the highest so far. In spite of this, however, it has been possible to keep on top of the periodic medical inspection programme generally.

A very satisfactory feature of this report is that once again the proportions of the pupils in the Categories A (good), B (Fair) and C (Poor) in Table IIB, show a further improvement. In 1952, for instance, there were 45.7% in Category A and 1.03 in Category C. In 1953, 47.7% were placed into Category A, and 0.65 into Category C. This year, we find 52.7% in Category A and only .14% in C. The differences may be quite small but they do show a trend in the right direction. As these statistics were compiled from the examinations of several different doctors, personal variations in assessment are thus evened out. The trend shown can therefore truly be taken as a correct indication of the gradual physical improvement which is taking place amongst the children in the Borough.

I am pleased to be able to report a further reduction in the number of dirty heads, only 52 being recorded this year. We are once again getting down to the 'hard core' of dirty families and it may be necessary to take some severe measures, which we have so far refrained from taking, to bring these chronic cases to an appreciation of their communal responsibility. A cleansing notice was issued on one family, but so far, no cleansing orders have been issued.

The specialist services have continued satisfactorily throughout the year. We are fortunate in having a well staffed and efficient dental service and I would like to record my appreciation of the efforts of the school dental surgeons. A perusal of the statistics from their department will reveal the burden of work they shoulder.

Arrangements for ophthalmic services with the Regional Hospital Board are now running smoothly as are those for Child Guidance and Psychological Investigation. The speech therapy service has continued without interruption, but it is very obvious that the services of a whole-time Speech Therapist are needed within the Borough. The present shared arrangement with the County does not allow sufficient time within the Borough for the work to be tackled effectively.

We have had staff difficulties too in respect of the Health Visitors who also do duty as School Nurses. Nurse Shipperbottom, through failing health, was unable to carry on and most unfortunately had to resign at the end of the year. Her cheerful manner and friendliness will be greatly missed by her colleagues at the Kirkley Clinic and by all those who got to know her so well during her many years of service within the Borough. Nurse Stiles left our service following her appointment to the Chest Clinic. We wish her success

in her new field of activity. Some considerable difficulty was encountered in getting replacements for these two members of the School Medical Staff. I am pleased to be able to report that these difficulties have now been resolved and 1955 should see the department back to its original strength.

Early in the year the Ministry of Health initiated a scheme for the B.C.G. vaccination of school children against tuberculosis. As members of the Committee will remember our scheme for Lowestoft was presented to the Committee in March. There will be between five and six hundred children to be seen in the Borough Schools. Unfortunately, due to approval not having yet been obtained from higher authority, we have not been able to start on the project, but it is hoped that a start may be made during the year to come.

A severe epidemic of influenza spread through the Borough schools in December, nearly half the school children being away at its peak. Considerable interest was shown in this epidemic by the Ministry of Health, for whom special investigations were carried out and a full report prepared. The invading organism was of the Influenza Virus B. type.

In my last report I referred to the dilapidated condition into which the Connaught House Clinic has got and the difficulties we are having through shortage of accommodation in this office. I am pleased to report that whilst discussions on the future of these premises have begun, as they are likely to be protracted, it was decided to carry out fairly extensive repairs to the clinic, which are now well in hand. As we have been reminded several times by members of the public 'now most of our schools are clean modern buildings and many of our houses are new and up to date, we do not feel like sending our children to a clinic which falls so far short of the standards we now set in our own homes.' At least the renovations now in progress will temporarily redress that situation."

1. STAFF.

Borough School Medical Officer:

Arthur C. Gee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy School Medical Officer:

Isabella Sim, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officers:

None.

The aggregate of time given to School Health Service work is equivalent to the services of one full-time Officer.

Speech Therapist:

Miss S. Barker, L.C.S.T. (from 26/1/54).

Principal School Dental Officer:

Mr. C. D. Macpherson, L.D.S.

School Dental Officers:

Mrs. H. A. Bell, L.D.S.

Miss Janet W. Hepburn, L.D.S.

County Nursing Officer:

Miss M. Vaughan-Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

School Nurses:

Miss J. P. Cosnett.

Miss D. Guest.

Miss M. Guest.

Miss M. Shipperbottom.

Miss R. V. Stiles (till 17/10/54).

Miss A. Taylor (from 15/11/54).

The aggregate of time given to School Health Service work is equivalent to the services of 2.25 full time School Nurses.

Dental Attendants:

Miss D. Rackham.

Miss D. Rudd.

2. STATISTICS.

TABLE I.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS).

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups—

Entrants	1,020
Second Age Group	707
Third Age Group	373
Total	2,100

Number of other Periodic Inspections	—
Grand Total	2,100

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	—
Number of Re-Inspections	731
Total	731

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

GROUP. (1)	For defective vision (exclud- ing squint). (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table II.A. (3)	Total individual pupils. (4)
Entrants	41	123	161
Second Age Group	65	56	118
Third Age Group	28	34	61
Total (prescribed groups)	134	213	340
Other periodic inspections	—	—	—
GRAND TOTAL	134	213	340

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease.	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS.		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.	
		No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
		Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.
4	Skin	32	8	—	—
5	Eyes—				
	(a) Vision	134	250	—	—
	(b) Squint	9	5	—	—
	(c) Other	14	2	—	—
6	Ears—				
	(a) Hearing	—	7	—	—
	(b) Otitis Media	6	1	—	—
	(c) Other	5	11	—	—
7	Nose and Throat	43	112	—	—
8	Speech	19	21	—	—
9	Cervical glands	1	18	—	—
10	Heart and Circulation	5	15	—	—
11	Lungs	25	53	—	—
12	Developmental—				
	(a) Hernia	1	—	—	—
	(b) Other	5	28	—	—
13	Orthopaedic—				
	(a) Posture	9	18	—	—
	(b) Flat Foot	3	12	—	—
	(c) Other	29	61	—	—
14	Nervous System—				
	(a) Epilepsy	—	2	—	—
	(b) Other	5	17	—	—
15	Psychological—				
	(a) Developmental	—	7	—	—
	(b) Stability	—	4	—	—
16	Other	9	13	—	—

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS

Age Groups.	No. of Pupils Inspected.	A. (Good).		B. (Fair).		C. (Poor).	
		No.	% of col. 2.	No.	% of col. 2.	No.	% of col. 2.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	1,020	507	49.7	513	50.3	—	—
Second Age Group	707	362	51.2	344	48.6	1	0.14
Third Age Group	373	238	63.8	133	35.6	2	0.54
Other Periodic Inspections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2,100	1107	52.7	990	47.1	3	0.14

TABLE III.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	12,917
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested ...	52
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944)	1
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944)	—

TABLE IV.

TREATMENT TABLES.

GROUP 1.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table III).

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Ringworm (i) Scalp	—	—
(ii) Body	2	—
Scabies	7	—
Impetigo	52	—
Other Skin diseases	118	—
Total	179	—

GROUP 2.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

	Number of cases dealt with	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	51	—
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	141	—
Total	192	—
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were		
(a) Prescribed	146	—
(b) Obtained	130	—

GROUP 3.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE & THROAT.

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Received operative treatment		
(a) for diseases of the ear	—	—
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	—	188
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—	13
Received other forms of treatment ...	23	—
Total	23	201

GROUP 4.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals	—	33
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics or out-patient departments	44	68

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT.

	Number of cases treated	
	In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	Elsewhere
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	—	26

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY.

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	70	—

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN.

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments ...	382	—
(b) Other	—	—
Total	382	—

TABLE V.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by Authority's Dental Officers:—			
(a) Periodic	...	...	2,033
(b) Specials	...	...	1,565
		Total (1)	3,598
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	2,467
(3) Number referred for treatment	...	...	2,445
(4) Number actually treated	...	...	1,305
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	...	5,087
(6) Half-days devoted to:	Inspection	...	15
	Treatment	...	880
		Total (6)	895
(7) Fillings:	Permanent Teeth	...	2,728
	Temporary Teeth	...	510
		Total (7)	3,238
(8) Number of Teeth Filled:	Permanent Teeth	...	2,418
	Temporary Teeth	...	483
		Total (8)	2,901
(9) Extractions:	Permanent Teeth	...	411
	Temporary Teeth	...	2,578
		Total (9)	2,989
(10) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	...	...	1,469
(11) Other operations:	Permanent Teeth	...	656
	Temporary Teeth	...	337
		Total (11)	993

HANDICAPPED PUPILS REQUIRING EDUCATION AT SPECIAL SCHOOLS
OR BOARDING IN BOARDING HOMES.

	(1) Blind. (2) Partially sighted.		(3) Deaf. (4) Partially deaf.		(5) Delicate (6) Physically handicapped.		(7) Educa- tionally sub- normal. (8) Mal- adjusted.		(9) Epi- leptic.	Total 1-9
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
In the calendar year ending 31st Dec., 1954:										
A. Handicapped Pupils newly placed in Special Schools or Homes ...	1	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	—	7
B. Handicapped Pupils newly ascertained as requiring education at Special Schools or boarding in Homes ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	11	2	—	14
On or about Decem- ber 1st:—										
C. Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area:—										
(i) attending Special Schools as:										
(a) Day Pupils ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Boarding Pupils ...	1	5	5	—	1	3	12	1	1	29
(ii) Boarded in Homes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) attending independent schools under arrangements made by the Authority ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL (C) ...	1	5	5	—	1	3	12	1	1	29
D. Number of Handicapped Pupils being educated under arrangements made under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944:										
(a) in hospitals ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) elsewhere ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
E. Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area requiring places in special schools (including any such unplaced children who are temporarily receiving home tuition or whose parents have not yet consented to their attending a Special School).	2	—	—	—	—	2	11	1	—	16

Number of children reported during the year—

(a) under Section 57 (3) (excluding any returned under (b))	2
(b) under Section 57 (3) relying on Section 57 (4) ...	1
(c) under Section 57 (5)	Nil

of the Education Act, 1944.

Amount spent on arrangements under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944, for the education of handicapped pupils otherwise than at school, in the financial year ended 31st March, 1954 £96 10 0

INDEX.

	<i>Page</i>
Co-operation with other Public Health Services	3
" " Voluntary Bodies	13
Following up, home visits	6
Full-time Courses of Higher Education for Handicapped Children ...	14
Handicapped Pupils	13
Hygiene and Sanitation in Schools	3
Infectious and Contagious Diseases	10
Lowestoft Excepted District	22, 23
Medical Inspection	3, 4
" " , Findings of	4, 5, 6
Medical Treatment:	
Child Guidance	7, 8
Dental Inspection and Treatment	7
Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin	6
Nose and Throat Defects	6
Orthopaedic and Postural Defects	7
Speech Therapy	8, 9
Visual Defects and External Eye Diseases	6
Nursery Schools	14
Physical Training and Remedial Exercises	10, 11
Provision of Milk for School Children	11, 12
School Clinics	3
School Meals	11
Staff:	
County Area	2
Lowestoft Excepted District	24
Statistical Tables:	
County Area	14-21
Lowestoft Excepted District	25-31



EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY EDUCATION
COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Principal School Medical Officer

1954

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