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Exeter (England). City Council.

Publication/Creation

1917

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City and County of the City of Exeter.

Education Committee.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY
OF THE CITY OF EXETER.

1917.

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SCHOOL MEDICAL STAFF.

The School Staff is now as follows:—

School Medical Officer.

PERCY H STIRK, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Lond.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

HUGH LLOYD ROBERTS, L.R.C.P.Ire., D.P.H., R.C.P.S.Ire.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

School Dentist.

CLIFFORD M. HAYDON, L.D.S., Eng.

School Nurses.

MRS. GRACE BURDETT.
MISS CAROLINE ANNIE KNUCKEY.
MISS ETHEL MAY TERRILL.

Clerk.

CHAS. F. HAYES.



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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF THE
CITY OF EXETER, 1917.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1917 on the Medical Inspection of School Children attending the Elementary Schools in the City.

This report in the interests of economy is in nature of a summary, as suggested by the Board of Education. During the year we were visited by Dr. Eichholz of the Board of Education who suggested that we should suspend the usual routine inspection and deal with the apparently ailing children only, but as we had the normal staff, Dr. Lloyd Roberts, as Medical Inspector, and the three School Nurses, there seemed no necessity to adopt his suggestion and we continued with the routine examination of Entrants, Leavers and Special Cases.

The appended returns are made in the form required by the Board of Education and while there are several points of interest to which one might usefully draw your attention, there is only one to which I think your earnest attention should be directed and that is the serious falling off in the number of children who have had the suggested medical treatment for defects.

After all, unless the ailments found are remedied the benefits to be derived from Medical Inspection are to a very great extent lost. The following list gives the percentage of children who have been treated during the last 9 years :—

1908	...	67'43
1909	...	83'5
1910	...	85'0
1911	...	83'0
1912	...	75'8
1913	...	90'2
1914	...	81'8
1915	...	45'2
1916	...	57'05

For the first 7 years the results were extremely good but unfortunately this high level has not been maintained. I am aware that at the moment and with the present depleted condition of the medical profession probably nothing practicable can be done, but I think the matter should receive attention with a view to our being prepared with a scheme which could be put in operation as soon as circumstances permit.

The number of attendances at the Inspection and Treatment Clinics shew that they are being more and more made use of and appreciated. The diseases treated at the Clinics consist at present of Ringworm, Impetigo and Dental.

In the Dental Department the dentist has far more work than he can cope with, and it has unfortunately been necessary to curtail the dental work to some extent.

The treatment of Ringworm by X-Rays has been much interfered with owing to the difficulty in obtaining satisfactory X-Ray tubes, suitable for treatment purposes at the present time.

Ringworm Clinic.

During the year 15 cases have been treated by X-Rays, and were all cured, and no unlooked for results or complications were observed.

75 areas have been exposed. The average length of time they had suffered from the disease previous to the X-Ray treatment was 2'3 months. The average length of time after the exposure to X-Rays before returning to school was 65'9 days.

Treated by School Nurse otherwise than by X-Rays.

96 cases have been treated by the School Nurse under the supervision of the School Medical Officer, either because the cases were not severe, or the parents were prejudiced against the use of X-Rays; 11 were still under treatment at the end of the year, leaving 85 cured by this method. These consisted of 33 cases of Ringworm of the Scalp, and 52 cases of Ringworm affecting parts of the body not covered by hair. The periods occupied by treatment varied from 234 to 7 days, the average being 41'8 days.

The number of visits paid to the Clinic for treatment was 1368.

Treatment of Impetigo.

225 cases of Impetigo were treated at the Clinic, and 1166 attendances were made at the end of the year. 213 were cured and 12 remained under treatment.

PERCY H. STIRK, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Lond.,

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer
for the City and County of the City of Exeter.

TABLE No. 1.
NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED IN 1917.
A.—“CODE” GROUPS.

Age	Entrants						Leavers				Grand Total	
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages	Total	12	13	14	Other Ages	Total	
Boys	2	266	173	95	512	1048	375	53	5	...	433	1481
Girls	1	245	180	94	366	886	371	97	8	...	476	1362
Total	3	511	353	189	878	1934	746	150	13	...	909	2843

B.—GROUPS OTHER THAN “CODE.”

	Special Cases	Re-examinations of Defectives (i.e., No. of Children Re-examined.)
Boys	...	4
Girls	...	2
Totals	...	6
		1192

ABBREVIATED FORM OF TABLE 2.
Return of Defects found in the Course of Medical Inspection.

DEFECT OR DISEASE. (1)	Code Group.		Special.	
	Number referred for Treatment. (2)	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment. (3)	Number referred for Treatment. (4)	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment. (5)
Malnutrition	...	...	...	...
Uncleanliness—Head	...	116	...	1
Body	...	12	...	1
<i>Skin—</i>				
Ringworm—Head	3	...	...	...
Body	2	...	...	...
Scabies	2	...	...	...
Impetigo	10	...	...	...
Other Disease	2	...	...	...
<i>Eye—</i>				
Defective Vision and Squint	130	42	3	...
External Eye Disease	3	8	...	...
<i>Ear—</i>				
Defective Hearing	10	14	...	...
Ear Disease	19	8	2	...
<i>Teeth—</i>				
Dental Disease	142	...	...	...
<i>Nose and Throat—</i>				
Enlarged Tonsils	123	80	1	1
Adenoids	4	2	...	2
Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	...	...	...	...
Defective Speech	...	21	...	4
<i>Heart and Circulation—</i>				
Heart Disease—				
Organic	...	29	...	1
Functional	...	2	...	...
Anaemia	...	...	...	...
<i>Lungs—</i>				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—				
Definite	...	...	...	...
Suspected	...	...	...	...
Chronic Bronchitis	...	...	...	...
Other Disease	3	26	...	...
<i>Nervous System—</i>				
Epilepsy	...	4	...	1
Chorea	1	1	...	...
Other Disease	...	3	...	...
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis				
Gland	...	...	...	...
Bones and Joints	...	...	...	...
Other Forms	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	5	...	...
Deformities	...	30	...	...
Other Defects or Diseases	34	12	...	...

TABLE No. 3.

Table showing HEIGHT and WEIGHT of BOYS

Examined during 1917 according to Age at Date of Examination compared with the Estimated Standard for Exeter School Children and the Standard for the Urban Districts of England.

Age	Number Examined	Average Height.			Average Weight.			Average Height Exeter School Children.	Average Height Urban Districts of England.	Average Weight Exeter School Children.	Average Weight Urban Districts of England.
		ft.	ins.	Centimetres.	st.	lbs.	Kilos.				
3	2	3	1	93.98	2	4	14.51	88.90	91.3	14.06	14.74
4	266	3	3	99.06	2	8	15.88	96.52	97.7	15.42	16.10
5	173	3	6	106.68	2	12	18.14	96.52	102.7	17.23	17.34
6	95	3	7	109.22	3	2	19.96	109.22	107.5	19.03	19.31
7	68	3	9	114.30	3	6	21.77	114.30	114.3	21.32	21.01
8	116	3	10	116.84	3	9	23.12	118.70	119.0	22.22	22.75
9	138	4	1	124.86	4	0	25.40	121.92	123.7	25.40	24.73
10	94	4	3	129.54	4	8	29.01	129.54	129.1	27.64	27.22
11	96	4	5	134.62	4	12	30.84	132.08	133.7	29.94	29.47
12	375	4	7	139.70	5	4	33.54	139.70	138.9	33.12	32.45
13	53	4	9	144.78	5	10	36.24	142.24	142.4	34.89	35.03
14	5	4	10	147.32	5	12	37.14	147.32	146.8	38.94	38.06

TABLE No. 3—*continued.*

Examined during 1917, according to Age at Day of Examination, compared with the Estimated Standard for Exeter School Children and the Standard for the Urban Districts of England.

Ages. Number Examined.	Average Height.			Average Weight.			Average Height Exeter School Children.	Average Height Urban Districts of England.	Average Weight Exeter School Children.	Average Weight Urban Districts of England.
	ft.	ins.	Centi- metres.	st.	lbs.	Kilos.				
3 1	3	1	93·98	2	3	14·06	88·90	90·9	14·06	14·29
4 245	3	3	99·06	2	6	15·42	93·98	96·7	15·42	15·69
5 180	3	5	104·14	2	11	17·08	101·60	102·0	16·33	16·92
6 94	3	7	109·22	3	1	19·48	109·22	107·2	19·03	18·44
7 67	3	9	114·30	3	4	20·87	114·30	113·4	20·42	20·40
8 79	3	11	119·38	3	7	22·22	119·38	117·5	21·77	22·18
9 77	4	2	127·00	4	0	25·40	121·92	122·6	24·94	24·56
10 74	4	4	132·08	4	7	28·54	132·08	129·4	26·72	26·57
11 69	4	5	134·62	4	13	31·29	134·62	132·3	29·94	29·16
12 371	4	8	144·78	5	4	33·54	137·16	139·3	33·54	32·79
13 97	4	10	147·32	5	11	36·74	144·78	144·0	36·69	35·94
14 8	4	11	149·56	6	3	39·39	149·86	148·7	37·59	39·65

TABLE 4.
TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN during the Year 1917.

Condition	No. of Defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary	Total	Results of Treatment			Percentage of Defects Treated
			No. of Defects Treated	Improved	Unchanged	
Clothing
Footgear
Cleanliness of Head
Cleanliness of Body
Nutrition
Nose and Throat	...	100	124	224	78	34.8
External Eye Disease	...	3	21	6	5	83.3
Ear Disease	...	4	25	4	14	56.0
Teeth
Heart and Circulation
Lungs	...	4	2	6	1	4
Nervous System
Skin
Rickets
Deformities
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)
Speech
Mental Condition	...	192	267	459	243	176
Vision and Squint	...	5	18	23	11	11
Hearing	...	38	34	72	6	33
Miscellaneous	...	1	12	13	9	4
Infectious Diseases
Totals	...	347	481	828	81	48.5

2356 Visits were made to homes of children by the School Nurses in connection with the above named defects brought to notice at School Inspections.

TABLE 5.

(1). The total Number of Children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child).	6177
(2). The number of Children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness, or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment).	727
(3). The number of Children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	828
(4). The number of Children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	402

* Consists of :—

- 2849. Entrants, Leavers and Special (Code Group).
- 1192. Re-Examination of Defective Children.
- 1571. Vision and Hearing Test. Were at their previous examination
in Infants School too young to be tested in these points.
- 565. 6/12 sights re-tested.

TABLE No. 6.
CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES other than those Classified In Table No. 2.
(DEFORMITIES AND MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES.)

	Deformities.	Miscellaneous Diseases.										Total	
		Hermia	Phimosis	Goutre	Incontinence of Urine	Night Terrors	Proddentia	Nebula	Hypospadias	Depressed Vastal Bones	Polythus		
Entrants—Boys	2	...	1	8	1	4	1	3	19	1	7	2	...
Girls	1	...	1	1	...	2	...	1	...	5	...	5	...
Leavers—Boys	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	3	9	...	3	...
Girls	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	...	2	...
Total—Entrants	3	...	1	2	8	3	4	2	19	6	7	2	...
Total—Leavers	2	1	...	...	2	1	1	1	9	5	3	2	...
Special—Boys	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Girls	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Grand Totals...	5	1	2	3	10	4	5	2	1	1	6	30	11
									5	10	5	...	1
										1	...	1	...
											...	1	61
											...	1	160

TABLE No. 7.
Table of PHYSICAL DEFECTS found among 639 BACKWARD CHILDREN.

Medical Examination showed that 444 or 69·47 per cent. of these Children had some Physical Defect, probably accounting for their Backwardness, the Backwardness of the majority of the remainder being due to Irregular Attendance.

Defects.	Boys.		Girls.		Infants.		Total.	Percentages.
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.		
Nutrition	1	3	...	...	4	0·6
Teeth	11	8	1	2	22	3·4
Nose and Throat—Mouth Breathing	9	9	...	...	18	2·8
Tonsils }	14	23	2	3	3	42	6·6	
Adenoids }	5	17	2	2	24	3·7
Glands	39	41	2	3	85	13·3
Eyes and Vision	34	52	2	5	93	14·6
Ears and Hearing	12	3	1	1	17	2·7
Speech	10	12	1	1	24	3·7
Heart and Circulation	8	1·2
Lungs	2	3	3	...	16	2·5
Nervous System	7	7	2	...	5	0·7
Tuberousis	2	3	...	...	11	1·7
Rickets	6	2	1	2	43	6·7
Deformities, Spinal Diseases, etc.	11	30	2	...	4	0·6
Infectious or Contagious Diseases	14	11	3	...	28	4·4
Other Disease or Defect
Total	177	228	20	19	444	69·47

TABLE No. 8.

Table showing Condition in respect of which Children attended the Inspection Clinic for Examination.

In 1911	...	...	612	Attendances.
„ 1912	...	...	923	„
„ 1913	...	...	1240	„
„ 1914	...	...	1477	„
„ 1915	...	...	1925	„
„ 1916	...	...	2331	„
„ 1917	...	...	2256	„

They were sent by the following :—

Head Teacher	...	...	1322
School Medical Officer	...	...	312
School Nurse	...	...	390
Medical Practitioners	...	...	9
Parents' own initiative	...	...	192
Attendance Officers	...	...	23
Private Individuals	...	...	8
Total number of Attendances			<u>2256</u>

OBJECT OF EXAMINATION.

Cardiac Disease	...	...	...	4
Chorea	...	...	...	2
Dental	...	...	...	585
Ear Disease	...	...	...	30
Eye Conditions	...	...	...	59
Epilepsy	...	...	...	30
Impetigo	...	...	...	418
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	4
Mentally Defective and Dull and Backward	...	...	...	22
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	330
Open Air School	...	...	...	—
Phthisis and query Phthisis	...	...	...	—
Ringworm and query Ringworm	...	...	...	314
Various Skin Disease (Eczema, Scabies, etc.)	...	...	...	118
Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	...	35
Special School	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis (non-Pulmonary)	...	...	...	8
Re Admissions to Institutions	...	...	...	6
Re Fitness for School Attendance	...	...	...	310
Verminous and Dirty	...	...	...	8
Total			<u>2286</u>	

TABLE No. 9. ROUTINE EXAMINATION OF LEAVERS

Showing the Result of the First Examination, and the number of new defects developed since the First Examination, and the Result of Further Recommendations for Treatment given during 1917.

GIRLS.		BOYS.	
First Examination. 1917		First Examination. 1917	
Number of Children Examined	476	433	433
Number of Defective Children (excluding verminous)	112	125	95
Number of Parents present	289	248	201
Number of Verminous Children	4	—	—
Clothing and Footgear	62	68	54
Girls.		Boys.	
Nature of Defect.		Treatment obtained.	
Nutrition	...	...	...
Teeth	...	12	12
Nose and Throat—Mouth Breathing	8	4	4
Tonsils & Adenoids	6	33	29
Glands	4	18	18
Eyes and Vision	...	39	36
Ears and Hearing	...	6	6
Speech	4	6	4
Mental Condition (mostly Backward)	3	2	2
Heart and Circulation	2	5	5
Lungs	1	6	6
Nervous System	1	2	1
Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary	...	1	1
Rickets	...	1	1
Deformities, Spinal Diseases, etc.	2	2	2
Infectious or Contagious Disease	6	4	4
Other Disease or Defect	8	3	3
Total	114	7	138

Defects found at the First Examination.	New Defects since First Examination.	To obtain treatment, 1917.	Treatment obtained.
Examination.	Examination.	Examination.	Examination.
First Examination. 1917	First Examination. 1917	First Examination. 1917	First Examination. 1917
Number of Children Examined	476	433	433
Number of Defective Children (excluding verminous)	112	125	95
Number of Parents present	289	248	201
Number of Verminous Children	4	—	—
Clothing and Footgear	62	68	54

TABLE No. 10.
RE-EXAMINATION OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

BOYS.

TABLE No. 10—*continued.*

GIRLS.

Nature of Defect.	Number of Defective Children previously to secure treatment.	Number of Children who have now had treatment.		Number of Children who have not had treatment.		Number of Children with new Defects.	Again advised to secure treatment.	To be re-examined.
		Advised	To be re-examined.	Cured	Improved.			
Nutrition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Nose and Throat—Mouth Breathing	...	6	...	...	...	1	...	...
Tonsils	104	60	44	24	1	9	38	42
Adenoids	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	33
Submax and Cervical Glands	84	10	84	6	2	21	16	...
External Eye Disease	13	10	3	23	1	3	2	38
Vision—R. and L.	...	98	94	4	10	7	14	...
Ear Disease	...	15	13	2	7	1	4	2
Hearing	...	20	12	8	5	8	2	56
Speech	...	5	...	5	...	...	2	1
Mental Condition	...	15	...	15	...	1	3	...
Heart and Circulation	...	23	1	23	1	4	5	4
Lungs	...	3	1	2	1	2	3	3
Nervous System	...	8	...	8	...	...	...	5
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deformities, Spinal Disease, etc.—Head	...	2	...	2	...	1	1	...
Trunk	3	...	3	3	...	2	1	...
Limbs	3	...	3	3	...	...	2	1
Infectious or Contagious Disease	...	15	9	6	2	1	4	...
Other Disease or Defect	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	7
Total	...	418	200	218	74	5	2	112
						99	146	11
								151

TABLE No. 10—*continued.*

INFANTS (BOYS).

Nature of Defect.	Number of Defective Children previously Examined.	Number of Children who have now had treatment.		Number of Children who have not had treatment.		Number of Children with new Defects.	Again advised to secure treatment.	To be re-examined.
		Advised to secure treatment.	To be re-examined.	Cured.	Improved.			
Nutrition	...	3	1	2	...	1	...	...
Nose and Throat—Mouth Breathing	...	9	1	8	...	4	2	3
Tonsils	...	49	38	11	5	10	14	5
Adenoids	20	20	14
Submax and Cervical Glands	...	49	...	49	2	10	19	14
External Eye Disease	...	11	11	6	...	1	2	12
Vision—R. and L.	...	6	6	4	...	...	6	29
Ear Disease	5	1	4	...	1	2
Hearing	1	1	1	...	1	...
Speech	...	11	...	11	...	1	6	...
Mental Condition	...	2	...	2	...	2	4	...
Heart and Circulation	...	6	...	6	...	...	...	...
Lungs	...	10	...	10	7	1	1	...
Nervous System	...	9	2	...	...	8	4	...
Tuberculosis	1	...	1	3	...
Rickets	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Deformities, Spinal Disease, etc.—Head
Trunk
Limbs	6	...	...	6	...	1	5	5
Infectious or Contagious Disease	...	1	20	3	7	1	1	...
Other Disease or Defect	...	23	...	...	...	3	9	4
Total	...	202	84	118	20	3	5	47
						52	51	88

TABLE NO. 10.—*continued.*

INFANTS (GIRLS).

Nature of Defect.	Number of Children		Number of Children who have now had treatment.		Number of Children who have not had treatment.		No. improvement.	Number of Children with new Defects.	Again advised to secure treatment.	To be re-examined.
	Number of Defective Children Examined.	Advised	To be re-examined.	Cured.	Improved.	Cured without treatment.				
Nutrition	3	...	3	...	...	2	2	...	...	3
Nose and Throat—Mouth Breathing	6	...	6	...	...	3	1	...	...	15
Tonsils	51	37	14	7	...	7	15	1	23	...
Adenoids	3	3	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	26
Submax and Cervical Glands	46	1	45	1	1	19	14	12	...	1
External Eye Disease	9	9	4	4	1	...	4	1	5	...
Vision—R. and L.	10	8	2	6	...	...	4	2	6	...
Ear Disease	4	1	3	2	...	2	...	1	3	2
Hearing	9	1	8	1	...	4	2	2	...	2
Speech	4	4	4	4	...	2	2	...	...	2
Mental Condition	4	4	4	4	...	3	3	...	...	4
Heart and Circulation	14	13	14	12	1	...	2	1	11	12
Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	2	...	2
Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis	...	2	2	2	...	...	2	...	1	2
Rickets	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Deformities, Spinal Disease, etc.—Head	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trunk	2	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	1
Limbs	6	1	2	2	...	1	3	1	1	3
Infectious or Contagious Disease	7	6	1	1	...	1	1	1	1	1
Other Disease or Defect	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	187	68	119	26	1	...	54	46	60	74

TABLE No. 11

NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
IN THE AREA.

			Boys	Girls	Total
BLIND (including partially blind)		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... Attending Certified Schools for the Blind Not at School ...	4 1	1	5 1
DEAF AND DUMB (including partially deaf)		Attending Public Elementay Schools ... Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf Not at School ...	1	1	2
MENTALLY DEFICIENT	Feeble minded	Attending Institution ... Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ... Not at School ...	2	1	3
	Imbeciles, Idiots	At Institution ... Not at School ...	1 2	3	1 5
EPILEPTICS.		Attending Public Elementary Schools ... Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics Not at School ...	4 2 6	2 2 9	6 4 15
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools ... Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ... Not at School ...	12	16	28
	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary School ... Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ... Not at School ...	18	12	30
	Cripples other than Tubercular	Attending Public Elementary Schools ... Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ... Not at School ...	5	3	8
* DULL OR BACKWARD		Retarded 2 years ... Retarded 3 years ...	47 41	32 36	79 77
		Total ...	181	149	330

* Judged according to age and standard.

TABLE No. 12.**DENTAL.**

**Percentage of Acceptances amongst Boys, Girls,
and Infants.**

	No. of Children Examined	No. accepted Dental Treatment	Percentage
Boys ...	262	161	61·4
Girls ...	391	256	65·4
Infants ...	280	76	27·1
Totals	933	493	52·8

TABLE No. 13.

Treatment carried out at the Dental Clinic during 1917.

The number of children who were treated at the Dental Clinic was 1429.

The attendances for treatment was 2430.

A general anaesthetic was administered by the School Medical Officer in 15 cases.