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COUNTY BOROUGH OF EASTBOURNE



LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT


of the

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

for the year 1946.

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

School Medical Officer.



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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.

Theodore H. Parkman, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., (Returned from War Service February 26th).

Senior Dental Officer.

Maurice G. Berry, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Returned from War Service June 11th.)

School Nurses.

Miss E.K.N. Cumming, (Senior), S.R.N., S.C.M., S.R.F.N., H.V. Cert.
Mrs. L. Foster, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
Miss M.J. Rafferty, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.I.D.N., H.V. Cert.
Miss I. Rainey, R.S.C.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
Miss M.F. Wheeler, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.I.D.N., H.V. Cert.
Miss R.A. Hayman, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (Temporary)

(The School Nurses are also Health Visitors).

Physiotherapist.

Miss H.J. Murphy, C.S.P., M.E., S.R.E.

Clerks.

Miss G.A. Vine (Senior) (from 28th. January).
Miss B. Douch (Junior)

Dental Attendant.

Mrs. M.I. Trowbridge. (Temporary to March 27th).
Miss D.S. Jackson, (Temporary from April 15th).

(b) PART TIME OFFICERS.

Medical Officers.

Dr. T. Turner, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Dr. C. Marcia Hall, B.A., M.D., B.Chir. (Camb.), D.C.H.
(to February 25th).
Dr. J.M. Moran, L.M.S.S.A.

Dental Officers.

Roger A. Abbey, L.D.S.
Norman Gray, L.D.S. (Orthodontic Specialist).

Anaesthetist for Dental Work.

Dr. Basil Kent, M.B., B.S., (from May 16th).

Ophthalmic Surgeon.

E. V. Culton, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.O.M.S.

Orthoptist.

Miss F. Montague-Smith, O.B.D.

Orthopaedic Consultant.

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

Orthopaedic Surgeon.

A. H. Crook, M.Ch., F.R.C.S., (to August 23rd).

Radiologist.

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

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon.

D. O'Connor Cuffey, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.(Ed.), M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.F.

Anaesthetist for Tonsil and Adenoid Operations.

H. J. Follard, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.F.

Child Guidance Service.

Kathleen Cobb, M.B., Ch.B., Dipl.Psych. (to July))
Dr. R.D.Newton, M.A., D.M., D.F.M. (from) Psychiatrists.
September 5th)
Miss Kathleen Blythen, B.A., Educational Psychologist.
Miss Rhoda Fish, Psychiatric Social Worker.
Miss E.D.Smith, Clerk.

Speech Therapist.

Mrs. M. Mossman, L.R.A.M., L.C.S.T. (to July).
Mrs. K. Hensford, L.C.S.T. (from September 10th).

School Health Department,
Avenue House,
Eastbourne.

June, 1947.

To The Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report, the thirty-ninth in the Series, on the Health of the School Child in Eastbourne, and on the work of the School Health Department for the year 1946.

The number of children on our school registers continued to increase and by the end of the year totalled five thousand, one hundred and seven as compared with four thousand, three hundred and sixty-one at the end of 1945. Following the practice of previous years, routine medical inspection of children took place during the year of the child's entry into school, in the child's ninth year, and again in the thirteenth year. In addition, a large number of children were inspected in our clinics at the special request of parents, head teachers and school nurses, and children about to leave school were invited to attend for a final inspection. Children found at any inspection to have defects were seen again one or more times as required. In all, a total of five thousand, two hundred and seventy-seven inspections were made.

Despite the difficulties and strains of the war years and the continuing austerity of the post-war period, it is consoling to be again able to report that the general health of our school children was considered to be up to pre-war standard. Their nutritional state was undoubtedly as good as in pre-war years, there was no evidence of any increase in respiratory, infectious or other disease and observations of teachers and parents do not indicate that children were more easily fatigued. School meals and milk must be credited with playing a very important role in maintaining this satisfactory state of general health. The decision of the Ministry of Education to grant milk free to all school children, indicates the importance attached to this article of diet. Towards the end of the year well over ninety per cent of our children were taking advantage of the free milk scheme. The number of children taking a mid-day meal in school continued to increase and reached two thousand, five hundred and fifty-three, fifty-four per cent, by October. In the cases of five hundred and twenty children, whose parents were in the lower income groups, no charge was made for the meal. The organisation of a school meals service is no easy task, and the difficulties of the times we live in, regarding especially staff and supplies, coupled with the fact that facilities for cooking and serving meals in our schools are not ideal, made it more difficult still. The Organiser of the service and all connected with it are to be congratulated on their work. The present set-up necessitates the taking of cooked food in containers from cooking centres to a number of schools. There is, at the present time, unfortunately, no alternative to this arrangement, but one hopes the day is not too far distant when all school meals will be cooked and served on school premises, so obviating the necessity for a container service.

We were very pleased to welcome back to the Department, after their years of war service, Doctor Parkman, the Deputy School Medical Officer, and also Mr. Barry, the Senior Dental Officer. During the absence of these two officers the medical and dental practitioners of the town helped, as far as the time at their disposal permitted, to keep the various clinical services functioning and we are most grateful for the help and co-operation we at all times received from them. A certain basic full time professional staff is, however, essential for the provision of a satisfactory service, and even now it is essential to employ medical and dental practitioners, as well as specialists, on a part-time sessional basis. The Act of 1944 has led to an increase in the work of the Department, and I cannot help feeling that the time is ripe for serious consideration to be given to the engagement of a full-time Assistant Medical Officer for clinical duties in the Public Health and School Medical Departments.

The Dental work of the Department is now, I consider, functioning satisfactorily, and on a reasonably comprehensive scale. Your authority for the employment of an Assistant Dental Officer for four sessions weekly, has gone a long way towards coping with the large arrears of work due to shortage of staff, evacuation and other conditions during the war years. It is to be hoped that the Ministry of Education will renew the permission, given in the first instance for a limited period, to the continued employment of Mr. Abbey. No dental scheme can be considered adequate unless provision is made for the treatment of dental irregularities and deformities. In this connection, the work of the Orthodontic Clinic, under the direction of Mr. Norman Gray, is progressing very satisfactorily and dealing with increased numbers of cases.

As in recent years, the incidence of serious infectious disease was low. The one case of diphtheria in a child of school age occurred in January. This boy, who was a visitor to the town, had not been immunised; he was very ill on admission to our hospital and unfortunately died of heart failure thirty-eight days after admission. The only case of infantile paralysis was relatively mild in severity and affected a girl boarder at one of the private schools. A case of cerebrospinal meningitis in a girl aged fourteen years occurred in October; this child made a complete recovery. The incidence of scabies was somewhat lower than in 1945.

In regard to personal hygiene, children were examined by the school nurses at the beginning of each term and those requiring attention were seen as often as necessary afterwards: in all, close on twelve thousand examinations were made. Verminous conditions were found in some five hundred and thirty-seven children.

During the year, we had the full co-operation of Mr. A. Banyard, local inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, in dealing with general neglect or suspected neglect in the cases of seven families involving a total of twenty-three children. Visits to the number of forty-eight were made by the Inspector to the seven homes, with satisfactory results. Altogether, Mr. Banyard investigated complaints relating to fifty-three families, involving one hundred and thirteen children of school age. It is a sad thought that in the year 1946, after so many years of compulsory education and extended social services, pressure has to be put on parents, admittedly few in number, to make them realise their most elementary responsibilities to their children. In the majority of the fifteen or sixteen families who came under the heading of "problem" families, the trouble could be traced to low mentality or ill health of one or both parents.

The number of juvenile delinquents dealt with by the Police was slightly less than in the previous year. Of the forty-three boys brought before the Court, thirty-three were persons who had been before the Magistrates on previous occasions. Nine cases were dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act, twenty-two youths were placed on probation, five were fined and seven were sent to Approved Schools. Two girls were brought before the Court as being in need of care and protection, and a Supervision Order was made in each case. In addition to cases appearing before the Magistrates, the Police dealt with twenty-three boys and six girls by cautioning.

In the early part of the year, two boys, aged nine and five, from the same family were committed to the care of the Local Authority under the Children and Young Persons Act. Considerable difficulty was again experienced in finding suitable private homes in which to place these children and at the end of the year, two of the five children in the Local Authority's care were still in our Children's Homes.

The Authority continued to be partners in the East Sussex Joint Child Guidance Service and good work was done. Separate premises, providing better facilities were set aside for the Clinic in the lower ground floor of Avenue House. Shortage of, and changes of staff hampered the work of the Service generally to some degree, and the waiting list at the end of the year was longer than one would wish, in spite of the fact that additional sessions

were provided for at our Eastbourne Clinic. It is suggested that the Service at the present time is dealing only with the more advanced cases of maladjustment, and that better results would be obtained if children requiring this form of treatment were dealt with at a much earlier age - many in the pre-school years. Local Health Authorities will soon, under the National Health Service Act, have to submit to the Minister of Health schemes for a Mental Health Service. This will entail a review of Mental Health requirements generally, and it may well be that the time is opportune to make the provision of Child Guidance facilities fit into the broader sphere of general Mental Health Services. The need of hostel accommodation for certain types of maladjusted children was again acutely felt and it is to be regretted that it has not so far been found possible to put forward concrete proposals in this connection.

A variety of speech defects were treated at the Speech Therapy Clinic, but the total number of children referred was smaller than one might expect. Initially each child received individual treatment and at a later stage it was often possible to carry out treatment in small groups. It is important that treatment of any speech defect should begin at as early an age as possible. Successful treatment also depends in a large measure on the co-operation of parents and teachers and towards this end the Speech Therapist devotes certain sessions to visiting the schools and the children's homes.

Once again it is my pleasure to express to the Education Officer and his Staff and to the Head Teachers my thanks for the help and co-operation we continued to receive from them.

Being what might be described as a year of transition from war to peace, and from an old to a newer order, it has not been a very normal one for my staff. They, however, dealt adequately with the many demands made on them and I would take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of their work.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank you and the members of your Committee, for the support and encouragement I received from you throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



School Medical Officer.

1. STATISTICS.

In January, the names of 4,837 children were on the registers of the twenty-nine schools. At the end of the year there were 5,107 children on the registers as compared with 4,261 children at the end of the previous year. The average attendance throughout the year was 4,596, being a percentage attendance of 90.

2. STAFF.

The Deputy School Medical Officer, who had been on war service since June 1941, returned to the service of the Local Authority towards the end of February. The School Dental Officer, who left to serve in a reception area in October 1940 and subsequently joined the Army Dental Corps, returned to duty early in June. Miss Vine, who during the war years held the appointment of Organising Secretary to the Casualty Services, was appointed Senior Clerk, and took up duty at the end of January.

3. SCHOOL HYGIENE.

The school sanitary arrangements were periodically inspected throughout the year by the district sanitary inspectors. Any defects found were generally of a minor character. These were reported to the Chief Education Officer who arranged for them to be dealt with by the appropriate authority.

4. MEDICAL INSPECTION.

As in former years, routine medical inspection of children took place some time in the first year of school life, again in the ninth year and on attaining the age of twelve. In all, 1,949 children were inspected in the three routine age groups. Children leaving school were invited to attend for inspection and in this category some 71 children were examined. Special inspections to the number of 1,142 were carried out at the request of parents, school nurses or teachers. In addition, children to the number of 1,096 were re-inspected in the schools in connection with defects previously found.

Some 478, or a percentage of 24.52 of the children inspected in the routine age groups were found to be suffering from one or more defects requiring treatment. In addition, 1,210 defects, usually of a minor nature, but requiring to be kept under observation were found in the cases of 934 children, a percentage of 47.92% of the children inspected.

(a) Nutrition. Of the children examined in the routine age groups, 198 (10.2%) were found to be in excellent nutritional condition; 1,617 (82.96%) were classified as normal; 133 (6.82%) were noted as slightly sub-normal, and in only one case (.05%) was the nutritional state reported to be "bad".

(b) Personal Hygiene. Eleven thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine inspections for uncleanness were made by the School Nurses. In 54 instances vermin were found in the heads of children, and in 483 cases, nits were present.

(c) Ear Diseases. Of the children inspected in the routine age groups, three were found to be suffering from defective hearing, two from middle ear disease and six from other ear diseases.

(d) Heart Disease. Only two cases of cardiac abnormality were noted and these were regarded as functional.

(e) Eye Defects. At the routine medical inspections 70 children were found to require treatment for defective vision and 11 for squint.

c. CLINICS.

(a) EXAMINATION CLINICS. Examination Clinics were held weekly at Avenue House, and monthly at Acacia Villa, 357 Seaside and Hampden Park Secondary School. Eight hundred and fourteen children made 1,526 attendances. The conditions for which the children attended were as follows:

Diseases of the Skin:		Mental defect	15
Impetigo	27	Psychological disorders	20
Other	106	Orthopaedic:	
Eyes:		Posture	5
Vision	43	Flat foot	10
Squint	7	Genu valgum & varum	16
Other	31	Other	26
Ears:		Developmental:	
Hearing	6	Undescended testicles	1
Otitis media	10	Other	6
Other	37	Dental disorders	7
Nose and Throat	151	Tuberculosis:	
Cervical glands (non T.B.)	8	Glands	5
Speech defect	14	Pulmonary	1
Heart and Circulation	10	Bones and joints	1
Lungs (non T.B.)	34	Contacts	7
Diseases of gastro-		Infectious diseases	3
intestinal tract	35	Minor injuries	55
Nutritional disorders	7	Miscellaneous	60
General debility	38		
Nervous system (diseases of,			
including epilepsy) ...	28		<u>830</u>

(b) CHEST CLINIC. Six new cases of tuberculosis of the respiratory system in children of school age were notified (2 male and 4 female). In addition one boy was transferred from the area of another Authority.

The six new cases included two pleural effusions, one hilar adenitis and three cases of primary tuberculous complex.

The following is a summary of attendances made at the Children's Chest Clinic:-

		<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Attendances.</u>
Pulmonary	New	5	21
	Old	9	36
Non-Pulmonary	New	2	6
	Old	30	87
Contacts		85	150
Observation		<u>34</u>	<u>59</u>
Total		<u>165</u>	<u>359</u>

Four cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified:

Foot	1 (aged 5)
Glands of neck	2 (aged 9 and 12)
Spine	1 (aged 13)

Eight pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary cases received institutional treatment under arrangements made by the local Tuberculosis Authority.

The number of children on the Authority's tuberculosis register at the end of the year was:

Pulmonary	Boys	5
	Girls	8
Non-Pulmonary	Boys	23
	Girls	11

(c) OPHTHALMIC CLINIC. Twenty-four Ophthalmic Clinic Sessions were held at Avenue House Clinic. Of the 309 cases who made 388 attendances, 131 were children attending this clinic for the first time, and 178 were children for re-examination.

Orthoptic Clinic.

Number of children referred to Clinic	old cases	3	
	new cases	23	26

Number of attendances of children	291
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Results:

Unsuitable for orthoptic treatment	7
Discontinued treatment	2
Attended for occlusion only	5
Attended for regular bi-weekly treatment	12
Three of the twelve were discharged as cured with single binocular vision.	

(d) ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC. Mr. A. H. Crook was in charge of the monthly clinic up to August. In September Mr. Cholmeley resumed his visits to Eastbourne. Ninety-four children made 175 attendances for examination by the surgeons. In addition, owing to the large number of children referred for advice as to orthopaedic defects, Dr. Parkman and Dr. Marcia Hall examined 117 children at special Orthopaedic Clinics.

The various forms of treatment prescribed by the surgeons were carried out by the physiotherapist at Avenue House Central Clinic, and also at Hampden Park Hall for children living in that area. In this connection, 294 children made 4,012 attendances. The physiotherapist also treated with Ultra Violet Light some 42 children, who made 822 attendances for the following conditions:

Debility	21	Boils	2
Anaemia	2	Alopecia	1
Asthma	9	Chilblains	1
Bronchial catarrh	4	Tuberculous cervical	
Psoriasis	1	adenitis	1
			<u>42</u>

(e) EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC. This clinic was held seven times under the direction of Mr. D. O'Connor Cuffey: four children were also seen by him at Princess Alice Hospital. In all fifty children made 61 attendances.

Under approved arrangements 85 children were admitted to St. Mary's Hospital, 31 to the Leaf Hospital and 107 to the Princess Alice Hospital for operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids. At the end of the year 8 children were on the waiting list for operation.

(f) MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC. Minor Ailments Clinics were held daily, or as required, during term time, at Avenue House Clinic, Hampden Park School, Open Air School and Acacia Villa.

Number of individual children attending Clinics	1,624
Total number of attendances	4,589
Number of defects treated	1,314.

Ailments.

Eyes:

Blepharitis, styes and other disease of lids	30
Conjunctivitis	32
Foreign Bodies and other eye ailments	17

Carried forward	79
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<u>Ears:</u>	Brought forward	79
Otitis media and Otorrhea	34
Otitis externa	12
Wax	16
<u>Skin:</u>		
Impetigo	.....	93
Scabies and post-scabies irritation	.....	31
Ringworm (Body)	.....	10
Skin sepsis other than impetigo	.....	185
Boils and carbuncles	.....	33
Other skin conditions, including chilblains, warts	.....	113
<u>Injuries:</u>		
Cuts and abrasions	.....	179
Sprains, bruises etc.	.....	71
Other minor injuries	.....	102
Burns	.....	21
<u>Infestation:</u>		
Pediculosis	.....	73
Other	.....	22
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	.....	240
		<hr/>
		1,314
		<hr/>

(g) SPEECH THERAPY CLINIC.

Cases referred during year	.....	22
Number of clinic sessions	.....	139
Number of cases treated in 1946	.....	50
Number of attendances	.....	621
Number of visiting sessions by Speech Therapist to schools and homes of children	.....	20
<u>Defects treated:</u>		
Nerve deafness	.....	1
Cleft palate	.....	1
Dyslalia (9 cases attributed to low I.Q.)	.....	28
Stammer	.....	9
Tongue Tie	.....	1
Signetism	.....	8
Executive Aphasia	.....	2

6. DENTAL SERVICES.

GENERAL SERVICES. In fifteen routine dental inspections in schools, some 1,353 children were seen. In addition, another group of children, to the number of 621 were seen at the special request of parents. Of the total of 1,974 children, 1,670 were found to require treatment, a percentage of eighty-five. At the 382 treatment sessions held, 1,248 children made 3,915 attendances for treatment.

ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT. At the special weekly session held for this section of the service, 120 children made 592 attendances. At the end of the year 30 children were awaiting treatment.

Present Position.

(a) Treatment completed	.....	5
(b) Still under treatment	.....	95
(c) Left school and treatment not completed	.....	7
(d) Failed to complete treatment	.....	13

REPORT OF THE SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER.

Mr. Berry writes:

"On my return from H.M. Forces in June it was found possible to resume the regular routine dental inspection of school children. With the part-time assistance of a local practitioner, 1,353 children were seen at these inspections, of whom 1,049 were found to require treatment.

These figures demonstrate the considerable amount of dental attention necessary, but it is interesting to note that on the whole, the children in the lower age groups, namely those of 5, 6 and 7 years of age, seem to compare very favourably with those of a similar age in the years preceding the war, pointing to the fact that, at least, our war-time diet has had no obvious deleterious effect on the formation and development of the teeth.

In the higher age groups, dental conditions were not so good, and the most extensive work was found to be necessary in the children of 13 and 14 years. This I regard as mainly due to lack of regular inspection and also to some degree to lack of parental supervision in oral hygiene as a result of evacuation.

It was also apparent that, in addition to requiring treatment for dental caries, quite a considerable number of children required treatment for overcrowding of teeth. These cases were referred to the orthodontic specialist.

Regular inspection is a vital feature of any dental service and is absolutely essential if dental defects are to be discovered and treated in the earliest stages."

7. CHILD GUIDANCE SERVICE.

Number of children attending for treatment	old cases 8	
	new cases <u>25</u>	33
Number of Clinic Sessions		64
Number of attendances at Clinic:		
(1) by children	(a) for psychiatric treatment 256	
	(b) for educational coaching <u>111</u>	367
(2) by parents		201
Number of visits to homes by Psychiatric Social Worker		67
Number of visits to schools:		
(1) by Educational Psychologist		23
(2) by Psychiatric Social Worker		6

Sources of referral:

School Health Service	10	
Teachers	10	
General Practitioners	1	
Parents	<u>4</u>	25

Condition for which new cases were referred:

Nervous disorders	3	
Habit disorders	5	
Behaviour difficulties	13	
Educational retardation	<u>4</u>	25

Results of treatment:

Satisfactorily adjusted	3	
Much improved	6	
Slightly improved	11	
No change	2	
Commencing treatment	<u>3</u>	25

The position at the end of the year was as follows:

Diagnosed and advice given	5	
Diagnosed and awaiting treatment	1	
Sent elsewhere for treatment	2	
Treated and case closed	10	
Under treatment	<u>15</u>	33

Waiting List at end of year.

Partially investigated	16	
Not investigated	<u>32</u>	48

8. SPECIAL HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

The Education Authority was responsible for the cost of maintenance of the following cases in special hospitals:

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore.	4 cases.	Parthes Disease. Marked pes cavus. Congenital hallux valgus and osteochondritis. Multiple congenital deformities.
Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead.	2 cases	Hairy naevus of face.
Hospital for Sick Children, Tadworth and London.	5 cases	Bronchiectasis (2) Chronic eczema Orchidopexy Kidney stone.
Limb Fitting Centre, Rochampton Hospital.	1 case	Congenital absence of left arm.

9. SCHOOL MEALS AND MILK.

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

<u>Girls' High School,</u> <u>Eldon Road.</u>	-	Canteen on premises for pupils attending that School.
<u>Grammar School,</u> <u>Eversley Court.</u>	-	Canteen on premises for pupils attending that School.
<u>East Street No. 1.</u>	-	Meals prepared at this Centre were despatched by container service to the following schools. Bourne Junior. Bourne Infants. Meads Mixed.
<u>East Street No. 2.</u>	-	Catered for children attending Bourne County Secondary School. Christ Church Junior School, by container service
<u>Hampden Park County</u> <u>Secondary School.</u>	-	Canteen on premises for pupils attending that School. A container service catered for children attending the Hampden Park Junior School.
<u>Open Air School.</u>	-	Canteen on premises for pupils attending that School, and from January to July for pupils attending St. Mary's Boys', Girls' and Infants' Schools.
<u>St. Mary's Boys' School</u>	-	Canteen on premises opened in September for pupils attending that School. St. Mary's Girls' School) St. Mary's Infants' School) by container service.
<u>St. Aiden's</u>	-	Canteen on premises for pupils attending that School.

Central Kitchen No. 3. - Meals prepared sent by container service to:
Motor 'Bus Depot.

Bedewell.
 Christ Church Infants.
 St. Andrew's Junior.
 St. Andrew's Infants.
 St. Joseph's.
 St. Philip's Infants.
 Hampden Park Infants.

Junior Technical School. - Canteen on premises for pupils attending that School.

Friday Street. - Canteen in the Congregational Hall for pupils attending the Swallow's Nest School.

Victory British Restaurant. - Provided for pupils attending the Commercial School.

Hot mid-day meals to the number of 459,761 were served and of that total 115,700 were provided free. In the previous year, of the 333,322 meals served, 92,019 were provided free.

	MEALS				MILK				
Date	Number of Children in Schools	Free	Paid	Percentage taking meals	1/3 Pint.		2/3 Pint		Percentage taking milk
					Free	Paid	Free	Paid.	
			<u>Primary and Secondary Departments.</u>						
Feb.	3,865	437	1,308	45.1%	138	1,038	292	1,457	75.6%
June.	4,587	505	1,613	46.1%	171	1,183	353	1,635	72.8%
Oct.	4,724	520	2,033	54%	= Total 4,372 taking milk				92.5%

* Free milk for all school children came into operation on 6th. August, 1946.

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

Number in Family. Children were granted free milk and meals where the income per head of the family after deducting rent, rates and insurance was the following amount or less:

2 children	12s. per head.
3 or 4 children	11s. per head.
5 or more children	10s.6d. per head.

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

10. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

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

	<u>Scarlet</u> <u>Fever.</u>	<u>Whooping</u> <u>Cough.</u>	<u>Incunonia.</u>	<u>Diphtheria.</u>	<u>Measles.</u>	<u>Anterior</u> <u>Folio-</u> <u>myelitis.</u>	<u>Cerebro-</u> <u>Spinal</u> <u>Meningitis.</u>
January	11	2	1	1	-	-	-
February	3	12	1	-	-	-	-
March	1	8	-	-	-	1	-
April	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
May	2	1	1	-	1	-	-
June	4	3	1	-	2	-	-
July	3	4	-	-	6	-	-
August	-	3	-	-	4	-	-
September	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
October	-	1	1	-	3	-	1
November	-	1	-	-	19	-	-
December	1	1	-	-	50	-	-
Totals	28	39	6	1	86	1	1

SCABIES. One hundred and thirty-five children of school age were found to be suffering from this complaint (172 in 1945). These cases were treated in the special Scabies Out-Patient Clinic at the Sanatorium.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. Eighty children between the ages of 5 and 15 were immunised in the Authority's clinics. In addition, 151 children received a reinforcing dose of immunising reagent on entering school.

Our own immunisation records show that at the end of the year some 3,637 children of school age (a percentage of 67.00) had been immunised against diphtheria. The general school medical records, however, indicate that some 3,992 of the 5,107 children on the school registers had received the necessary protection. This would indicate that close on 80% of children attending the Local Authority's schools had been protected.

11. DEATHS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Three children of school age died during the year:-

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| (a) Appendicitis | Boy, aged 9 |
| (b) Appendicitis | Boy, aged 8 |
| (c) Rheumatic
Endocarditis | Boy, aged 5. |

12. SCHOOL NURSES.

The following is a brief summary of the work done by the School Nurses in connection with visits to the schools and the homes of the children:

Number of visits by nurses to schools	458
Number of visits by nurses to schools for medical inspection.	105
Number of visits to homes of children by nurses	1,317

13. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL TREATMENT FOR HANDICAPPED PUPILS.

A. - BLIND. There are no blind children of school age receiving special education under the Local Authority's scheme.

- B. - PARTIALLY SIGHTED. Two girls, aged 5 and 11 years, are being educated at the Catholic School for the Blind, Liverpool; two boys, aged 6 and 10 years, attend the Open Air School, and one girl of 10 years who lost her right eye in a railway accident, attends one of the junior schools.
- C. - DEAF. One girl, aged 10 years, is at the Royal School for Deaf and Dumb, Margate.
- D. - PARTIALLY DEAF. One girl of 6 years attends a local infant school. One boy of 3 years is receiving speech therapy at a London Hospital twice weekly.
- E. - DELICATE. Thirty-five boys and 10 girls were on the register of the Open Air School at the commencement of the year; 24 boys and 15 girls were admitted, and 12 boys and 1 girl were transferred to ordinary schools, making a total of 47 boys and 24 girls in the school at the close of the year. The average duration of attendance at the Open Air School was eighteen months.

Not all the pupils attending the Open Air School, however, came within the "Delicate" group; two were classified as Partially Sighted (Category "B"), three as Epileptic (Category "H") nine as Physically Handicapped (Category "J") and one as having Multiple Disabilities, (Category "L").

Conditions for which the children were admitted:

Debility	5	Chronic bronchial catarrh	1
Nervous debility	4	Mediastinal adenitis	6
Congenital heart disease ..	5	Cervical adenitis (non T.B.)	1
Rheumatic heart disease ..	2	Tuberculous glands - neck	1
Chorea	1	abdomen	3
Epilepsy	3	Bone tuberculosis	1
Bronchial asthma	2	Subnormal nutrition	1
Bronchiectasis	3		
			39

Condition of children leaving:

Cured	11	
Improved	1	
Left for treatment		
in Institutions	3	
Left district ...	<u>5</u>	(This figure includes Christmas
	18	leavers).

The staff of the Open Air School now comprises the Head Teacher, (Miss E.M.Thorne) and three assistants: Miss Smith having re-joined the staff in June. The four bungalow classrooms are occupied by four classes.

Up to Christmas, the transport arrangements were unaltered: all children from a distance using the service 'buses, with the exception of the pupils from Hampden Park, who were conveyed to and from school by taxi. In the current year, a special 'bus is being run to and from the school, picking up the children from collecting points in all parts of the town.

Apart from those attending the Open Air School, there are two other Delicate pupils; one, a boy of 6 years, at St. John's Open Air School, Woodford Bridge, and a boy of the same age attending a local infant school.

- F. - DIABETIC. A girl of 11 years is at Hutton Residential School, Nr. Brentwood, Essex. A boy aged 8 years attends a junior school; he receives a regular supply of insulin free through the Public Health Department.
- G. - EDUCATIONALLY SUB-NORMAL. In January 15 boys and 9 girls were on the register of St. Aidan's School; 6 boys and 3 girls were admitted and one girl and one boy left to take up employment. A total of 20 boys and 11 girls were in attendance at the close of the year.

Thirteen children were referred to the department by the Head Teachers for advice as to their suitability for transfer to St. Aidans. On examination

- 5 were recommended for transfer to St. Aidans.
- 2 were referred to the Child Guidance Clinic.
- In 4 cases no change was recommended.
- In 1 case a change to another junior school was advised.
- In 1 case the parent failed to bring the child for examination.

Two children were notified by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority.

- H. - EPILEPTIC. A girl of 12 years was unfit to attend any school. One boy, aged 10 is at St. Elizabeth's School, Much Hadham; three boys were in attendance at the Open Air School, and one boy of 7 and a girl of 14 were able to attend ordinary schools.
- I. - MALADJUSTED. Two children showed evidence of psychological disturbance necessitating special educational treatment; one a girl of 12 years was sent to Brecon Residential Hostel, Godalming for twelve months from March 1946, during which time she attended an ordinary school; the other, a boy of 7 years, was admitted to the Children's Homes, pending his admission to a hostel, and continued to attend an ordinary school.
- J. - PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED. The pupils in this group are those suffering from a severe or permanent physical disability. Two children, one a boy aged 6 years suffering from severe heart disease, and the other, a boy aged 8 years, suffering from very severe chronic skin trouble, were unfit to attend any school, and one girl of 14 years is at The Heritage Craft Schools, Chailey. Five children were in attendance at the Open Air School, and one boy of 9 years, who has an artificial left arm, was able to attend an ordinary school.
- K. - SPEECH DEFECT. Twenty children received special educational treatment in the form of Speech Therapy by reason of stammering, aphasia, or defect of voice or articulation not due to deafness.
- L. - MULTIPLE DISABILITIES. Two children suffered from two or more of the disabilities referred to above; one boy of 8 years was both educationally sub-normal and maladjusted and attends St. Aidan's School; one girl of 9 years is both educationally sub-normal and physically handicapped and attended the Open Air School until the end of 1946.

14. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1933.

Position at 1st. January 1946, as to Children Committed to the Care of the Local Education Authority.

<u>Date Committed.</u>	<u>Sex.</u>	<u>Age.</u>	<u>How Dealt With.</u>
31. 5.40.	Female	13	Boarded Out.
20.12.43	Male	10	In Children's Homes.
20.12.43	Male	8	In Children's Homes.
20.12.43	Female	6	Boarded Out.
20.12.43	Male	5	In Children's Homes.
20.12.43	Male	3	In Children's Homes.
10. 7.44	Female	10	In Children's Homes.
10. 7.44	Female	7	In Children's Homes.

During the year three boys and two girls were, on the application of parents, returned to their own homes by Order of the Court. Two boys aged nine and five years were committed to the care of the Local Authority. The position at the end of the year was as follows:

<u>Date Committed.</u>	<u>Sex.</u>	<u>Age.</u>	<u>How Dealt With.</u>
31. 5. 40.	Female	14	Boarded Out.
20.12. 43.	Male	6	Boarded Out.
20.12. 43.	Male	4	Boarded Out.
7. 1. 46.	Male	9	In Children's Homes.
7. 1. 46.	Male	5	In Children's Homes.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS.

Year ended 31st. December, 1946.

TABLE 1.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

A. - ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(1) No. of Inspections in the prescribed groups:

Entrants	574
Second Age Group	593
Third Age Group	551
Total	<u>1,718</u>

(2) No. of other Routine Inspections 231

Grand Total 1,949

B. - OTHER INSPECTIONS.

No. of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections 3,328.

TABLE 11.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE
ROUTINE AGE GROUPS.

No. of Pupils Inspected	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly sub-normal)		D. (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1,949	198	10.2	1,617	82.96	133	6.82	1	.05

TABLE 111.

GROUP 1. TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS (excluding uncleanliness).

Total number of defects treated or under treatment
during the year under the Authority's Scheme 1,314

GROUP 2. TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT UNDER THE AUTHORITY'S SCHEME.

Errors of refraction (including squint) 302
Other defects or disease of the eyes (excluding those
recorded in Group 1) 7

309

Number of Pupils for whom spectacles were:

(a) Prescribed 133
(b) Obtained 127

GROUP 3. TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF THE NOSE AND THROAT UNDER THE AUTHORITY'S SCHEME.

Received Operative Treatment 226
Received other forms of Treatment 16

242

TABLE IV.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Dentists.

(a) Routine Age Groups.

	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total.
No.	4	48	79	155	211	190	191	114	176	157	28	-	1,353.

(b) Specials 621

(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials) 1,974

(2) Number found to require treatment 1,670

(3) Number actually treated 1,248

(4) Attendances made by pupils for treatment 3,915

(5) Half days devoted to:

Inspection 15

Treatment 382

TOTAL 397

(6) Fillings:

Permanent Teeth 1,940

Temporary Teeth 1,074

TOTAL 3,014

(7) Extractions:

Permanent Teeth 308

Temporary Teeth 1,046

TOTAL 1,354

(8) Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions 579

(9) Other Operations:

Permanent Teeth 1,637

Temporary Teeth -

TOTAL 1,637

TABLE V.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.(i) Total number of examinations of pupils in the Schools by
School Nurses or other authorised persons 11,979

(ii) Number of individual pupils found unclean 537.