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BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

BY

GEORGE JUBB, M.D., D.P.H.,

OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.



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—❧— SCHOOL HEALTH STAFF. —❧—

Medical Officer:

GEORGE JUBB, M.D., D.P.H.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

J. R. FOSTER, M.B., F.R.C.S., (EDIN.)

Dentist:

E. B. BRIDGES, L.D.S.

Nurses:

ALICE HAYDEN, M. A. FELLOWS.

School Medical Officer's Report,

1919.

SECTION 1.—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., Infts.	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, Infts.	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	141
		<u>4,925</u>	<u>3,360</u>

In February, the third wave of Influenza reached the town. The school attendance was soon seriously affected and owing to the large number of cases among both teachers and pupils, on 24th February the schools were closed for three weeks. There were only two fatal cases among the school children as compared with four deaths in the first wave and nine deaths in the second wave. The School Nurses were released from their ordinary duties and assisted the medical practitioners in the care of the sick. Their services were invaluable both to doctors and sufferers from Influenza and the results were so gratifying that in any future emergency they will be asked to volunteer again for similar duties.

Since February the school attendance has been good. There were 55 cases of scarlet fever in school children, but only 5 cases of measles

SECTION II.—Medical Inspection.

During 1919, 67 visits were paid to schools for the purpose of medical inspection and 43 visits were paid for the purpose of re-inspecting children found to be defective at the ordinary inspection.

The number of children examined was 2,131—63 per cent. of the average number of children attending school. The figures below shew the distribution of the children in the various classes :—

		BOYS.		GIRLS.		TOTAL.
Entrants	...	287	...	297	...	584
Leavers	...	236	...	229	...	465
Eight years	...	217	...	217	...	434
Special	...	296	...	352	...	648
		1,036		1,095		2,131

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

Boys.

		Height in Inches		Weight in Pounds	
Age	Numbers Examined	Hartlepool	England	Hartlepool	England
5	280	40·4	40·7	37·8	38·6
8	217	46·0	47·4	50·8	52·0
12	231	54·7	55·1	71·9	72·7

Girls.

5	293	38·4	40·4	36·1	37·7
8	217	46·7	46·9	49·4	49·5
12	220	54·3	54·7	69·7	72·7

Clothing and Footgear.

In the routine examination 2.1 per cent. of the children were found to have unsatisfactory clothing—that is, in bad repair, dirty or insufficient, usually a combination of all three defects. 2.5 per cent. had boots in bad repair.

On 15th December a special inquiry was made into the foot-wear of all children at school on that day. It was found that 9 boys were attending school barefooted. All the girls had boots, but one was reported to have no stockings. In many cases the boots were worn out and unsound, and worse than useless. Measures were taken to insure that these children were attended to; a child's health and powers of resistance to disease are soon undermined, if, on the one hand, it has to come to school barefooted through frost and snow, or on the other hand, has to sit many hours in school with cold and damp feet. In considering the order of importance of attention to any child's defects, I would regard warm clothing and sound boots as of the first importance, next, cleanliness of the head and body, and lastly, attention to any organic defect. It seems absurd to supply spectacles to a barefooted child, but I have actually seen such a child coming forward for retinoscopy.

Cleanliness of the Head and Body.

	Entrants	Leavers	8 years	Total
Nits present (Girls) ...	38 (12.7%)	48 (25.1%)	41 (23.3%)	127 (17%)
Pediculi present in hair (Girls)	5 (1.5 „)		7 (3.5 „)	12 (1.6 „)
Body dirt ...	16 (2.7 „)	22 (4.7 „)	36 (8.3 „)	74 (4.3 „)
Pediculi (body) or Fleabites ...	13 (2.2 „)	9 (2.0 „)	15 (3.4 „)	37 (2.4 „)

The condition of the hair of many of the girls still leaves much to be desired. If the hair was kept quite short, cropped like that of a boy, there would not be so much trouble with verminous and impetiginous heads. There seems to be a crying need for a school barber, and I look forward to the day when the school service includes an expert of this craft or profession. At present much of the time of the School Nurses at the Clinic is taken up with "cleaning heads," a process in which the scissors play a prominent part.

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

	Number Examined	Notices Sent
1st Quarter	1,680	268
2nd „	1,565	250
3rd „	1,638	237
4th „	1,643	233

For the purpose of carrying out these verminous surveys the Nurses paid 110 visits to schools.

Children Excluded from School under Article 53 (b.)

During the year, 440 children were excluded. The average annual exclusions for the previous four years have been 380. Most of the exclusions were due to the prevalence of Scarlet Fever and Itch.

Reason for Exclusion				Number of Children	
No Boots	..	...	...	2	
Vermin (head)	...	...	...	20	
„ (body)	...	...	...	6	
Skin Diseases	...	...	...	95	
Eye Injuries and Diseases	...	...	...	4	
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	120	
Scarlet Fever	55	Contacts	76	...	131
Measles	5	„	1	...	6
Smallpox		„	3	...	3
Whooping Cough	3	...	...	...	3
Chicken-pox	10	...	..	...	10
Mumps	10	...	...	...	10
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	..	..	...	15
„ (Non-Pulmonary)		...	...	...	15
					440

Attendance Visits are paid by the School Nurses to cases reported by the Attendance Officers. 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, 190 of these visits were paid.

SECTION III.—Treatment.

94 per cent. of the children referred for treatment during the year, obtained the necessary attention. This shows a satisfactory improvement on the results of 1918, when 88 per cent. were attended to. The ideal aimed at is that every child found defective should without delay come under treatment.

Negotiations are at present going on with the Hartlepoons Hospital with regard to the treatment of enlarged tonsils and adenoids, in order that the arrangements for attending to school children should be put on a sound basis, both as to remuneration for the work done and as to avoidance of cases remaining untreated. It is hoped that shortly a satisfactory arrangement will be come to.

Following-up Visits have been paid by the School Nurses where necessary, the numbers amounting to 598.

SCHOOL CLINIC.

1919 was the fourth year of the Clinic for the treatment of minor ailments among school children. 625 children were treated, their total attendances amounting to 6,820 or an average of 11 attendances each.

Diseases met with at Treatment Clinic.

	Cured.	Under Treatment.	Total.
Impetigo	230	25	255
Ringworm (head)	28	6	34
" (body)	4	1	5
Itch	88	7	95
Boils and Abscesses	78	—	78
Skin (other condition)	23	2	25
Ophthalmia	44	1	45
Blepharitis	14	1	15
Eye (other conditions)	2	2	4
Ear Discharge	21	3	24
Wounds, Burns and Scalds	29	1	30
Miscellaneous	12	3	15
	573	52	625

EYE CLINIC.

Dr. Foster, School Ophthalmic Surgeon, reports :—

"174 cases were tested under atropine, and glasses ordered. Of this number, 134 got glasses and there are yet a number of children who will have, in the ordinary course of events, obtained glasses, but the prescriptions being given on the last two weeks of the Ophthalmic year have not yet materialised, but will, of course, do so at an early date.

The types of refractive error were in the following proportion :—

Hypermetropia	73
Simple Hypermetropic Astigmatism ...	36
Compound „ „ ...	18
Myopia	10
Simple Myopic Astigmatism ...	6
Compound „ „ ...	1
Mixed Astigmatism	1
Anisometropia	26
Practically Emetropia	3
	174

The residue of the cases came under the designation of:—

Unsatisfactory	4
Glasses in possession	1
Refused Treatment	1
Uncompleted	7
	13

A regular Ophthalmic Clinique is now in being, with books and equipment of the recognised kind. The work so far has been small in volume, but is certain to increase during the coming year. Taken altogether the work of the clinique shows signs of improvement, and while the difficulty of getting full appreciation from a number of the parents is still with us, it is beyond doubt, steadily becoming less, and must undoubtedly disappear in time, except in possibly extreme cases."

DENTAL CLINIC.

The Dental Clinic was inaugurated in December, when Mr. Bridges began the routine dental inspection of children at the age period 6—8 years. 151 children were examined, 85 (56%) of whom were referred for treatment. This treatment will be given when the schools resume after the holidays, at the West Hartlepool Dental Clinic. At present sessions are being held fortnightly, but as the work progresses and the arrangements are found to run smoothly, it will be necessary to have sessions weekly, in order to carry out thoroughly and in good time, the conservative treatment of the children's teeth.

SECTION IV.—Employment of Children of School Age.

In view of the restrictions imposed by the new Education Act on the employment of school children out of school hours, an inquiry was made into the extent and conditions under which school children in Hartlepool are at present being employed before, between, and after school hours, and on Saturdays.

It was found that 125 boys were thus employed, that is 4% of the school children on the registers. No girls were employed except in housework, or taking care of young children in the houses of relatives.

Ages of Boys Employed.

8 years of age	...	...	1
9 " "	...	...	2
10 " "	...	...	10
11 " "	...	...	27
12 " " and over	...	...	85

Nature of Employment.

Most of the boys were employed as errand boys, or in delivering newspapers. The following list gives an idea of the variety of occupations requiring the assistance of child labour.

	Number of Boys.	
Delivering Newspapers	...	46
Employed by Butchers	...	23
" " Grocers	...	17
" " Greengrocers	...	6
" " Barbers	...	5
" " Drapers	...	5
" " Chemists	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	20
		125

Hours Employed

Under 10 hours per week	...	41 boys
From 10 to 20 hours per week	...	50 "
" 20 to 30 hours per week	...	34 "

It was found that 63 boys were employed all day on Saturday, and there were cases where boys were employed until 11 o'clock on Saturday night. Many of the boys were employed during the mid-day interval, insufficient time being allowed for dinner.

The Medical Inspection of these children shewed that a considerable portion of them were pale, undersized and poorly nourished. It is proposed therefore, to examine employed school children specially, at regular intervals.

It is recommended that suitable Bye-Laws be prepared to control the hours and conditions of this employment, and in particular that :—

1. No child be employed below 12 years of age.
2. No child be employed at the mid-day interval.
3. Employment on Saturday be restricted to not more than 7 hours, or later than 9 p.m.
4. No child be employed where a certificate is given by the School Medical Officer that the child is physically unfit for that particular work.

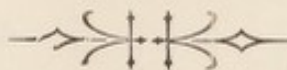


TABLE I. Number of Children Inspected 1st January, 1919, to 31st December, 1919.

A "Code" Groups.

	ENTRANTS						Inter- mediate Group	LEAVERS					Grand Total	
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages	Total		12	13	14	Other Ages	Total		
Age							8							
Boys ...	...	...	280	7	...	287	217	231	5			236	740	
Girls ...	...	...	293	4	...	297	217	220	9			229	743	
Totals...	...	...	573	11		584	434	451	14			465	1,483	

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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 ...		296	360
Girls ...		352	444
Totals...		648	804

TABLE II.—Return of Defects found in the Course of
Medical Inspection in 1919.

Defect or Disease		Code Groups		Specials	
		Number referred for treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment	Number referred for Treatment	Number requiring to be kept under observ- ation, but not referred for Treatment
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	Malnutrition	...	11	...	...
	Uncleanliness :—				
	Head ..	74	...	17	...
	Body ...	30	...	4	...
Skin	Ringworm :—				
	Head	6	...	28	...
	Body...	2	...	3	...
	Scabies	9	...	86	...
Eye	Impetigo	27	...	228	...
	Other Diseases	15	...	89	2
	Defective Vision and Squint	147	6	5	3
	External Eye Disease...	18	...	47	2
Ear	Defective Hearing	3	...	...	...
	Ear Disease	7	...	17	...
Teeth	Dental Disease	45	...	...	...
Nose and Throat	Enlarged Tonsils	3	4	...	2
	Adenoids ...	11	3	1	2
	Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	4	...	...	...
	Defective Speech	...	...	...	...
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease :—				
	Organic	2	...	...	...
	Functional	...	...	...	...
	Anæmia	5	...	...	...
Lungs	Pulmonary Tuberculosis :—				
	Definite	...	...	22	...
	Suspected	...	...	...	...
	Chronic Bronchitis	1	...	...	...
Nervous System	Other Disease	...	...	...	...
	Epilepsy	...	...	...	...
	Chorea	...	...	...	...
	Other Disease	...	...	...	...
	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis :—				
	Glands	1	...	14	2
	Bones and Joints...	1	...	...	...
	Other Forms	1	...	...	2
	Rickets	11	...	...	...
	Deformities	...	...	...	...
	Other Defects or Diseases	3	3	89	1

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	I		I
DEAF AND DUMB (including partially Deaf)		Attending Public Elementary Schools			
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf		3	3
		Not at School	I	I	2
MENTALLY DEFECTIVE	Feeble Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools	5	9	14
		Attending Certified Schools for mentally defective Children Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year			
		Not at School			
	Imbeciles	At School			
		Not at School		I	I
	Idiots				
EPILEPTICS		Attending Public Elementary Schools	I		I
		Attending Certified Schools Epileptics			
		Not at School		I	I
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools			
		Attending Certified Schools for physically defective Child'n			
		Not at School	3	4	7
	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	2	2	4
		Attending Certified Schools for physically defective Child'n			
		Not at School			
	Cripples other than Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	2	I	3
		Attending Certified Schools for physically defective Child'n			
		Not at School	3	2	5
Dull or backward* }		Retarded 2 years	77	79	156
		Retarded 3 years	14	18	32

* Judged according to age and Standard.

TABLE IV.—Treatment of Defects of Children during 1919.

Condition	No. of Defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary			No. of Defects for which no Report is available	No. of Defects Treated	Results of Treatment			No. of Defects not Treated	Percentage of Defects Treated
	From previous year	New	Total			Remedied	Improved	Unchanged		
Clothing	...	6	6	...	6	4	2	...	...	100.0
Footwear	...	15	15	...	15	12	3	...	...	100.0
Cleanliness of Head	1	91	92	4	88	67	21	...	...	95.6
Cleanliness of Body	...	34	34	...	34	34	...	...	...	100.0
Nutrition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nose and Throat	4	19	23	2	8	8	...	...	13	34.8
External Eye Disease	...	65	65	...	65	44	18	3	...	100.0
Ear Disease	...	24	24	...	24	10	8	6	...	100.0
Teeth	15	45	60	4	25	19	6	...	31	51.6
Heart and Circulation	...	7	7	...	7	...	7	...	...	100.0
Lungs	...	23	23	1	22	14	5	3	...	100.0
Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Skin	...	493	493	...	493	477	14	2	...	100.0
Rickets	...	11	11	...	11	...	9	2	...	100.0
Deformities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	...	17	17	...	17	13	3	1	...	100.0
Speech	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mental Condition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vision and Squint	38	152	190	2	182	141	30	11	6	95.7
Hearing	...	3	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	100.0
Miscellaneous	...	92	92	3	89	75	9	5	...	96.7
TOTAL	58	1097	1155	16	1089	918	138	33	50	94.2

TABLE V.

Inspection, Treatment, &c., of Children during 1919.

(1)	The total number of Children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child) ...	2,131
(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 treatment). ...	43
(3)	The number of Children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, &c.) ..	798
(4)	The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, &c.) ...	729

