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COUNTY BOROUGH OF EASTBOURNE.

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

for the year 1942.

JOHN FENTON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

School Medical Officer.

S T A F F.

(a) FULL TIME OFFICERS.

School Medical Officer.

John Fenton, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,

Deputy School Medical Officer.

Greta Lowe, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M., D.T.H., (Temporary appointment)

School Nurses.

Miss O. Mack.

Miss E. Ward. (to 23rd July, 1942)

Miss A. Wilcock.

Miss I.K. Baillie. (to 31st October, 1942)

Mrs. L. Foster.

Miss B. Brewer. (from 15th June, 1942)

Miss I.M. Rainey. (from 7th December, 1942)

Clerks.

Miss M.P. Cunningham. (to 11th April, 1942)

Miss M.J. Stevens. (from 30th March, 1942)

(b) PART TIME OFFICERS.

Ophthalmic Surgeon.

A.L. Young, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.,

Orthopaedic Consultant.

John A. Cholmeley, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stenmore.

Surgeon for Nose and Throat Operations.

R.C. MacQueen, F.R.C.S.,

Physician for X-ray work.

E.O. Fox, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.M.R.F.,

Dental Surgeon.

Harold Turner, L.D.S., Eng.

School Medical Department,
Torfield Court, St. Annes Road,
Eastbourne.

July, 1943.

TO The Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report, the thirty-fifth in the series, on the work of the School Medical Department for the year 1942.

The Board of Education have again requested that reports of School Medical Officers should be as brief as possible.

Despite the continuing abnormal circumstances inevitably associated with conditions of living in the third and fourth years of war, the physical and mental health of our school children continued in the main to be satisfactory. In no case was the nutritional state of a child described as "Bad", and no cases of serious mental abnormality directly attributable to war conditions were brought to the notice of the staff of the Department. The children who returned from the reception areas were in good health and many had undoubtedly benefited from their stay away.

There was some evidence that Double Summer Time and sleeping under abnormal conditions, usually in shelters in the home, led to lack of sufficient sleep. This in turn resulted in some children displaying symptoms of nervousness and becoming more difficult to control. Another factor in this latter connection in some cases was undoubtedly the irregular attendance at school of a small number of children. The number of juvenile offenders dealt with by the Justices was sixty four, an increase of twenty five on the number dealt with in 1941. Five of these offenders were sent to Approved Schools, four were fined, and twenty eight were bound over.

The incidence of infectious disease was again low. Acting on suggestions contained in a Memorandum issued jointly by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education, our table of exclusion periods for infectious diseases cases and their contacts was revised with a view to reducing to a minimum the loss of school life always associated with the occurrence of infectious disease in a family.

The number of Scabies cases dealt with showed a slight increase on the numbers dealt with in 1941, skin affections generally were more numerous, and there was an increase in the number of children found to have verminous heads.

No deaths of children of school age occurred from natural causes, but it is with much regret one records the deaths of five children, three boys and two girls, from enemy action.

Throughout the year no opportunity was lost of bringing the importance of Diphtheria Immunisation to the notice of parents, and our Return to the Ministry of Health at the end of the year shewed that 79.37 per cent of children of school age had been immunised.

All connected with the Local Authority's arrangements for the provision of school milk and meals deserve to be congratulated on the excellence of the arrangements made under the difficult conditions prevailing. The increased consumption of milk and the partaking of a well-balanced mid-day meal, which provides for health, growth, and energy, by a greatly increased number of children, are undoubtedly factors of the first importance in maintaining the health of school children and protecting them from nutritional dangers which can be so readily encountered under war conditions.

At the time of writing an extension of the arrangements for school meals is under consideration. The Central Government calls for a great extension of the service and suggests that the aim of Local Education Authorities should be to make school meals available for at least seventy five per cent of the children. There is little doubt that the School Meals

Service has come to stay, and it is to be hoped that our post-war arrangements will provide for at least each of the larger schools having its own canteen arrangements, where the meals service will be regarded as part of the normal routine of school life.

Once again I take this opportunity of thanking the Education Officer, his staff, and the teachers, for their whole-hearted co-operation throughout the year in all matters dealing with the health and well being of the school child. The teachers gave the Department every possible assistance in connection with the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign, and without their enthusiastic co-operation, the school census which helped so considerably could not have been carried out.

My own Staff have again, despite many additional burdens and in face of many difficulties, carried out their arduous and varied duties most loyally.

To you, Mr Chairman and the Members of the Education Committee, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks for your support of and continued interest in the work of the Department.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

John Fenton
School Medical Officer.

1. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

At the commencement of the year the names of some 2,012 children were on the Registers of eleven school Departments. By July, the numbers of children had increased to 2,747, but at the end of the year only 2,535 children were in attendance at five Senior, eight Junior, eight Infants Departments, and the Open Air School.

2. CHANGES OF STAFF.

Two of our School Nurses, Miss E. Ward, and Miss I.K. Baillie resigned during the year to take up appointments with other Authorities. Miss B. Brewer and Miss I.M. Rainey were appointed to fill the vacancies. Miss M.P. Cunningham, Senior Clerk in the School Medical Department, resigned her appointment on getting married, and Miss M.J. Stevens was appointed Temporary Clerk.

3. SCHOOL HYGIENE.

The Schools were inspected at various times. Any defects found were brought to the notice of the Education Officer who arranged for them to be quickly remedied.

4. MEDICAL INSPECTION.

One thousand one hundred and sixteen children were inspected in the three routine age groups. One thousand seven hundred and sixty children were submitted for special examination, and 335 children, who at previous inspections were found to have defects, were re-inspected.

5. FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Some 273 defects requiring treatment were found in 215 (19.27%) of the 1,116 children inspected in the routine age groups.

(a) Nutrition. The nutritional state was found to be excellent in 174 children (15.6%), normal in 757 children (67.8%), and slightly sub-normal in 185 children (16.6%).

(b) Uncleanliness. In the course of 9,452 examinations of children by School Nurses, nits were found in the heads of 161 children and vermin in 25 cases.

(c) Visual defects and External Eye Diseases. Ophthalmic Clinics were held on 14 occasions at the Princess Alice Hospital, at which 46 new cases were examined and 69 cases were re-examined. One hundred and fifteen children made 132 attendances.

(d) Nose and Throat Defects. Under the Authority's Scheme 36 children received operative treatment at the Princess Alice Hospital and 34 at the Leaf Hospital.

(e) Ear Diseases. Of the children inspected in the routine age groups, 2 were found to be suffering from some defect of hearing, and 13 from other diseases of the ear.

(f) Orthopaedic Defects. The Orthopaedic Consultant from the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, resumed his visits to Eastbourne in May and came at intervals of two months thereafter. Forty four children of school age were referred to him, in addition to 4 children who had attended his Clinic at Brighton early in the year.

(g) Heart Disease and Rheumatism. Of the thirty two children found to have some slight cardiac abnormality, only one was sufficiently serious to require treatment.

6. SCHOOL MEALS AND MILK.

Mid-day meals were prepared and served at the following School Canteens:

Eldon Road School.	For children attending that school.
Open Air School.	For children attending the St. Mary's Schools, and in addition from Easter, for children attending the Open Air School.
Hampden Park Senior School.	For children attending Hampden Park Senior and Junior Schools.
Bourne Senior School.	From September, for children attending the Bourne Senior, Bourne Junior, St. Josephs, Bedewell, and Christ Church Junior and Infants Schools.
Eversley Court.	Functioned for a short period for children attending Eversley Court Senior School.

In addition, special sessions for school children were held at the following British Restaurants:

The Links.	For children attending Meads School.
St. Anthonys.	For children attending St. Andrews Junior and Infants Schools.
Central Methodist.	To September, for children attending Bourne, Bedewell, and St. Josephs Schools.

A total number of 88,177 meals were served (40,502 at Hampden Park) of which number 67,159 were free.

Date.	Number of Children in School.	MEALS.			MILK				
		Free.	Paid.	Percentage taking meals.	1/3 pint Free	1/3 pint Paid	2/3 pint Free	2/3 pint Paid	Percentage taking milk.
February	1925	245	51	15.4	305	1187	-	127	84.1
May	2372	320	72	16.5	377	1612	10	64	86.9
October	2342	350	105	19.4	379	1315	20	248	83.8

The income scale for Free Milk and Meals is as follows:

Number in family.	Granted free milk or meals if income per head after deducting rent, rates, and insurances is the following or less.
2.	12s. per head.
3 or 4.	11s. per head.
5 or more.	10s..6d. per head.

When the income is in excess of this scale a charge of 5d. is made for a mid-day meal, and a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for $\frac{1}{3}$ of a pint of milk.

7. INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

The Education Authority was responsible for the cost of maintenance of seven children in Institutions:

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore.	Congenital Deformity.
	4. Infantile Palsy.
	Septic Arthritis.
	Perthe's Disease.
Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind.	1.
Catholic School for the Blind, West Derby, Liverpool.	1.
Childrens Heart Home, Cuckfield.	1.

8. TUBERCULOSIS.

One new notification of pulmonary, and 4 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were received.

At the Childrens Tuberculosis Clinic, 3 non-pulmonary cases made 38 attendances, 9 child "contacts" made 9 attendances, and 1 observation case 1 attendance.

During the year 1 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary cases received institutional treatment at the cost of the Local Tuberculosis Authority.

Seventeen non-pulmonary cases and 1 pulmonary case in children of school age were on the notification register at the end of the year.

9. DENTAL DEFECTS.

Twenty four sessions were devoted to dental inspections at which the teeth of all children in attendance were examined. Of the 2,184 children (routine and specials) inspected, 744 were found to be suffering from defects requiring treatment. One hundred and seventy^{seven} sessions were devoted to treatment. All children with defective teeth were invited to attend, but only 530 (71%) did so and they made 730 attendances. Those failing to attend received at least one further invitation and in addition, defaulters are now being followed up by the School Nurses.

10. MINOR AILMENTS AND DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

Minor Ailments Clinics were held as necessary at various Schools and Clinics:

Number of days Clinics were open.....	201.
Total number of attendances	1236.
Daily average attendance	6.1.
Number of defects treated	495.

Ailments.

Eyes: Blepharitis	30.
Styes and other eye ailments	
Ears: Otorrhoea	26.
Deafness and other ear diseases.....	
Impetigo	24.
Injuries	72.
Septic Sores	61.
Other skin ailments	123.
Miscellaneous	159.
	<u>495.</u>

Total in 1941 167.

11. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifications were received relating to children of school age:

	<u>Diphtheria.</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>	<u>Whooping Cough.</u>	<u>Measles.</u>	<u>Acute Polio-Myelitis.</u>
January.	-	-	1	-	-
February.	1	-	-	-	-
March.	-	-	2	-	-
April.	1	2	4	-	-
May.	-	-	1	-	-
June.	-	1	6	-	-
July.	-	1	1	-	1
August.	1	1	2	-	-
September.	-	5	-	-	-
October	-	6	-	1	-
November	-	4	1	1	-
December.	-	3	-	-	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL.	3	23	18	2	1

Scabies. Of the 73 cases of scabies in children of school age brought to the notice of the Department, 45 were treated in St. Mary's Hospital and 15 as out-patients at the Borough Sanatorium. The others received treatment at home.

Diphtheria Immunisation. Diphtheria Immunisation was completed at the Authority's Clinic in respect of 612 children of school age in the year under review, as compared with 654 in the previous year. In order to ascertain the number of school children immunised, a census was taken in October 1942 through the schools. This disclosed that of 2,749 children of school age, 1,914 had received the full immunising doses, 54 had been partially immunised and 781 had not been immunised, but of the latter number, parents of 480 children gave written consent to immunisation being carried out. The parents of children in respect of whom consent forms had not been received were visited by the School Nurses.

12. DEATHS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The only deaths of children of school age during the year were the result of enemy action, and these numbered five.

13. FOLLOWING UP.

The following is a summary of the work done by the School Nurses in connection with the following up after medical inspections in schools:

Number of visits by nurses to schools	452.
Number of visits by nurses to schools for medical inspection.	88.
Number of homes visited by nurses	1291.

Examination Clinics were held at Hampden Park Hall on Monday afternoons, St. Anthony's Hall, Seaside, on Thursday mornings until May and then at Acacia Villa, and at Eversley Court on Thursday afternoons until the end of September, and afterwards at Torfield Court. The Deputy School Medical Officer saw all the children who attended. Five hundred and seventy one children made 1,242 attendances for 532 defects. The defects for which the children attended were as follows:

Anaemia.....	12.	Errors of refraction	9.
Debility	7.	Impetigo	17.
Deformities	24.	Infectious Diseases	7.
Diseases of the chest	15.	Injuries	19.
Diseases of the digestive system.	4.	Malnutrition.....	2.
Diseases of the ear	14.	Other ailments	96.
Diseases of the eye	41.	Rheumatism	2.
Diseases of the heart and		Scabies	39.
circulatory system	15.	Tuberculosis.....	2.
Diseases of the nervous system..	7.	Tuberculosis contacts.....	6.
Diseases of the nose and throat.	57.	Uncleanliness.....	3.
Diseases of the skin.....	40.		
Diseases of the teeth.....	76.		
Enlarged glands	16.		

Figures for 1941: 327 children made 633 attendances for 400 ailments.

15. BACKWARDNESS AND MENTAL DEFECT.

Six Eastbourne boys over nine years of age were in attendance at St. Aidan's Special Residential School, 47 Shakespeare Road, Bedford, on December 31st, and 2 Eastbourne boys under nine years of age, and 5 Eastbourne girls were resident at 116 Bromham Road, Bedford.

No children were notified by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority during the year.

16. OPEN AIR EDUCATION.

Our own Open Air School recommenced to function after the Easter recess with 8 children in attendance. At the end of the year there were 26 children on the Register. The average duration of attendance was six months, and the conditions for which the children were admitted were as follows:

Anaemia	1.	Asthma	1.
Bronchitis.....	2.	Cardiac cases	4.
Cervical Adenitis....	5.	Eczema	2.
Epilepsy	1.	Debility	16.
Myopia.....	1.	Orthopaedic Defects ...	2.

BOARD OF EDUCATION TABLES.

TABLE I.

Medical Inspections of Children attending Public Elementary Schools.

(a) Routine Medical Inspections.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups.

Entrants 447.
 Second age group 18.
 Third age group 243.

TOTAL 1068.
 Number of other
 Routine Inspections 48.
1116.

(b) Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections
 and Re-inspections. 1760.

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children inspected
 during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Number of Children inspected.	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly subnormal).		D. (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1116.	174.	15.6.	757.	67.8.	185.	16.6.	-	-

TABLE III.

Group 1. Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanness).

Total number of defects treated or under treatment during the
 year under the Authority's Scheme 393.

Group 2. Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint. Under the
 Authority's Scheme

Errors of refraction (including Squint) 126.
 Other defects or disease of the eyes (excluding those
 recorded in Group 1) 1.
 TOTAL 127.

Number of Children for whom spectacles were
 (a) Prescribed 70.
 (b) Obtained 61.

Group 3. Treatment of Defects of the Nose and Throat.

Received Operative Treatment.	Received other forms of treatment.	Total number treated.
70.	-	70.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

- (1) Number of Children inspected by the Dentist.
(a) Routine Age Groups:

Age.	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total.
Number.	39	236	268	182	190	307	263	229	173	185	43	2115.

(b) Specials	69.	(6) Fillings: Permanent Teeth	458
(c) Total (Routine and Specials).	2184.	Temporary Teeth	60.
			<u>515</u>
(2) Number found to require treatment.	744.	(7) Extractions:	
(3) Number actually treated	530.	Permanent Teeth	103
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	730.	Temporary Teeth	222
(5) Half days devoted to:			<u>324</u>
Inspection	24.	(8) Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions	132
Treatment	177.	(9) Other operations:	
	<u>201.</u>	Permanent Teeth	28
		Temporary Teeth	13
			<u>41</u>

TABLE V.

Verminous Conditions.

1. Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	13.5.
2. Total number of examinations of children in the schools by the School Nurses	9452.
3. Number of individual children found unclean	126.
4. Number of individual children cleared under Section 37 (2) of the Education Act 1921	6.
5. Number of cases in which Legal proceedings were taken:	
(a) Under the Education Act 1921	-
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	-

TABLE VI.

Blind and Deaf Children.

Number of totally or almost totally blind and deaf children who are not at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs. The Return should relate to all such children including evacuees resident in the Authority's area.

	1. At a Public Elementary School.	2. At an Institution other than a Special School.	3. At no School or Institution.
Blind Children.	-	-	-
Deaf Children.	-	-	-

Mentally Defective Children.

Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December 1941 by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928

11.