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HEREFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE



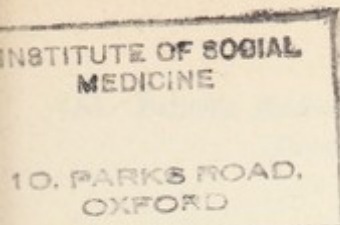
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1948



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report relating to the year ended 31st December, 1948, on the work of the School Health Services in the area administered by the Education Committee of the Herefordshire County Council.

The routine medical inspection of school children was carried out on the same lines as in the previous year. It will be seen that 6,309 children received a routine medical examination as compared with 6,001 during 1947, whilst 2,026 received a special examination as compared with 1,772. This increase is probably due to the appointment of a City Medical Officer of Health, who has devoted a substantial part of his time to school work.

The routine dental inspection was carried out as in previous years. It will be seen from the report of the Senior Dental Officer that 24,481 children were inspected, considerably more than in 1947, and 6,924 children received treatment, a higher number than last year.

It is gratifying to report that the full establishment of dental officers was maintained during the year with no changes, and a dental attendant was appointed to assist each dental officer.

From 5th July, 1948, the duty of the Committee to provide free medical treatment, short of domiciliary care, for all pupils attending maintained schools, passed to the Regional Hospital Board. The Senior Administrative Medical Officer of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board has indicated that, for the immediate future, it is the policy of the Board to continue the existing arrangements for the hospitalisation and attendance at specialist clinics of school children. A standard form of record for admission to, and discharge from, the hospitals, it is hoped, will be used throughout the region, in respect of all children under the age of 16 years, and will be provided for the information of the Department. The existing arrangements for the treatment of minor ailments have been continued, and financial responsibility is borne by the Committee. In the future, it is possible that the work of the Minor Ailments Clinic will be undertaken at a Health Centre, or Clinics which may eventually be provided by the County Council, as Local Health Authority, under Section 21 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

It will be noted that it has not yet been possible to establish a Child Guidance Clinic within the County, although a Speech Therapist was appointed and took up her duties in the latter part of the year.

The School Nurses made 98,777 examinations for the determination of infestation, and 995 children were found to be unclean. Instructions were given to the parents, but in no case was it necessary to take formal action.

In conclusion, I should once again like to record my appreciation of the loyal assistance given to me by all members of the staff throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. COOKSON,

School Medical Officer.

County Health Department,
35 Bridge Street, Hereford.

April, 1949.

STAFF—

School Medical Officer—

J. S. COOKSON, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law.

Deputy School Medical Officer—

S. HEWITT, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officers—

*H. F. GREEN, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (Resigned 31/5/48).

*W. HOGG, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

*M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H. (Appointed 1/6/48).

MARY M. MCKELVIE, M.B., Ch.B.

*R. T. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Appointed 1/9/48).

* Also District Medical Officers of Health.

Senior School Dental Officer—

J. B. HEAP, L.D.S.

Assistant School Dental Officers—

L. H. CHALLENGER, L.D.S.

R. B. STEEL, L.D.S.

JESSIE ROTHERA, L.D.S.

Dental Attendants—

MRS. M. GREEN. (Appointed 5/4/48).

MISS K. E. WALKER. (Appointed 5/4/48).

MISS B. G. M. MOSES. (Appointed 12/4/48).

MISS J. M. WILLIAMS. (Appointed 3/5/48).

Speech Therapist—

MISS M. E. M. LOWES, L.C.S.T. (Appointed 27/9/48).

County Nursing Superintendent—

MISS B. SHENTON, M.B.E., S.R.N., S.C.M. (Resigned 31/8/48).

MISS F. E. SIMKINS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed 1/10/48).

There are three Assistants and one Deputy County Nursing Superintendent.

School Nurses—

The staff of sixty Nurses in the County carry out the School Nursing in addition to their other duties. In the City of Hereford there are six full-time Health Visitors who devote half of their time to School Nursing duties.

MEDICAL INSPECTION

MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

Number of Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
Number of Pupils on School Register—Primary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9285
Secondary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6513
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15798

(A) Periodic Medical Examinations—

<i>Primary.</i>	Entrants ...	...	...	...	...	...	1644	
	2nd Age Group ...	...	...	...	...	...	1469	
	Other Group ...	...	...	...	...	...	1072	
						Total ...		4185
<i>Secondary.</i>	Entrants ...	...	...	...	...	...	413	
	3rd Age Group ...	...	...	...	...	...	1711	
						Total ...		2124
	Total Pupils examined	...	...	...	...	...		6309

(B) Other (Non-Periodic) Examinations—

<i>Special Examinations.</i>	Primary ...	...	...	...	...	491	
	Secondary ...	...	...	...	...	493	
					Total ...		984
<i>Re-Examinations.</i>	Primary ...	...	...	...	...	588	
	Secondary ...	...	...	...	...	454	
					Total ...		1042

TABLE I.—Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding malnutrition, dental diseases and infestation with vermin).

<i>Group</i>	<i>For defective vision (excluding squint)</i>	<i>For any other condition</i>	<i>Total individual pupils</i>
PRIMARY			
Entrants ...	20	374	393
2nd Age Group	91	228	306
Other Group ...	86	210	277
Total ...	197	812	976
SECONDARY			
Entrants ...	27	64	85
3rd Age Group...	101	190	280
Total ...	128	254	365
Grand Total ...	325	1066	1341

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON DEFECTS FOUND AT MEDICAL INSPECTION

Tables III and IV show the defects found by the Assistant School Medical Officers to require treatment and observation amongst pupils inspected both in the routine age groups and as special examinations.

Skin Diseases

The combined incidence, to a degree which requires immediate treatment of the common contagious skin diseases, Ringworm (scalp and body), Scabies and Impetigo is at present 8.5 cases per 1,000 children examined, as compared with 6.8 per 1,000 during 1947.

Towards the end of the year a Dermatologist was appointed by the Regional Hospital Board to whom cases can be referred at the County Hospital, Hereford.

Defective Vision

No significant change has occurred during the year. 428 or 5.9% of the pupils examined were found to require treatment as compared with 6% in the previous year.

It will be seen from Table VI that spectacles were prescribed in 612 cases and of this number 547 have received same.

Squint

5.1 cases per 1,000 children examined required treatment compared with 6.5 cases per 1,000 in 1947.

Defective Hearing

The number of children ascertained to require treatment was 1.8 per 1,000. This shows a decrease of 0.7 per 1,000 from the previous year.

Where special educational treatment is indicated, cases are referred to the General Hospital, Hereford, for examination and classification by Mr. I. W. Macgregor, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist.

Ear Disease

The incidence of chronic suppurative otitis media found to require treatment remains at 2.9 cases per 1,000. Arrangements are in force whereby, through the Regional Hospital Board, all cases can be examined and treated at the County Hospital, Hereford.

Adenoids and Tonsils

TABLE II.—This shows comparison between 1948, 1947 and 1946.

Year	Children examined	Requiring surgical treatment		Requiring observation	
		No.	%	No.	%
1948	7293	493	6.8	443	6.1
1947	7593	529	6.9	323	4.3
1946	6554	414	6.3	330	5.0

The arrangement whereby pupils could receive out-patient and in-patient treatment at the following Hospitals has continued throughout the year.

Hereford County Hospital.
Kington Hospital.
Ledbury Hospital.
Leominster and District Hospital.
Ross Hospital.
Tenbury and District Hospital.
Worcester Royal Infirmary.

The Authority has been relieved of all financial responsibility with effect from July 5th, 1948.

It will be seen from Table VII that 670 children were known to have received operative treatment during 1948 as against 430 in 1947. A waiting list of 130 is being carried forward into 1949.

Orthopædic

(a) Posture—The incidence of children suffering from postural defects which required treatment was 6.9 per 1,000 of those examined during the year as against 7.1 per 1,000 in 1947.

(b) Flat Foot—The incidence rate for children suffering from flat foot and recommended for treatment was 21.4 per 1,000 compared with 11.9 per 1,000 during 1947.

All children found by Assistant School Medical Officers to require treatment are now referred to Mr. F. Brian Thomas, F.R.C.S., at the County Hospital, Hereford. In addition the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, continue to supervise Clinics at Hereford, Ledbury and Leominster.

Remedial exercises for slight defects of posture, flat feet, etc., are carried out under the supervision of Physiotherapists at the County Hospital.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

In the County area the schools are visited every month. Any child found to be suffering from nits or vermin is excluded for three days. On the date of exclusion a home visit is paid by the Health Visitor who takes with her a supply of D.D.T. preparation and instructs the mother how this should be used. The child is visited at home the two succeeding days for observation and returns to school on the fourth day.

Cleansing stations have never been found necessary as School Nurses are all trained District Nurses who assist the mothers to clean the children at home.

In the City area any child found to be verminous is excluded for three days, and the parent notified to take the child to the Clinic for treatment the day following exclusion and on two succeeding days.

Average number of visits per school made by Nurses during the year	...	8.1
Total number of examinations in the Schools by the School Nurses or other authorised persons	...	98,777
Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	...	995
Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944)	...	Nil
Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3) Education Act, 1944)	...	Nil

TABLE III.—PERIODIC MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

A return of (a) Defects found to require treatment.

(b) Defects requiring to be kept under 'observation' but not requiring specific medical treatment.

Defect or Disease	Number of Defects requiring treatment			Number of Defects requiring observation		
	Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total
Skin	76	20	96	9	1	10
Eyes (a) Vision	197	128	325	96	60	156
(b) Squint	23	6	29	15	3	18
(c) Other	18	5	23	2	—	2
Ears (a) Hearing	6	3	9	7	2	9
(b) Otitis Media	15	2	17	24	1	25
(c) Other	7	1	8	3	1	4
Nose or Throat	362	57	419	330	88	418
Speech	23	10	33	24	5	29
Cervical Glands	7	2	9	26	4	30
Heart and Circulation	46	19	65	38	27	65
Lungs	33	4	37	61	10	71
Developmental—(a) Hernia	—	—	—	—	1	1
(b) Other	2	1	3	3	1	4
Orthopaedic—(a) Posture	18	22	40	15	14	29
(b) Flat foot	85	63	148	28	19	47
(c) Other	51	23	74	11	6	17
Nervous system—(a) Epilepsy	3	1	4	3	3	6
(b) Other	15	2	17	10	2	12
Psychological—(a) Development	7	3	10	2	—	2
(b) Stability	2	—	2	10	1	11
Other	61	26	87	32	17	49

TABLE IV.—SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS

A return of (a) Defects found to require treatment.

(b) Defects requiring to be kept under 'observation' but not requiring specific medical treatment.

Defect or Disease	Number of Defects requiring treatment			Number of Defects requiring observation		
	Primary	Secondary	Total	Primary	Secondary	Total
Skin	5	4	9	—	—	—
Eyes (a) Vision	30	73	103	5	35	40
(b) Squint	4	4	8	1	—	1
(c) Other	4	2	6	—	—	—
Ears (a) Hearing	2	2	4	1	—	1
(b) Otitis Media	2	2	4	1	—	1
(c) Other	1	1	2	1	—	1
Nose or Throat	68	23	91	40	11	51
Speech	14	4	18	4	—	4
Cervical Glands	1	1	2	2	1	3
Heart and Circulation	9	11	20	12	2	14
Lungs	4	4	8	1	3	4
Developmental—(a) Hernia	—	—	—	—	1	1
(b) Other	—	1	1	—	—	—
Orthopædic—(a) Posture	4	6	10	1	1	2
(b) Flat foot	1	7	8	—	—	—
(c) Other	5	5	10	2	—	2
Nervous System—(a) Epilepsy	—	1	1	3	1	4
(b) Other	5	1	6	3	1	4
Psychological—(a) Development	—	—	—	1	—	1
(b) Stability	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other	8	12	20	1	2	3

TABLE V.—Classification of the General Condition of Pupils inspected during the year in the age Groups.

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
PRIMARY							
Entrants	1644	395	24.0	1176	71.5	73	4.5
2nd Age Group	1469	249	17.0	1124	76.5	96	6.5
Other Group	1072	185	17.3	812	75.7	75	7.0
Total	4185	829	19.8	3112	74.4	244	5.8
SECONDARY							
Entrants	413	112	27.1	286	69.3	15	3.6
3rd Age Group	1711	444	25.9	1168	68.3	99	5.8
Total	2124	556	26.2	1454	68.4	114	5.4
GRAND TOTAL	6309	1385	21.9	4566	72.4	358	5.7

TABLE VI.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Eye Diseases treated as Minor Ailments).

	Number of Pupils dealt with during the year																	
	Under the Authority's Scheme						Otherwise						Total					
	Primary		Secondary		Total		Primary		Secondary		Total		Primary		Secondary		Total	
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.
Errors of Refraction and Squint (other than Orthoptic and Operative treatment)	168	190	157	262	325	452	15	16	12	18	27	34	183	206	169	280	352	486
Other Defects or Diseases of the Eyes	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	4	—	3	—	1	—	4	—
Total	168	190	157	262	325	452	18	16	13	18	31	34	186	206	170	280	356	486
SPECTACLES																		
Number of children for whom spectacles were :																		
(a) prescribed	113	141	112	187	225	328	15	16	12	16	27	32	128	157	124	203	252	360
(b) obtained	95	120	98	175	193	295	15	16	12	16	27	32	110	136	110	191	220	327
Total number of attendances of pupils for treatment	186	221	178	321	364	542	15	16	12	18	27	34	201	237	190	339	391	576

TABLE VII.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT

	Number of Pupils dealt with during the year																		
	Under the Authority's Scheme						Otherwise						Total						
	Primary		Secondary		Total		Primary		Secondary		Total		Primary		Secondary		Total		
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	
Received operative treatment for :																			
(a) Enlarged adenoids ...	...	—	1	—	1	—	2	5	1	—	—	5	1	5	2	—	1	5	3
(b) Unhealthy tonsils ...	...	5	3	1	1	6	4	2	2	2	1	4	3	7	5	3	2	10	7
(c) Adenoids and tonsils ...	...	182	187	32	41	214	228	84	87	12	20	96	107	266	274	44	61	310	335
(d) Other nose and throat conditions ...	...	1	—	—	3	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3	1	4
Received other forms of treatment		3	7	2	4	5	11	7	7	6	14	13	21	10	14	8	18	18	32
TOTAL ...	...	191	198	35	50	226	248	98	98	20	35	118	133	289	296	55	85	344	381

TABLE VIII.—TREATMENT OF EAR DEFECTS.

In addition to the number of Ear Defects shown in Table IX as having received treatment as Minor Ailments, 27 children were admitted to Hospital for operative treatment on account of the following defects.

						Primary		Secondary		Total	
						B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.
<i>Under the Authority's Scheme</i>											
Mastoid	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	1
<i>Otherwise</i>											
Mastoid	...	...	...	...	...	8	4	1	3	9	7
Otitis Media	...	...	...	...	...	4	6	—	—	4	6
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	12	11	1	3	13	14

OPERATIVE TREATMENT FOR SQUINT

One boy and two girls from Primary Schools have, during the year, had operations on account of squint otherwise than under the Authority's scheme. These cases have not been included in the table dealing with defective vision and squint.

ORTHOPTIC TREATMENT

This Authority at present has no scheme whereby Orthoptic treatment can be given. Arrangements can, however, be made for such cases to receive treatment at Clinics conducted in neighbouring counties.

No pupils have been referred for treatment during the year.

TABLE IX.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS.

Minor Ailment Clinics are held at the following Centres :—

Hereford ... Town Hall Annexe, St. Owen Street, Hereford.
 Ledbury ... Court House Premises, The Southend, Ledbury.
 Leominster ... Masonic Hall, South Street, Leominster.

All Clinics dealt with a large number of children from Rural as well as Urban Schools.

It is hoped that early in 1949 a further clinic will have been established at the Old Drill Hall, Ross-on-Wye following certain adaptations to the buildings which have received the approval of the Ministry of Education. As regards the Leominster Clinic, representation has been made to the Regional Hospital Board for the Clinic to be transferred to a Hut at the rear of the Leominster and District Hospital.

	<i>Number of defects treated, or under treatment during the year</i>		
	<i>At Authority's Minor Ailment Clinics</i>	<i>Other- wise</i>	<i>Total</i>
SKIN—			
Ringworm—Scalp :			
(i) X-Ray treatment ...	—	—	—
(ii) Other treatment ...	—	1	1
Ringworm—Body ...	9	9	18
Scabies ...	26	21	47
Impetigo ...	110	15	125
Other Skin Diseases ...	95	24	119
EYE DISEASE			
(External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to Hospital) ...	130	50	180
EAR DEFECTS			
(Excluding treatment in Hospital) ...	65	44	109
MISCELLANEOUS			
(Minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.) ...	2031	644	2675
TOTAL ...	2466	808	3274

Total number of attendances at Authority's Minor Ailment Clinics ... 7208

REPORT OF SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER

The full establishment of four dental officers was maintained during the year with no changes, the dental staff, however, was increased by the appointment of dental attendants. This development has been most satisfactory to all parties concerned, the district nurses have been relieved of dental duties and the

dentist has an unchanged full-time attendant whom he could train to be of much greater help to him at the chair side.

Routine visits for inspection and treatment have been paid to most schools at six-monthly intervals as has been the practice in past years. This six-monthly visit is a very good feature of the Herefordshire scheme and the county was well advised to introduce this procedure in 1937, and has been fortunate to have sufficient staff to maintain it.

The increased acceptance rate obtained last year of 63% has been held, and the practice of following up by further notices stressing the desirability of dental health to those parents who do not accept the first offer of treatment, has been continued. During the year 24,481 children were present at routine inspection. Of these 10,191 were referred for treatment, slightly more than 40%. In addition there was a nearly four-fold increase in the number of children accounted as specials. These were the children attending for the most part at clinics, not as the result of routine inspection, but because of some immediate urgency. More than half attended the Hereford clinic.

There does not seem to have been any marked effect so far on the county dental scheme by the introduction of the National Dental Service six months ago. The acceptance rate has not suffered any decline; the number of parents promising to have dental treatment carried out by private practitioners was 208 as compared with 192 in 1947, and, while the increase of special cases might, at first sight, be thought due to the difficulty of obtaining appointments with private dentists in the latter half of the year, these cases did occur fairly evenly spread throughout the year.

A total of 6,924 children received treatment during the year, 6,357 as routine and 567 as special cases. 641 permanent and 5,411 temporary teeth were extracted while 3,854 permanent and 178 temporary teeth were filled. In addition to these main items, 349 dressings of various types and 134 scalings were recorded and 448 other operations. The provision of a modern apparatus for general anaesthesia has made it possible for the majority of the children who require this type of anaesthetic for extraction to have this treatment at the City Clinic. During the year 76 children were so treated and 130 teeth extracted.

Following on the introduction in 1947 of orthodontic treatment for some children with irregular teeth, more than 40 were accepted for treatment. 79 impressions were taken and 19 regulation plates fitted. Eight children had the treatment completed during the year. This type of treatment is often of long duration and even simple methods require time to achieve results. At present it is not proposed to expand this part of the scheme to any considerable extent. While numerous irregularities may be noted at inspections, other factors must enter into consideration. Efficient co-operation of the child and parent is essential. Regulating appliances are usually inconvenient and need much perseverance. The standard of mouth hygiene must be high or else decay is hastened. However, in suitable cases, the results can be obtained and are well worth while for the child's well-being in future years.

In February the periodic inspection by the Ministry of Education took place and the whole dental scheme of the county was reviewed. Dr. A. T. Wynne met the dental officers, saw each one at work and visited all clinics which were used for dental treatment. In May the Authority received a letter from the Minister commenting on the various points arising from Dr. Wynne's report.

The main criticism raised by the Minister was based on the relatively poor accommodation provided by the Authority for treatment. In the City Clinic it was noted that the surgery was not available as a whole-time clinic, there was no fitted recovery room and that there was a lack of modern equipment. It was noted also that the rooms used in Leominster, Ledbury and Ross lacked a pump chair, a spittoon, an electric engine, a supply of hot water and a good operating light. It was recommended that these deficiencies be remedied. With regard to treatment in rural areas, it was appreciated that clinics are not a practical solution for sparsely-populated areas and that whilst electric anglepoise lamps and boiling rings would be of great help where electricity was available, consideration should be given to the use of a mobile surgery. The Minister was pleased to note that a Senior Dental Officer had been appointed recently, that a modern

anæsthetic apparatus had been provided and that steps were being taken to provide full-time dental attendants.

These criticisms of the Minister were not unexpected and the Authority has had proposals under consideration for remedying most of the points raised.

In Hereford it is hoped to re-arrange the clinics held at 135, St. Owen Street, so that full use may be made of the dental clinic at all times. The surgery is large, pleasant and well suited for its purpose. It is proposed to instal an electric engine, an electric steriliser, a dental cabinet, an operating light and a gas geyser to supply hot water as required. It is also suggested to equip the adjoining room as a recovery room with rinsing bowls and water supply. At present patients have to be kept in the surgery when hæmorrhage is prolonged or to allow full recovery from an anæsthetic and so hold up the normal running of the clinic. Estimates for the cost of equipment and alterations have been obtained and have been put before the committees concerned with a view to putting the new scheme into operation in 1949.

For some years dental treatment of the Leominster children has been carried out in one of the hutted rooms behind the Hospital. The room was also used periodically by other clinics. At the beginning of 1948 an adjoining room was hired by the Authority as being more convenient for dental purposes and always available for use. This room was sadly lacking in equipment, the dentist having merely the portable equipment as used on school premises, and it was not fitted with electric power or running water. As no other place is available there is no choice as to whether the use of the room shall be continued, but a more suitable surgery is greatly needed. The possibility of carrying out the Minister's suggestions as to equipment here is opposed by the lack of water and electricity supply, but it is hoped to instal a pump chair and cabinet which will be some improvement.

In Ross, school children were treated in the Walter Scott School, but at the end of the year these rooms were no longer available. A clinic is to be opened in 1949 at the Old Drill Hall, and one of the rooms will be free to be used as a dental surgery. Here it is hoped to provide the equipment as suggested and it should be possible to make a good surgery and thus stimulate the acceptance rate in Ross.

In Ledbury, treatment took place in a room used for several clinic purposes, so there was not much space to instal new equipment. It is only proposed therefore to provide a pump chair until such time as more spacious premises are available.

In the majority of country schools there was no alternative to the use of some part of the school premises for dental inspection and treatment. As so many schools had no other rooms except classrooms, this meant that visits cause grave inconvenience to the normal functioning of the school. The building of the proposed new schools will help to solve this problem to some extent in the future as a medical room will be provided in all schools with more than 300 scholars, but for many years there will be no possibility of much progress in this direction. It should be remembered also that the room will only provide the shell of a dental surgery and all equipment will necessarily be portable.

With these facts in mind the possibility of having a well-equipped mobile dental surgery has been reviewed. In the past these Mobile Units have been built individually, but during this year, owing to the restrictions on building and the growth of interest in public dentistry, several firms have evolved models which they can supply in a reasonable time. Details of specification and price were obtained of all known models and a full report made to the authority. During 1949 it is hoped that the approval of the Committee will be obtained for the purchase of a Mobile Unit and that this may come into service before the next annual report.

TABLE X.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

Number of Pupils inspected by the Authority's					<i>Primary</i>	<i>Secondary</i>	<i>Total</i>
Dental Officers :							
(a)	Routine	Age	Groups		14704	9536	24240
(b)	Specials	...	...	...	361	206	567
(c)	Total	...	...	...	15065	9742	24807

Number of Pupils found to require treatment	6600	4084	10684
Number of Pupils actually treated	4773	2113	6886
Attendances made by Pupils for treatment ...	5058	2534	7592
Half-days devoted to :			
(a) Inspection			316½
(b) Treatment			1137
Fillings :			
(a) Permanent teeth	1758	2029	3787
(b) Temporary teeth	175	3	178
Extractions :			
(a) Permanent teeth	172	465	637
(b) Temporary teeth	4895	505	5400
Administration of general anæsthetic for extraction	53	23	76
Other operations :			
(a) Permanent teeth	226	396	622
(b) Temporary teeth	247	19	266

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN SCHOOLS

No particular outbreaks of infectious disease occurred in primary or secondary schools throughout the year. One school was closed on account of an infectious disease for one week, the Head Teacher's husband at the school in question having developed scarlet fever.

Absences from School notified by Head Teachers on account of Infectious or Contagious Disease

Chicken Pox	47
Impetigo	2
Measles	343
Mumps	83
Ringworm	1
Scarlet Fever	12
Whooping Cough	313
TOTAL	801

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

During the year it has been found possible for the Assistant School Medical Officers to examine a large number of children who had been referred through the medium of Head Teachers, District Nurses, etc., as in their opinion requiring special educational treatment.

Table XIV gives a clear picture of the present situation as regards children who have so far been ascertained.

EDUCATIONALLY SUB-NORMAL PUPILS

104 boys and 60 girls have been examined by the Medical Staff and placed in this category. In addition two boys and three girls classified as ' Multiple Defects ' have been ascertained as being Educationally Sub-Normal. Four boys and two girls are at present in Special Residential Schools and there is a waiting list for admission of 55 boys and 28 girls.

It has been decided by the Education Committee to utilise Pudleston Court, near Leominster, which was purchased in the past, as a Special Residential School for Educationally Sub-Normal boys of the Age Group 11—16 years. This suggestion has the full support of the Ministry of Education to whom detailed plans have been submitted. It is hoped that early in 1949 a commencement can be made on the necessary alterations in order that the school can be established. In view of the fact that the School will be within the

County parents will no doubt more readily agree to their children being admitted and a good percentage of acceptance is anticipated.

As will be seen from Table XI, 308 children still remain to be examined to ascertain whether or not they fall in this category, under the Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulations.

TABLE XI.—From this Table it will be seen that 308 children remain to be classified as Educationally Sub-Normal.

Age	At Maintained Schools						Not at School		Total	
	2 years retarded		3 years retarded		4 years retarded					
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	4	1
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
6	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
7	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
8	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	6	3
9	7	11	3	3	—	1	—	—	10	15
10	18	10	3	4	—	—	—	—	21	14
11	29	11	11	3	—	3	—	—	40	17
12	26	14	5	4	1	3	—	—	32	21
13	17	27	8	2	—	1	—	—	25	30
14	19	18	1	10	1	2	—	—	21	30
15	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	2
TOTAL	127	97	34	27	2	10	6	5	169	139

Sections 57 (3) and 57 (5) of the Education Act, 1944

TABLE XII.—To show the number of children reported by the Education Committee to the Mental Deficiency Committee under Section 57 (3) and (5) of the Education Act, 1944.

	Primary		Secondary		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Reported under Section :						
57 (3)	6	2	—	1	6	3
57 (5)	—	—	3	3	3	3
TOTAL	6	2	3	4	9	6

MALADJUSTED PUPILS

It is very much regretted that it has not yet been possible to establish a Child Guidance Clinic within the County. The post of Psychiatrist to be arranged in conjunction with the Shropshire Education Committee has during the year been advertised, but no appointment has been possible.

PUPILS WITH SPEECH DEFECTS

It is pleasing to be able to report that on the 27th September, 1948, Miss M. E. M. Lowes, L.C.S.T., was appointed as a Speech Therapist with this Authority.

Speech Clinics are held daily at Hereford and once weekly at Ledbury. Early in the new year it is hoped to establish further clinics at Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. 107 pupils have up to the present been recommended for speech therapy but it has only been possible for treatment to be commenced in 32 cases.

Details of the work which Miss Lowes has been able to undertake during the remainder of the year are given in Table XIII.

TABLE XIII.—SPEECH THERAPY

Cases in attendance at beginning of October, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
New cases admitted between this date and end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cases showing improvement, but not discharged as cured	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cases temporarily discharged before cure, to resume treatment later	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cases cured	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cases ceasing attendance before cure or discharge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cases in attendance at the end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	209
Number of children on waiting list at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76

Clinical Analysis of Speech Defects.

Number of children suffering from :—

(a) Psychological or Physiological Defects

(1) Stammer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
(2) Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Voice Defects

(1) Aphonia (complete or intermittent total loss of voice)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Dysphonia (complete or intermittent partial loss of voice)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(c) Defects of Articulation

(1) Dyslalia (defective sounding of consonants)

(a) Lalling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Lisp	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(c) Multiple dyslalia (more than one sound or group of sounds defective)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

(2) Rhinolalia (Nasal or Anasal Speech)

(a) Open type (cleft palate, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Closed type (nasal obstruction)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(d) Language Defects

(e) Aphasia

(f) Defects due to abnormality of Special Senses

(g) Probable Mental Retardation

(h) Multiple types of defects

TOTAL CASES

32

TABLE XIV.—HANDICAPPED PUPILS

The number of Pupils ascertained is given in the following table which shows the position on the 31st December, 1948.

Category	In Special Schools		In Maintained Schools		In Independent Schools		Not at School		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
(a) BLIND										
2-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
5-10 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
11-15 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Over 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) PARTIALLY SIGHTED										
2-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
11-15 years	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	4	1
Over 15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(c) DEAF										
2-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2
11-15 years	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Over 15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(d) PARTIALLY DEAF										
2-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	5
11-15 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Over 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(e) DELICATE										
2-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	—	1	7	12	—	—	1	1	8	14
11-15 years	—	—	11	5	—	—	—	2	11	7
Over 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Category	In Special Schools		In Maintained Schools		In Independent Schools		Not at School		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
(f) DIABETIC										
2-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-15 years	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Over 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(g) EDUCATIONALLY SUB-NORMAL										
2-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
5-10 years	1	—	16	11	—	—	4	2	21	13
11-15 years	3	2	75	43	1	1	3	1	82	47
Over 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(h) EPILEPTIC										
2-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	2	3
11-15 years	—	1	2	3	1	—	—	—	3	4
Over 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(i) MALADJUSTED										
2-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 year	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
11-15 years	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Over 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(j) PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED										
2-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
5-10 years	—	2	5	7	—	—	3	2	8	11
11-15 years	—	1	5	2	—	—	—	—	5	3
Over 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(k) SPEECH DEFECT										
2-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	—	—	58	27	—	—	—	—	58	27
11-15 years	—	—	17	5	—	—	—	—	17	5
Over 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(l) MULTIPLE DEFECTS										
2-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	1	2	3
11-15 years	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Over 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE XV. The Special Schools and the number of Boys and Girls from the County in each, together with maintenance fees, are shown hereunder.

	Annual rate per child	January 1st, 1948		Admitted during year		Discharged during year		December 31st, 1948		
		B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	
BLIND AND PARTIALLY-SIGHTED PUPILS										
Birmingham Royal Inst. for the Blind, Court Oak Road, Harborne, Birmingham, 17	£160 0 0	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Chorleywood College for the Blind, Worcester ...	£220 0 0	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Brighton School for Partially Sighted Boys, Brighton ...	£150 0 0	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	
Royal Normal College for the Blind, Rowton Castle, near Shrewsbury ...	£165 0 0	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
DEAF AND PARTIALLY DEAF PUPILS										
Royal School for Deaf, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 15 ...	£170 0 0	2	4	—	—	—	1	2	3	
Royal Cambrian Institution for the Deaf, Newbridge-on-Wye, Rads. ...	£156 0 0	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Thommason Memorial Special School, Devonshire Road, Bolton, Lancs. ...	£160 0 0	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
St. John's Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Boston Spa, Yorks. ...	£100 0 0	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Royal Residential Schools for the Deaf, Old Trafford, Manchester ...	£150 0 0	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Liverpool School for the Partially Deaf, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs. ...	£180 0 0	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
DELICATE PUPILS										
St. Vincent's Open-Air School, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Sussex ...	£109 4 0	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	
St. Joseph's Heart Hospital School, Rainhill, Liverpool	£128 0 0	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Port Regis Residential School, Broadstairs, Kent ...	£120 0 0	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
EDUCATIONALLY SUB-NORMAL PUPILS										
Allerton Priory R.C. Special School, Woolton, Liverpool	£104 0 0	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	
Monyhull Colony School, Kingsheath, Birmingham ...	£150 16 0	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	2	
Nazareth House Home for R.C. Boys, Stoke Bishop, Bristol (Day School) ...	£22 0 0	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Beacon Special School, Lichfield, Staffs. ...	£206 16 8	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	

	Annual rate per child	January 1st, 1948		Admitted during year		Discharged during year		December 31st, 1948	
		B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.
EPILEPTIC PUPILS									
Lingfield Epileptic Colony, Lingfield, Surrey	£150 16 0	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PUPILS									
Halliwick Cripples Home for Girls, Winchmore Hill, London, N.21	£208 0 0	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
St. Margaret's Special School for Spastics, Croydon, Surrey	£350 0 0	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Children's Hospital, Cold Ash, Newbury, Berks.	£208 0 0	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Burton Hill House School, Malmesbury, Wilts.	£150 0 0	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry	*£255 10 0 £28 0 0	—	2	6	4	4	6	2	—

* The sum of £255 10s. 0d. per annum was payable up to 4/7/48. Thereafter a rate of £28 per annum was payable for education charges only, the Hospital being taken over by the Regional Hospital Board. The education of the pupils is arranged by the Shropshire Education Authority.

TREATMENT OF ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

No. of Pupils in hospitals or hospital schools on the 1st January, 1948	...	3
No. admitted during the year	...	21
Total number treated as In-patients	...	24
No. discharged during the year	...	19
No. of Pupils in hospitals or hospital schools on the 31st December, 1948	...	5
No. of Pupils treated otherwise, e.g., in clinics or out-patient departments	...	330

NIEUPORT SANATORIUM

Particulars are given in Table XVI of school children who were admitted to, and discharged from, Nieuport Sanatorium, as early tuberculosis, tuberculosis contacts or being cases of sub-normal general health.

The Children's Wing is completely separated from the adults and contains 29 beds which have been fully occupied throughout the year. The average length of stay for all children throughout the year was 222 days. There were no deaths.

TABLE XVI

		Observation	Early Pul. T.B.	Non-Pul. T.B.	Total
Admitted during 1948	BOYS	17	3	2	22
	GIRLS	24	1	1	26
	TOTAL	41	4	3	48
Discharged during 1948	BOYS	12	4	1	17
	GIRLS	24	3	2	29
	TOTAL	36	7	3	46

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

MEDICAL INSPECTION

Number of Pupils examined—(a) Routine	Entrants	...	...	...	...	64
	Leavers	...	...	...	...	31
						—
	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	95
(b) Specials	...	...	...	...	...	59
Number of Individual Pupils found to require treatment :						
For defective vision	...	...	...	...	...	8
For any other condition (excluding malnutrition, dental disease and infestation with vermin)	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total individual pupils	...	...	...	...	...	13
General condition of the Pupils examined :	'A' (Good)	'B' (Fair)	'C' (Poor)			
Number	...	...	...	...	...	...
Percentage	...	...	...	...	...	...

Defects found :

TABLE XVII

The following table shows :

- (a) Defects found to require treatment ;
- (b) Defects requiring to be kept under 'observation' but not requiring specific medical treatment.

Defect or Disease	ROUTINE EXAMINATIONS		SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS	
	Number of Defects requiring		Number of Defects requiring	
	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation
Skin	1	—	—	—
Eyes (a) Vision ...	8	18	10	9
(b) Squint ...	—	—	—	1
(c) Other ...	—	1	—	—
Ears (a) Hearing ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Otitis Media ...	—	—	—	1
(c) Other ...	—	—	—	—
Nose or Throat ...	3	8	2	2
Speech	—	1	—	—
Cervical Glands ...	—	2	—	1
Heart and Circulation	—	2	—	1
Lungs	—	2	1	2
Developmental :				
(a) Hernia ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Other... ..	—	—	—	—
Orthopædic :				
(a) Posture ...	—	1	—	—
(b) Flat Foot ...	—	3	1	4
(c) Other ...	1	—	—	—
Nervous System :				
(a) Epilepsy ...	—	—	1	—
(b) Other ...	—	—	—	1
Psychological :				
(a) Development	—	—	—	—
(b) Stability ...	—	1	—	—
Other	—	1	—	—

MEDICAL TREATMENT OF DAY PUPILS

Defective Vision and Squint—

Under the Authority's Scheme :

Number of Pupils treated	6
Number of Pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	5
Number of Pupils for whom spectacles were obtained	5
Number of attendances for treatment	9

By other arrangements :

Number of Pupils treated	6
Number of Pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	4
Number of Pupils for whom spectacles were obtained	3

Defects of Nose and Throat—

Under the Authority's Scheme :

Number of Pupils treated ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

By other arrangements :

Received operative treatment for adenoids and tonsils	...	...	1
---	-----	-----	---

Orthopædic and Postural Defects—

Number treated as In-patients in Hospitals or Hospital Schools	...	...	Nil
Number treated otherwise	...	...	4

Minor Ailments—

[illegible]

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

Number of Pupils inspected								241
Number found to require treatment								74
Number actually treated								38
Attendances made by pupils for treatment								74
Half days devoted to (<i>a</i>) Inspection								2
(<i>b</i>) Treatment								10
Fillings (<i>a</i>) Permanent teeth								67
(<i>b</i>) Temporary teeth								—
Extractions (<i>a</i>) Permanent teeth								4
(<i>b</i>) Temporary teeth								11
Administration of General Anæsthetic for extractions								—
Other operations (<i>a</i>) Permanent teeth								43
(<i>b</i>) Temporary teeth								—

NURSERY SCHOOLS

The White Cross Nursery School is visited once monthly by an Assistant School Medical Officer who examines all children. In addition, a School Nurse visits the school every morning.

FIRST EXAMINATIONS

Number of children examined	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Number of children referred for treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
General condition of the children examined :								
‘ A ’ (Good)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
‘ B ’ (Fair)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
‘ C ’ (Poor)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

RE-EXAMINATIONS

Number of children examined	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	324
Number of children referred for treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33

DEFECTS FOUND

TABLE XVIII

The following table shows :

- (a) Defects found to require treatment.
- (b) Defects requiring to be kept under ‘ observation ’ but not requiring specific medical treatment.

<i>Defect or Disease</i>	FIRST EXAMINATIONS		RE-EXAMINATIONS	
	<i>Number of Defects requiring</i>		<i>Number of Defects requiring</i>	
	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Observation</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Observation</i>
Skin	2	—	4	1
Eyes (a) Squint ...	—	—	2	—
(b) Other	—	—	1	—
Ears—Otitis	—	1	—	1
Nose or Throat ...	6	17	10	10
Speech	—	1	—	1
Heart and Circulation ...	—	—	6	—
Lungs	1	3	1	1
Orthopædic :				
(a) Flatfoot ...	—	3	3	2
(b) Other	2	2	1	3
Other	2	1	5	1

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The post of Assistant Organiser of Physical Education (Woman) has not yet been filled.

The loan of a private Swimming Pool near Ross-on-Wye has enabled a small number of Schools in the District to introduce Swimming Instruction.

There has been a large increase in the supply of necessary gymnastics and games equipment to Schools and this has accentuated the problem of storage accommodation in very many cases. The solution to this problem is difficult where classrooms are too small to allow of extra cupboards and where playgrounds are insufficient in size to permit of the erection of a Games Store.

The Authority proposes during the coming year to give full attention to the matter of the provision of playing fields for Schools and Youth Organisations. It can be anticipated that this will be a difficult task in view of the serious shortage of suitable fields and the present needs of agriculture.

A much-needed Schools Sports Association has been formed with the object of encouraging and developing all types of physical activities. The Association is constituted on a County basis and works through and in conjunction with six District Associations. Both County and District Associations have appointed a small Committee to be responsible for the promotion of each physical activity undertaken by the Association. Both inter-School and inter-District matches have been arranged for Soccer, Hockey and Netball. Plans are proceeding for the first Annual County Athletic Sports to be held in July, 1949. The Association's attention is also being given to Cricket, Tennis, Rounders and Swimming. Once it is well established, it is hoped to add to these activities such pursuits as Camping, Rambling, Cycling, etc.

The Authority has taken advantage of the Football Association's scheme for the provision of Football Coaches for Schools and Youth Organisations. Six Coaches have been employed, following a short Course of Instruction given by the Authority's Organiser of Physical Education, in conjunction with the Central Council of Physical Recreation.

A Refresher Course for men teachers of Senior Boys was poorly attended and this was probably due to the increase in the variety of subjects offered by the Authority. Three Courses for Junior Teachers are planned for 1949.

HOUSECRAFT INSTRUCTION

Housecraft Instruction has been given in Housecraft Rooms which are part of the School premises of Hereford High School for Girls, three Grammar Schools, two Secondary Modern Schools and three County Primary Schools. In each case the Domestic Subjects Teacher is a member of the staff of the respective School. Closer correlation between general school subjects and the practical instruction is, therefore, possible, and the Domestic Subjects Teacher and her classes are able to make valuable contributions to the social life of the School.

There are five Independent Centres at which classes of girls from various urban and rural Schools have attended, but Housecraft Instruction was not provided for all Senior Girls in the County.

Personal Hygiene formed part of the courses, and instruction on Child Care has been given to the fourth-year girls whenever possible.

Lack of a Teacher prevented the opening of a converted Housecraft Room at one Voluntary Secondary School.

During the year, work was begun on new Housecraft Huts or Rooms at Tupsley and Weobley, and on the adaptation of a room at Ross. A Teacher will be appointed to each School Staff when the premises are ready for use, and the resulting vacant places at the Independent Centres will allow of the admission of Senior Girls who have not received instruction during the past year.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

(1) Playgrounds

Repairs have been effected to 11 County School playgrounds, and the Authority have agreed to make grants towards the cost of repairs to playgrounds in Voluntary Schools in 5 cases.

(2) Heating

New stoves and grates have been provided and repairs carried out to existing stoves and grates in 28 Schools. Improvements have been effected to the hot water heating system in one School.

(3) Equipment

New desks (replacements) have been supplied to 14 Schools. 397 single-locker desks and chairs have been supplied under the Ministry of Education Scheme for the supply of furniture required on the raising of the School-leaving age.

(4) General Sanitary Arrangements

Additional lavatory accommodation has been provided at Ross Grammar School, and schemes for the provision of additional lavatory and cloakroom accommodation at Ledbury Grammar School and a new cloakroom and rest room at the Hereford High School for Girls have been approved. Drains have been overhauled and repaired in 5 Schools.

(5) General

The work of the erection of the new Primary School at Hunderton commenced on the 12th July, 1948, and is proceeding satisfactorily.

Standard Ministry of Works huts have been erected at 12 Schools to meet the need for additional accommodation consequent on the raising of the School-leaving age.

Two additional classrooms have been provided at the Hereford High School for Girls by the conversion of an air-raid shelter, and a former A.T.C. hut has been erected and adapted to provide three additional classrooms at Leominster Grammar School.

Instructions have been given for repairs to be effected to School floors in 11 cases and general repairs and renovations to be carried out in 59 Schools.

Electric light has been installed in 4 Schools.

PROVISION OF SCHOOL MEALS AND MILK

Children are now receiving meals at all Schools except one in the County and the canteen for that one is at present being erected.

The vacating of the Masonic Hall last summer term unfortunately resulted in a smaller number of children receiving meals at some City Schools, but feeding facilities in the City of Hereford have again been increased by the opening of Eignbrook School Canteen and by the use of part of St. Martin's Old School as a Central Kitchen.

Some progress is being made in the erection of new Kitchens in the County and the provision of small Kitchens at the permanent Schools is hoped for as the building programme gets under way.

Of the number of children on roll, the percentage of children feeding is 68.8.

The increasing recognition of the important part school meals has to play in the general education of the child is gratifying and the facilities for social training and service to others will, it is hoped, improve as buildings and equipment for the Meals Service improve over the County.

Milk is served to children in 185 Schools. Difficulties are still being experienced in a number of Schools over the finding of a supplier. The number of Schools provided with graded milk in one-third pint bottles with straws is increasing, but the position is still far from satisfactory.

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