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BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL.



Annual Report  
OF THE  
School Medical Officer,  
—  
For the Year 1918,

BY

GEORGE JUBB, M.D., D.P.H.,  
OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.



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# School Medical Officer's Report,

1918.

## SECTION I.—General.

The Schools in the Borough of Hartlepool are ten in number, five being Provided Schools and five Non-provided.

### 1. Provided Schools.

Name of School.	Departments.	Accommodation.	Average Attendance
Church Close	B., G., Infnts.	738	478
Throston	" " "	839	509
Hart Road	" " "	723	430
Baltic Street	" " "	722	535
Galley's Field	Boys, Girls	714	565

### 2. Non-Provided Schools.

Middleton St. John's	Mixed, Infnts.	232	166
St. Bega's R.C.	" "	409	306
St. Mary's R.C.	" and "	210	118
Ann Crooke's	Boys	144	112
Prissick	Infants	194	133
		<u>4,925</u>	<u>3,352</u>

The year was marked by the unprecedented number of times the schools were closed on account of epidemic disease. In March the Infant Schools were closed for four weeks on account of Measles. In July all the Schools were closed for three weeks owing to the large number of cases of Influenza among teachers and scholars, and were not re-opened till after the summer holidays. In the middle of November the second wave of Influenza reached the town and found so many victims among the staff and the pupils, that the schools remained closed for five weeks. There were 4 deaths among school children in July, and 9 deaths in November and December. There was fortunately no fatal case among the staff.

All the schools were thoroughly disinfected, cleansed and ventilated, each time before re-opening.

In August, at the suggestion of the Medical Officer, the Education Committee resolved—that when the schools were closed on account of epidemic disease, the Managers of the Picture Halls should be asked to exclude children from the performances, and that the authority granting the cinema licenses should be asked to include in future licenses a clause having this effect. This clause has now been inserted in all cinema licenses.

The Military Authorities were in possession of Hart Road Schools throughout the year, and occupied Church Close Schools for the greater part of the year. The children displaced were accommodated in temporary premises, such as church halls, which were the best available but in most cases were crowded, badly ventilated and insufficiently lighted. In spite of this, and the excessive prevalence of infectious disease, I do not consider that the health of the majority of the children has suffered any permanent ill-effect.

## SECTION II.—Medical Inspection.

During 1918, 43 visits were paid to schools for the purpose of medical inspection, and 28 visits were paid for the purpose of re-inspecting children found to be defective at the ordinary inspection.

The number of children examined was 1715—51 per cent. of the average number of children attending school. The following figures shew the distribution of the children in the various classes :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Entrants ...	235	233	468
Leavers ...	211	185	396
Eight years ...	220	200	420
Special ...	210	221	431
	<hr/> 876	<hr/> 839	<hr/> 1715

The following table gives the height and weight for boys and girls at the different ages, and contrasts the results obtained for Hartlepool with those of England generally.



**BOYS.**

Age	Numbers Examined	Height in Inches		Weight in Pounds	
		H'pool	England	H'pool	England
5	225	40.0	40.7	39.0	38.6
8	220	48.9	47.4	52.0	52.0
12	208	54.0	55.1	72.0	72.7

**GIRLS.**

5	221	40.0	40.4	37.0	37.7
8	200	45.9	46.9	49.0	49.5
12	181	54.4	54.7	69.0	72.7

**Clothing and Footgear.**

In the routine examinations 2.6 per cent. of the children were found to have unsatisfactory clothing—that is, either in bad repair or insufficient. 2.8 per cent. had boots in bad repair. Those figures are a great improvement on 1917, when the percentages of defective clothing and footgear were 4.5 and 4.4 respectively.

Owing to the severity of the weather on the North-East coast it is imperative that children should be warmly clad and well shod if a reasonable standard of health is to be maintained. It is essential therefore to insist that no child be allowed to attend school barefooted.

**Cleanliness of the Head and Body.**

	Entrants	Leavers	8 years	Total
Nits present ...	38 (8.1 %)	25 (6.3 %)	34 (8.0 %)	97 (7.5 %)
Pediculi present on hair	4 (.8 „)		3 (.7 „)	7 (.5 „)
Body dirt ...	28 (5.6 „)	24 (6.0 „)	34 (8.0 „)	86 (6.6 „)
Pediculi present on body	3 (.6 „)	4 (1.0 „)	4 (.9 „)	11 (.8 „)

In 1917, the percentage of children (girls) with nits in the hair was 13.6, and in 1916 20.1. In 1917 the percentage with pediculi (lice) in the hair was .5, exactly the same as in 1918. It is evident that there is steady improvement in the milder forms of verminousness.

The School Nurses carried out quarterly head-to-head inspection of girls with the following result :—

	Number Examined.		Notices Sent	
1st Quarter	...	1508	...	291
2nd „	...	1566	...	266
3rd „	...	1739	...	218

No head-to-head inspections were carried out during the last quarter of the year, as the schools were closed on account of influenza.

### Children Excluded from School under Article 53 (b).

During the year 559 children were excluded. The average exclusion for the last four years has been 380. Most of the exclusions were due to the prevalence of scarlet fever, measles and mumps.

Reason for Exclusion				Number of Children	
No Boots	...	...	...	...	17
Vermin (head)	...	...	...	...	11
„ (body)	...	...	...	...	7
Skin Diseases	...	...	...	...	65
Eye Injuries and Diseases	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	11
Scarlet Fever	51	Contacts	79	...	130
Diphtheria	1	„	2	...	3
Measles	129	„	65	...	194
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	18
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	6
Mumps	...	...	...	...	62
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	8
„ (Non-Pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	20
					559

**Attendance Visits** are paid by the School Nurses to cases reported by the Wardens. In these cases, if the information obtained at the home is unsatisfactory, the child (if fit) is directed to attend at the School Clinic for examination. During the year 150 of these visits were paid.



### SECTION III.—Treatment.

88 per cent. of the children referred for treatment obtained satisfactory attention during 1918. This is a commendable advance on the results of 1917, when 72 per cent. were attended to.

There is however one defect which so far has received practically no attention—I refer to defective teeth. A few extractions were obtained as the result of numerous notices, but in no case was any sound conservative treatment found on re-examination.

The teeth of the children will only receive satisfactory attention when a School Dentist is appointed and provided with an up-to-date and well-furnished dental clinic. The teeth are so important and their disease and loss followed in so many cases by ill-health and disablement that it is difficult to find words strong enough to urge the provision of dental treatment without delay. Early and regular attention to the teeth of our school children would prevent many cases of chronic disease of the lungs, stomach, throat, joints, blood, &c.

**Following-up Visits** have been paid by the School Nurses where necessary, the numbers amounting to 1475.

### SCHOOL CLINIC.

1918 was the third year of the School Clinic, 558 children being treated as compared with 601 in 1917, and 749 in 1916. It was anticipated that every year would see a reduction in the number of cases treated, more especially in the class of contagious skin diseases, but as a consequence of the war and the home visits of infected soldiers on leave there has been a tremendous increase in the number of cases of scabies, the cases of this disease in 1918 being nearly double the number discovered in 1917. The home treatment of scabies (itch) is usually inefficient and the cure unduly prolonged, and in consequence much unnecessary loss of school time occasioned.



**Diseases met with at Treatment Clinic.**

			Cured	Under Treatment	Total
Impetigo	...	...	168	31	199
Ringworm (head)	...	...	16	2	18
"    (body)	...	...	6	2	8
Itch	...	...	82	12	94
Boils and Abscesses	...	...	26	1	27
Skin (other conditions)	...	...	47	1	48
Ophthalmia	...	...	57	2	59
Blepharitis	...	...	19	4	23
Eye (other conditions)	...	...	2	4	6
Ear Discharge	...	...	11	3	14
Wounds, Burns and Scalds	...	...	51	1	52
Miscellaneous	...	...	9	1	10
			<hr/> 494	<hr/> 64	<hr/> 558

**EYE CLINIC.**

This was the first complete year, sessions of one hour each being held weekly.

Dr. Foster, School Ophthalmic Surgeon reports :—

"The number of refraction cases tested by retinoscopy was 155. Of this number 84 have obtained glasses during the year. Owing to the closing of the clinic due to the outbreak of Influenza no doubt a further number have got their glasses and have not reported the fact as yet.

Out of the number 155 the following contingencies reduce the number which one would expect to get glasses :—

No glasses required	...	7
Not improved	...	7
Wearing correct glasses	...	1
Absent	...	2
No report on glasses	...	14
		<hr/> 31

The errors of refraction were as follows :—

Hypermetropia	...	...	...	43
Simple Hypermetropic Astigmatism	...	...	...	46
Compound " "	...	...	...	6
Myopia	...	...	...	7
Simple Myopic Astigmatism	...	...	...	1
Compound " "	...	...	...	1
Mixed Astigmatism	...	...	...	1
Anisometropia	...	...	...	18
" " (Child over 14 years. No glasses ordered)	...	...	...	1
				<hr/> 124

The Anisometropias were as follows :—

- 4 cases of Hypermetropia and Compound Hypermetropic Astigmatism
- 2 cases of Simple Hypermetropic Astigmatism with Compound Hypermetropic Astigmatism
- 2 cases of Hypermetropia and Simple Hypermetropic Astigmatism
- 1 case of Hypermetropia and Myopia
- 2 cases of Emmetropia and Simple Hypermetropic Astigmatism
- 1 case of Amblyopia with Hypermetropia
- 1 case of Emmetropia with Compound Myopic Astigmatism
- 1 case of Compound Myopic Astigmatism with Simple Hypermetropic Astigmatism
- 2 cases of Compound Myopic Astigmatism with Simple Myopic Astigmatism
- 1 case of Amblyopia with Simple Hypermetropic Astigmatism
- 2 cases of Hypermetropia with Simple Myopic Astigmatism

Despite many difficulties in the past, I think the future year will show still better work."



TABLE I.

Number of Children Inspected 1st January, 1918, to 31st December, 1918.

## A. "Code" Groups.

Age	ENTRANTS					Inter- mediate Group	LEAVERS				Grand Total
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages	Total	12	13	14	Total	
Boys ...	...	...	225	10	...	235	220	208	...	211	666
Girls ...	...	...	221	12	...	233	200	181	...	185	618
Totals ...	...	...	446	22	...	468	420	389	...	396	1284

## B. Groups other than "Code."

(1)	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years) (2)	Special Cases (3)	Re-Examinations (i.e., Number of Children Re-Examined) (4)
Boys ...	...	210	405
Girls ...	...	221	467
Totals ...	...	431	867

## Abbreviated Form of Table II.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection.

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	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Uncleanliness :						
	Head	...	...	30	...	19	...
	Body	...	...	18	...	7	...
Skin	Ringworm :						
	Head	...	...	3	...	...	...
	Body	...	...	3	...	...	...
	Scabies	...	...	10	...	101	...
	Impetigo	...	...	18	...	26	...
	Other Diseases	...	...	5	...	48	2
Eye	Defective Vision and Squint...	...	...	121	5	7	...
	External Eye Disease	...	...	9	...	20	...
Ear	Defective Hearing	...	...	1	...	1	...
	Ear Disease	...	...	3	...	6	...
Teeth	Dental Disease	...	...	27	...	6	...
Nose and Throat	Enlarged Tonsils	...	...	3	3	4	2
	Adenoids	...	...	5	2	5	2
	Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	...	...	6	...	...	...
	Defective Speech	...	...	...	2	...	4
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease :						
	Organic	...	...	...	...	3	1
	Functional	...	...	3	2	...	...
	Anæmia	...	...	...	...	2	...
Lungs	Pulmonary Tuberculosis :						
	Definite	...	...	1	...	10	...
	Suspected	...	...	...	...	3	...
	Chronic Bronchitis...	...	...	2	...	4	...
	Other Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nervous System	Epilepsy	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chorea	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Disease	...	...	...	2	2	...
	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis :						
	Glands	...	...	...	...	10	...
	Bones and Joints	...	...	...	...	2	...
	Other Forms	...	...	1	...	7	...
	Rickets	...	...	6	2	3	2
	Deformities	...	...	1	...	2	...
	Other Defects and Diseases	...	...	1	2	103	4



**TABLE III.**

Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in area.

		Boys. Girls. Total		
BLIND (including partially Blind)		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	...	...
		Not at School	...	1 1
DEAF AND DUMB (including partially Deaf)		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	...	2 2
		Not at School	...	1 1 2
MENTALLY DEFECTIVE	Feeble Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	12 7 19
		Attending Certified Schools for mentally defective children	...	...
		Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year	...	...
	Imbeciles	At School	...	...
		Not at School	...	1 1
	Idiots			
EPILEPTICS		Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	1 1
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics	...	...
		Not at School	...	...
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for physically defective children	...	...
		Not at School	...	2 2
	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	2 2
		Attending Certified Schools for physically defective children	...	...
		Not at School	...	2 1 3
	Cripples other than Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	2 2
		Attending Certified Schools for physically defective children	...	...
		Not at School	...	3 4 7
Dull or backward* }		Retarded 2 years	...	61 89 150
		„ 3 years	...	8 11 19

\* Judged according to Age and Standard.

TABLE IV.—Treatment of Defects of Children during 1918.

Condition	No. of Defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary			Number of Defects for which no Report is available	No. of Defects Treated	Results of Treatment			No. of Defects not treated	Per-centage of Defects treated
	From previous year	New	Total			Remedied	Improved	Unchang'd		
Clothing	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	100.0
Footgear	4	26	30	...	30	26	4	...	...	100.0
Cleanliness of Head	38	49	87	3	84	79	5	...	...	96.5
Cleanliness of Body	9	25	34	...	34	31	3	...	...	100.0
Nutrition	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	100.0
Nose and Throat	19	23	42	4	26	24	2	...	12	61.9
External Eye Disease	3	29	32	...	32	28	3	1	...	100.0
Ear Disease	1	9	10	...	10	5	2	3	...	100.0
Teeth	6	33	39	2	8	6	2	...	29	20.5
Heart and Circulation	2	8	10	1	9	6	3	...	...	90.0
Lungs	...	20	20	...	20	12	7	1	...	100.0
Nervous System	...	2	2	...	2	2	...	...	...	100.0
Skin	15	214	229	...	229	227	2	...	...	100.0
Rickets	4	9	13	...	13	10	2	1	...	100.0
Deformities	1	3	4	...	4	1	1	2	...	100.0
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	1	20	21	...	21	15	6	...	...	100.0
Speech	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mental Condition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vision and Squint	157	128	285	10	227	201	16	10	48	79.6
Hearing	1	2	3	...	3	...	2	1	...	100.0
Miscellaneous	...	104	104	...	104	91	9	4	...	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>88.7</b>



TABLE V.

(1)	The total number of Children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child)...	1715
(2)	The number of Children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treat- ment) ... ..	35
(3)	The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, &c.) ... ..	560
(4)	The number of Children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, &c. ... ..	528

