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# COUNTY COUNCIL OF EAST SUSSEX.

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

## REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE EAST SUSSEX EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit with this my Annual Report on the work done in connection with the medical inspection of school children during the twelve months ended the 31st December, 1919.

The routine inspection of the Code Groups of children, which had been in abeyance during the period of the war, was resumed on the 1st August, 1919. Altogether 2,633 children of the Code Groups for the year—"Entrants," and "Leavers"—were examined, for which purpose 81 schools were visited. At the time of writing, this part of the work is well up-to-date.

The organisation of arrangements for the systematic treatment of illness and defects occurring amongst the school children received the attention of your Medical Inspection Sub-Committee during the latter part of the year; and since then certain agreements have been entered into, with the sanction of the Board of Education, for the establishment of School Clinics, or Treatment Centres, for carrying that purpose into effect.

Arrangements have now been completed for the establishment of Treatment Centres in Hastings, Brighton, Haywards Heath, and Bexhill. The Medical Inspection Sub-Committee are, at the time of writing, also in conference with the Lewes Education Committee, with a view of co-operation in the establishment of a joint Treatment Centre at Lewes in connection with the School Clinic, which the Borough Education Committee have conducted successfully for some years past under the management of Dr. Stenhouse, the Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer for Lewes.

These arrangements having been made for the treatment of eye cases, cases of enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and other ailments, separate arrangements have been made for securing adequate dental treatment. Mr. Arnold Court, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.), formerly Dental Officer to the Redditch Education Authority, has been appointed as a whole-time Dental Officer by your Committee.

Mr. Court's duties will be chiefly in dealing with the dental treatment of children attending schools in the rural districts, whilst arrangements are being made for the establishment of Dental Clinics for certain Urban Districts, at Portslade, Lewes, Haywards Heath and Newhaven.

During the current year (1920) additional medical responsibilities, in connection more especially with the inspection of scholars attending Secondary Schools, will devolve upon your Committee. All scholars attending the Secondary School at Lewes have already been examined, and those attending the Secondary Schools at Rye, Haywards Heath, and Uckfield will be examined during the coming autumn.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEX. G. R. FOULERTON,  
*County Medical Officer of Health and  
School Medical Officer.*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNTY HALL,  
LEWES,

24th June, 1920.

### THE EAST SUSSEX EDUCATION AREA.

The area of the East Sussex Local Education Authority comprises the Administrative County of East Sussex with the exception of the Boroughs of Hove, Lewes and Bexhill, in which towns the Town Council is the Local Education Authority.

The total population of the Administrative County at the census of 1911 (excluding the Boroughs) was 173,671; the number of children between the ages of 5 and 16 in the same area was 37,833. The number of children on the registers on March 31st, 1919 was 23,505.

### MEDICAL INSPECTION OF CHILDREN.

There are 177 Public Elementary Schools under the East Sussex Local Education Authority, and these Schools were visited during the year for the purpose of the Medical Inspection of the children as under:—

(a) Visits for examination of special cases and re-examinations	...	103
(b) Visits for routine inspection (including special cases)	...	81

Seventy-two Schools were visited once, and fifty-six were visited twice for the purpose of medical inspection.

### FOLLOWING UP CASES OF DEFECT.

The arrangements in respect of assistance of nurses at the routine inspections, and in connection with "following up" are as follows:—

At 17 schools, the Sussex County Nursing Federation's School Nurse attends at the routine inspections, and "follows up."

At 134 schools the like services are provided by district nursing associations which are affiliated to the Sussex County Nursing Federation and whose nurses work under the supervision of the Superintendent of the Nursing Federation.

At 26 schools the nurses are provided by district nursing associations not affiliated to the Sussex County Nursing Federation.

The actual work carried out during the period by the school nurses in following up cases of defect found in the course of medical inspection is indicated in the next Table—

1919	Sussex County Federation's School Nurse.				Local Nurse (Affiliated).		Local Nurse (Non-affiliated.)	
	Inspections attended.	Visits to childrens homes.	School Revisits.		Inspections attended.	Number of cases followed up.	Inspections attended.	Number of cases followed up.
			Visits to Schools.	Number of children seen.				
	28	176	73	321	95	812	30	248

There are no agencies other than the school nurses engaged in the "following up," nor are there any inspection clinics.

### MEDICAL TREATMENT.

There were no special arrangements for medical treatment made by the Local Education Authority during the year, but a scheme has now been approved for the treatment of school children at certain Hospitals and a whole-time Dental Surgeon has been appointed, whilst arrangements for obtaining additional assistance for one or more part-time Dentists are contemplated.

The facilities for obtaining treatment during 1919 consisted of local dispensaries and hospitals and the County Council's Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES.

#### (a) Mentally Defective, Epileptic, and Physically Defective Children.

Mentally defective, epileptic and physically defective children were dealt with by the Local Education Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Acts, 1899 and 1914.

During the year five feeble-minded children (three boys and two girls) were sent to special schools approved by the Board of Education and nine other mentally defective children (four boys



and five girls) were notified, under Section 2 (2) of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, to the East Sussex Committee for the Care of the Mentally Defective—

	Boys.	Girls.
(i) as being either idiots or imbecile ... ..	2	3
(ii) as being otherwise unsuitable for education in a special school approved by the Board of Education ... ..	1	0
(iii) on reaching the age of 16 years, having been maintained in a special school for feeble-minded children ... ..	1	2

Considerable difficulty exists in connection with dealing with feeble-minded children suitable for maintenance in special schools approved by the Board of Education, by reason of the accommodation at such schools being insufficient to provide for the numbers of such children for whom special provision is required. At the end of the year 14 feeble-minded children (6 boys and 8 girls) were being maintained in special schools, and there was a list of 14 children (11 boys and 3 girls), whose parents had consented to the removal of the children to special schools, awaiting the occurrence of vacancies.

(b) **Blind, and Deaf and Dumb Children.**

Blind, and deaf and dumb children were dealt with by the Local Education Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.

At the end of the year 3 blind children (boys) and 12 deaf and dumb children (7 boys and 5 girls) were being maintained in special schools.

(c) **Control of Infectious Diseases.**

The following is a summary of the notifications, received from Head Teachers during the year, of cases of infectious and contagious diseases:—

Number of Schools.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Chicken Pox.	Measles.	German Measles.	Mumps.	Ringworm.	Impetigo.	Sore Throat, etc.	Scabies.	Influenza.	Other cases.	TOTAL.
72	53	11	63	143	169	1	260	16	28	29	30	114	70	1007

The steps taken to control infectious diseases in the schools may be classed as (i) investigatory visits, including examination of suspects, (ii.) exclusion of children, and (iii) closure of schools.

(i) **Investigatory Visits.**

The visits made by the Assistant School Medical Officers during the year 1919 for the purpose of inquiring into cases of infectious illness were as follow:—

	Visits.	Schools concerned.
1st January to 31st March ... ..	2	2
1st April to 30th June ... ..	6	6
1st July to 30th September ... ..	2	2
1st October to 31st December ... ..	4	4
	14	14

(ii) **Exclusion of Children.**

Details as to the children excluded formally under Article 53 (b) of the Code of Regulations are given in the Table below. The details do not include children excluded informally with the object of checking the spread of infectious disease:—

	Number of Children.		Schools affected.	
	Male.	Female.	Urban.	Rural.
Chorea ... ..	1	1	2	—
Defective sight ... ..	—	1	—	1
Eczema ... ..	—	1	—	1
Enlarged Glands ... ..	—	2	1	—
External Eye Disease ... ..	—	3	—	2
Impetigo ... ..	27	19	6	16
Ringworm ... ..	—	4	1	—
Scabies ... ..	19	17	3	12
Septic Throat ... ..	1	—	1	—
Tuberculous Knee ... ..	1	—	—	1
Tuberculosis of Lung ... ..	1	3	—	3
Tuberculosis of Glands ... ..	1	—	1	—
Tuberculous Hip ... ..	—	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, Suspected ... ..	1	—	1	—
Vermineous Condition ... ..	1	3	2	—
Other Defects ... ..	—	1	1	—
	53	56	19	37

## (iii) Closure of Schools.

Table shewing the cause for the closure of the Elementary Schools during the year :—

1919.	REASON FOR CLOSURE.								Total Number of Closures.	A B	
	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Mumps.	Chicken Pox.	Influenza.	Other causes.		Under Advice or with Approval of School Medical Officer.	Under Regulation from the Local Sanitary Authority.
1st January—31st March ...	—	2	2	—	2	—	40	2	48	39	9
1st April—30th June ...	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	4	3	1
1st July—30th September ...	1	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	5	3	2
1st October—31st December	3	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	8	5	3
Totals for twelve months ...	4	2	9	3	4	1	40	2	65	50	15

## (e) Medical Examination of Pupil Teachers, etc.

During the year the School Medical Officer examined 47 female and 4 male pupil teachers, etc.

All applicants for Sick Nursing and Midwifery County Scholarships have been examined by the School Medical Officer.

## (f) Arrangements for 1920.

The work of medical inspection for the year 1920 will include the examination of "Code Groups" (Entrants, Intermediate Group and Leavers) and special cases; also re-examinations.

Each school will be visited during the year for these purposes. The following up will be carefully supervised and, where necessary, special enquiries will be made.

## (g) Routine Head Inspection.

The following Table gives details as to the routine head inspections carried out by the special nurse employed in this work from 1st April to 31st December, 1919:—

	Schools visited.	Number of children examined.	Number of verminous conditions found.	Number of home visits paid.
First visits to Schools ...	35	3560	67	39
Second " " ...	17	524	8	26
Third " " ...	10	533	14	10
Fourth " " ...	5	97	8	4
Fifth " " ...	3	76	3	2
Total visits to Schools ...	70	4790	100	81



## APPENDIX.—TABLE I.

Return of Defects found in the Course of Medical Inspection in 1919\*.

Defect or Disease.				Code Groups.		Specials.	
				Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Malnutrition	...	...	8	213	12	12
	Uncleanliness—						
	Head	...	...	146	52	134	9
	Body	...	...	22	54	29	0
Skin	Ringworm—						
	Head	...	...	3	0	8	0
	Body	...	...	0	0	1	0
	Scabies	...	...	4	1	32	1
	Impetigo	...	...	29	4	48	4
Eye	Other Diseases (non-tuberculous)	...	...	12	31	2	7
	Defective Vision and Squint	...	...	84	293	164	76
Ear	External Eye Disease	...	...	9	14	39	3
	Defective Hearing	...	...	21	191	55	38
Nose and Throat	Ear Disease	...	...	38	40	55	0
	Enlarged Tonsils	...	...	71	0	21	12
	Adenoids	...	...	39	93	40	17
Heart and Circulation	Defective Speech	...	...	2	168	3	22
	Heart Disease—						
	Organic	...	...	0	10	1	15
	Functional	...	...	1	43	0	7
	Anæmia	...	...	10	9	22	5
Lungs	Pulmonary Tuberculosis—						
	Definite	...	...	0	0	2	2
	Suspected	...	...	3	54	5	11
	Chronic Bronchitis	...	...	2	40	0	0
	Other Disease	...	...	0	6	0	2
Nervous System	Epilepsy	...	...	2	5	2	22
	Chorea	...	...	2	8	8	14
	Other Disease	...	...	14	0	28	0
	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...				
	Glands	...	...	1	10	4	6
	Bones and Joints	...	...	0	5	1	3
	Other forms	...	...	2	0	2	5
	Rickets	...	...	1	5	0	0
	Deformities	...	...	4	13	9	15
	Other defects or diseases	...	...	60	29	93	84

\* The examination of Code groups was recommenced on the 1st August, 1919, after suspension during the war.

NOTE.—Out of 5086 children examined, 1296 were found to have carious teeth. Amongst these there were 135 children with serious caries requiring treatment urgently.

TABLE II.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXAMINED—1st January to 31st December, 1919.

## A. CODE GROUPS.\*

	ENTRANTS.					
	3	4	5	6	Other ages	Total.
Boys ...	—	12	372	417	35	836
Girls ...	—	16	368	395	19	798
TOTALS ...	—	28	740	812	54	1634

  

	LEAVERS.					GRAND TOTAL.
	12	13	14	Other ages.	TOTAL.	
Boys ...	443	23	3	44	513	1349
Girls ...	431	21	1	33	486	1284
TOTALS ...	874	44	4	77	999	2633

## B. SPECIAL CASES AND RE-EXAMINATIONS.

	SPECIAL CASES.	RE-EXAMINATIONS (i.e. Number of Children examined).
Boys ...	1244	329
Girls ...	1209	434
	2453	763

\*NOTE.—The examination of Code Groups was re-commenced on the 1st August, 1919, after suspension during the War.

TABLE III.

NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA IN 1919.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
<b>Blind</b> (including partially blind)		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	1	—	1
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind ... ..	3	—	3
		Not at School ... ..	1	1	2
<b>Deaf and Dumb</b> (including partially deaf)		Attending PublicElementary Schools ...	2	—	2
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	7	5	12
		Not at School ... ..	—	—	—
<b>Mentally Deficient</b>	Feeble- Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools...	58	37	95
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ... ..	6	9	15
		Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year ... ..	2	2	4
		Not at School ... ..	13	4	17
	Imbeciles	At School ... ..	4	2	6
		Notified to Local (Control) Authority during the year ... ..	2	3	5
		Not at School ... ..	4	4	8
	Idiots	—	3	2	5
	<b>Epileptics</b>		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	24	11
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics ... ..	1	2	3
		Not at School ... ..	4	3	7
<b>Physically Defective.</b>	Pulmonary Tuberculosis (including "suspected" cases)	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...	—	—	—
		Not at School ... ..	8	13	21
	Other forms of Tuberculosis (including "suspected" cases)	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	4	8	12
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...	—	—	—
		Not at School...	5	7	12
	Cripples (other than Tuberculous)	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	10	17	27
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...	2	1	3
		Not at School ... ..	8	2	10
<b>Dull or Backward*</b>			141	93	234

\*Judged by Head Teachers and confirmed by examination.



**TABLE IV.**  
**TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1919.**

CONDITIONS.	No. of defects found for which treatment was considered necessary.	No. of defects for which no report is available.	No. of defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Percentage of defects treated.
				Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Clothing ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Footgear ...	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	33.33
Cleanliness of Head ...	234	39	195	51	118	26	—	83.33
Cleanliness of Body ...	63	14	48	12	30	6	1	76.19
Nutrition ...	37	8	25	4	14	7	4	67.57
Nose and Throat ...	258	38	128	73	18	37	92	49.61
External Eye Disease ...	57	15	40	23	14	3	2	70.17
Ear Disease ...	96	19	61	33	23	5	16	63.54
Defective Teeth ...	148	19	53	36	12	5	76	35.81
Heart and Circulation ...	40	5	30	9	18	3	5	75
Lungs ...	12	2	9	2	7	—	1	75
Nervous System ...	73	14	54	5	39	10	5	73.97
Skin ...	179	34	145	124	16	5	—	81
Rickets ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deformities ...	15	3	4	—	4	—	8	26.66
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary) ...	10	3	7	2	3	2	—	70
Speech ...	6	1	3	—	1	2	2	50
Mental Condition ...	13	6	4	—	1	3	3	30.77
Vision and Squint ...	251	40	147	94	16	37	64	58.56
Hearing ...	99	20	56	16	30	10	23	56.56
Miscellaneous ...	97	20	58	22	32	4	19	59.79
Totals ...	1693	303	1068	507	396	165	322	63.08

**TABLE V.**  
**INSPECTION, TREATMENT, Etc., OF CHILDREN DURING 1919.**

(1.) The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child) ...	5849
(3.) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.) ...	1248
(4.) The number of children in (2) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.) ...	744