

[Report 1960] / School Medical Officer of Health, Herefordshire / County of Hereford County Council.

Contributors

Herefordshire (England). County Council.

Publication/Creation

1960

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HEREFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PRINCIPAL
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR
1960



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour to present the report on the health of the school child in Herefordshire during 1960.

A high standard of health was found in the school children during the year, they were taller and heavier but had more dental defects and an increasing number of children were referred to the Child Guidance Clinic as suffering from various behaviour problems.

In the earlier part of the year an outbreak of epidemic sore-throat occurred at Ewyas Harold County Primary School. When the school medical officer visited the school he found that out of a total of 96 on the school register, 30 of these were absent, the majority of whom were said to be suffering from sore-throats. When these children were examined they were found to be suffering from tonsillitis or from chest conditions following attacks of tonsillitis. When the various epidemiological factors concerned in the outbreak were considered, it was found that a number of very mild cases of scarlet fever had occurred in the area in December of 1959, and it seems probable that such a case was the cause of the outbreak. A disquietening feature of the outbreak was that the causative organism was particularly resistant to treatment.

The school health visitor has continued to play her part as a member of the School Health Services team, both in the social and educational field. Her knowledge of the children and their home background gained in the years before the children were old enough to go to school, helps school medical officers and teachers, and the children themselves.

In the past, school medical officers have found difficulty in working in bad clinic premises. Gradually, things are being improved and during the year a new clinic was opened in Leominster and some progress has been made to start to build one in Hereford. An interesting development is in the use to which the school clinics are now being put. This is due to the service developed under Part IV of the National Health Services Act of 1946 and to a smaller number of minor septic conditions actually occurring. The school medical officers can spend more time dealing with children who have special problems. Some of these problems are mild behaviour disorders, which, tackled at an early age, do not go on to serious maladjustment. In this way useful preventive mental health work can be done, which might diminish the increasing number of cases which are being referred to the Child Guidance Service. Of such cases a continuing problem is the enuretic child. The inconvenience and embarrassment caused leads to unhappiness and even in some cases to a serious maladjustment. We have had some experience with the treatment of such cases by a warning device operated by a small battery. The results have been encouraging.

In July an "Open Day" was held at the Hereford Child Guidance Centre. The staff were in attendance. The Psychiatrist, Educational Psychologist and Social Worker were pleased to meet members of the general public and especially the teachers. The Speech Therapist demonstrated on a tape recorder, improvements in speech due to therapy.

Thought has been given to the needs of handicapped children. The various categories of handicapped children cover a wide range of clinical conditions. For these conditions, some children require special educational treatment in residential special schools, others require special educational treatment in the ordinary schools, and several need special tuition at home. It is important that the case for residential special school care is not overstated since quite a proportion of handicapped children can be, and indeed are, educated in the same building as normal children, either in an ordinary or in a special class. Children having home tuition are prevented by prolonged illness or severe physical handicap from attending schools of any kind and special arrangements are made so that a teacher visits the child in his own home. The real test for the success or otherwise of special educational treatment for handicapped children is how they manage in adult life.

Uplands, the Residential Special School for Delicate Children, has continued to meet a need for such children, although the demand for such accommodation is decreasing. This in itself may be a good thing if it means that the school children are more healthy and do not require to go. Of the children who are in Uplands at present, many of them have chest diseases and a proportion have asthma. These children respond to a routine regime but occasionally become ill and when they do they have to be treated with special care. Although the results already achieved have fully justified the establishment of this special school, it would seem that in the future, if it is to be kept full, we must draw on children from the areas of other local education authorities.

There has been an amendment of the Education Act 1944, made necessary by the implementation of the relevant part of the Mental Health Act 1959 in November. These changes make the procedures less formal and I hope more kindly to the parents of the children concerned.

Attention is drawn to the Report of the Principal School Dental Officer in the body of the Report. It reads like the obituary notice of the school dental service in Herefordshire. We now have three mobile dental units and three excellent dental surgeries in fixed clinics, but only one whole-time and one part-time school dental officer to staff them. An absurd state of affairs which cannot be allowed to continue much longer.

I desire once again to express to the members of the County Council the thanks of the School Health Services Section of the County Health Department for their interest in this work. My thanks are especially due to the Education Committee, particularly to the members of the Special Services Sub-Committee, for their continued interest and support.

Yours faithfully,

J. S. COOKSON,

Principal School Medical Officer.

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
35, BRIDGE STREET,
HEREFORD.
February, 1961.

STAFF

Principal School Medical Officer—

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

Deputy Principal School Medical Officer—

*I. F. MACKENZIE, M.D., D.P.H., D.T. M. & H.

School Medical Officers—

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

VIOLET L. DE A. HICKSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

J. G. HUNT, M.B., B.S., M.M.S.A.

VIVIEN P. HELME, M.B., Ch.B., D.(OBST.), R.C.O.G.

*G. D. K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Principal School Dental Officer—

O. S. BENNETT, L.D.S., R.C.S. ENG.

School Dental Officers—

†K. L. M. PIGOTT, L.D.S., B.D.S. (resigned 19/4/60).

†L. MACHIN, L.D.S., R.C.S.

†A. POTTER (appointed 26/10/60).

Dental Attendants—

MRS. K. E. PROSSER.

†MRS. B. G. M. DAVIES (resigned 25/11/60).

†MRS. D. D. HERBERT (resigned 24/12/60).

†MISS M. CROWLEY (appointed 14/11/60).

†MRS. J. K. LERIGO (appointed 20/12/60).

Educational Psychologist—

MISS L. ADAMS, B.A.

Social Worker—Child Guidance—

MRS. M. A. CONIUM, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (temporarily seconded full-time from Nursing Staff).

Speech Therapists—

MISS J. A. ROBERTS, L.C.S.T.

MISS J. V. HAYES, L.C.S.T. (appointed 1/9/60).

School Physiotherapist—

MISS J. A. KING, M.C.S.P. (resigned 17/12/60).

Superintendent Nursing Officer—

MISS E. O. ROBERTS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., M.T.D.

There are two Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officers.

School Nurses—

There are 38 nurses in the rural areas who carry out school nursing as part of their generalised duties. In the urban areas there are 12 whole-time health visitors who combine school nursing with mainly maternity and child welfare duties.

* Also District Medical Officer of Health.

† Temporary Part-time Appointment.

MEDICAL INSPECTION

MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (including Special and Nursery Schools)

Number of Schools	167
Number of Pupils	21,158

Periodic medical inspections of children in the following groups were made during the year :—

1st Age Group	Entrants, i.e. children admitted for the first time to a primary school.
2nd Age Group	Secondary entrants—during their first year in the secondary school.
3rd Age Group	Leavers—during their last year in school.

Additional Periodic Inspections An additional inspection was carried out at the age of 8 years (children born in 1952.)

Other children inspected were :—

Specials	Children not due for periodic inspection but were specially presented for inspection at the request of a parent, doctor, nurse, teacher or other person.
Re-inspections	Children who, at a previous inspection, were found to have some defect requiring treatment or observation.

As indicated in the report for 1959 a trial is being made whereby a system of selective medical examinations is substituted for the routine medical inspections of the 8 and 11 years, in one area of the County. To be conclusive the trial must run for three years, but after the first year the impression of the school medical officer concerned is that there are some advantages in the new scheme, which gives useful opportunities by co-operation, in ascertaining and dealing with defects at an early stage.

Pudleston Court Special Residential School for educationally sub-normal boys is visited every term by a school medical officer and the Principal School Dental Officer.

The Uplands Special Residential School for delicate children is visited by a school medical officer each week when a group of children is examined. This arrangement ensures that each child is seen at least twice a term and that the head teacher is able to discuss with the medical officer any child about whom she is concerned. The Principal School Dental Officer visits once a term.

The White Cross Nursery School is visited once each term by a school medical officer who examines all children, and by a school nurse who visits the school twice weekly.

PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

<i>Age Groups Inspected</i>	<i>No. of Pupils Inspected</i>	<i>Physical Condition of Pupils Inspected</i>			
		SATISFACTORY		UNSATISFACTORY	
		<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
1956 and later	37	37	100	—	—
1955	588	582	99.0	6	1.0
1954	1,145	1,119	97.7	26	2.3
1953	204	196	90.1	8	3.9
1952	1,409	1,383	98.2	26	1.8
1951	185	180	97.3	5	2.7
1950	68	68	100	—	—
1949	1,090	1,076	98.7	14	1.3
1948	772	768	99.5	4	0.5
1947	231	231	100	—	—
1946	835	826	98.9	9	1.1
1945 and earlier	810	809	99.9	1	0.1
TOTAL	7,374	7,275	98.7	99	1.3

Other Inspections.	Number of special inspections	.....	.....	.....	412
	Number of re-inspections	.....	.....	.....	3,677
	TOTAL	.....	.....	.....	4,089

TABLE I.—Number of individual pupils found at periodic medical inspection to require treatment (excluding 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>
1st age group	95	201	286
2nd age group	101	136	225
3rd age group	64	114	170
TOTAL	260	451	681
Additional periodic inspections	88	149	228
GRAND TOTAL	348	600	909

TABLE II.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

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	ENTRANTS		LEAVERS		OTHERS		TOTAL	
	<i>Requiring treatment</i>	<i>Requiring observation</i>	<i>Requiring treatment</i>	<i>Requiring observation</i>	<i>Requiring treatment</i>	<i>Requiring observation</i>	<i>Requiring treatment</i>	<i>Requiring observation</i>
Skin	22	9	42	4	60	24	124	37
Eyes (a) Vision	95	197	64	73	189	280	348	550
(b) Squint	23	21	1	2	7	14	31	37
(c) Other	7	3	2	5	9	9	18	17
Ears (a) Hearing	9	29	8	8	33	65	50	102
(b) Otitis media	9	18	2	4	11	9	22	31
(c) Other	8	27	5	1	8	26	21	54
Nose and Throat	48	127	4	13	37	114	91	254
Speech	29	71	—	3	21	25	50	99
Lymphatic glands	2	35	—	3	1	29	3	67
Heart	1	9	3	4	2	12	6	25
Lungs	9	19	2	2	4	26	15	47
Developmental (a) Hernia	1	—	2	—	4	2	7	2
(b) Other...	7	8	2	6	6	25	15	39
Orhtopaedic (a) Posture	1	16	5	27	5	76	11	119
(b) Feet	5	117	9	45	15	156	29	318
(c) Other	8	63	10	32	8	105	26	200
Nervous system (a) Epilepsy	2	3	—	3	1	3	3	9
(b) Other...	—	1	1	—	2	3	3	4
Psychological (a) Development	5	11	—	3	13	26	18	40
(b) Stability	5	19	2	15	11	83	18	67
Abdomen	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	—
Other	12	28	15	1	39	50	66	79

TABLE III.—The following table shows the number of defects found, per 100 children examined, at periodic medical inspections.

	<i>Requiring treatment</i>	<i>Requiring observation</i>	<i>Total</i>
Skin	1.7	0.5	2.2
Eyes	5.4	8.2	13.6
Ear, Nose and Throat	2.5	6.0	8.5
Heart	0.1	0.3	0.4
Lungs	0.2	0.6	0.8
Orthopaedic	0.9	8.7	9.6
Psychological	0.5	1.5	2.0
Other	2.0	4.0	6.0

TABLE IV.—SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

A return of (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>	<i>Number of defects requiring treatment</i>	<i>Number of defects requiring observation</i>
Skin	3	—
Eyes (a) Vision	23	28
(b) Squint	3	1
(c) Other	1	—
Ears (a) Hearing	5	8
(b) Otitis media	—	—
(c) Other	—	1
Nose and Throat	1	1
Speech	6	10
Lymphatic glands	—	—
Heart	—	—
Lungs	—	—
Developmental (a) Hernia	—	—
(b) Other	—	—
Orthopaedic (a) Posture	—	3
(b) Feet	—	9
(c) Other	3	1
Nervous system (a) Epilepsy	—	—
(b) Other	2	—
Psychological (a) Development	6	1
(b) Stability	—	4
Abdomen	—	—
Other	2	6

TABLE V.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	<i>Number of cases known to have been dealt with</i>		
	<i>By the Authority</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>	<i>Total</i>
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint.....	37	18	65
Errors of refraction (including squint).....	1,091	43	1,134
TOTAL	1,128	61	1,199
Number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed.....	604*	9	613

*Includes cases dealt with under arrangements with the Supplementary Ophthalmic Services.

The parents of a child found with a defect of vision are offered an appointment at the Victoria Eye Hospital, Hereford, or at clinics held at Kington, Ledbury, Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. Spectacles, if required, are supplied by any optician on the Executive Council's list. Parents may if they wish arrange their own appointments through the National Health Service.

69 children are known to have received operative treatment for squint.

Forms for the replacement or repair of spectacles were issued on behalf of 172 children.

A colour vision survey was made of boys in the 3rd Age Groups. Of 786 pupils, 50 or 6.4 per cent were found to have defective colour vision, and are divided into the following categories.

Total colour blindness (incomplete)	—
Red/Green blindness (complete)	5
Red/Green blindness (incomplete)	28
Red blindness	—
Green blindness	15
Indeterminate	2
TOTAL	50

TABLE VIa.—DISEASES OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	<i>Number of cases known to have been treated</i>		
	<i>By the Authority</i>	<i>Otherwise</i>	<i>Total</i>
Received operative treatment for			
(a) diseases of the ear.....	—	12	12
(b) adenoids and chronic tonsillitis.....	—	340	340
(c) other nose and throat conditions.....	—	10	10
Received other forms of treatment.....	25	58	83
TOTAL	25	420	445
Total number of pupils in schools who are known to have been provided with hearing aids :			
(a) in 1960.....	—	10	10
(b) in previous years.....	2	36	38

AUDIOMETRY

During the past school year, the sweep testing of children of 8 and 11 years of age has continued as in previous years.

During the two and a half days a week allotted to school visits these children have been tested with a pure tone audiometer on 8 different frequencies and any child failing this test has been referred to the school medical officer.

In the event of a specialist's examination being requested the children are given a more detailed test, if required by the surgeon, on a larger audiometer in a sound-proof room at the hospital.

All children attending Wessington Court School for Deaf Children have now been fitted with transistor hearing aids, also children in the County requiring them.

TABLE VIIb.—PARTICULARS OF CHILDREN TESTED

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Tested</i>	<i>Failed</i>				<i>% Failed</i>
		<i>Right</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>Both</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Age 8	1,882	43	42	80	165	8.7
Age 11	567	13	9	17	39	6.8
Others	112	14	5	28	47	41.9
TOTAL	2,561	70	56	125	251	9.8

Children who failed the sweep test were called for examination by a school medical officer and dealt with as shown below :—

Already under ear, nose and throat surgeon	23
Referred to ear, nose and throat surgeon	81
Referred to, or already under, own doctor	14
Requiring observation	44
Referred back for further audiogram	33
Treatment refused or failed to attend for examination	4
Hearing satisfactory	33
Not yet examined	19
TOTAL	251

Lip reading and auditory training classes with the hearing aid have been held weekly at the Child Guidance Centre by Mrs. E. A. Crellin, a qualified teacher of the deaf.

No. of children who have received tuition	18
No. of attendances	213

Children are making satisfactory progress, except for a few who have been irregular in their attendance. Two have made such progress that further attendance is unnecessary.

ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

Number of pupils known to have been treated :—

By the authority—at school clinics	434
" " " at schools	91
At hospital out-patient departments	95
TOTAL	620

SCHOOL PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE

Miss King, who took up her appointment as School Physiotherapist in October, 1959, resigned in December, 1960 to get married.

As in previous years weekly sessions were held at the minor ailment clinics at Hereford, Leominster and Ross-on-Wye and during term time at the Uplands Residential School. In addition to the normal treatment session at Uplands generalised ultra-violet light radiation sessions were held twice weekly as before. Sessions have also been held at Bromyard, Kingstone, Kington and Ledbury.

Many children, largely due to the transport difficulties, find it impossible to attend the fixed clinics. In certain cases, therefore, treatment has been arranged at school and domiciliary visits have been made in a few cases where circumstances justified them.

The following figures show attendances during the year :—

	<i>Clinic held at</i>	<i>Attendances</i>
BROMYARD	Youth Club Room, St. Peter's School	98
HEREFORD	Minor Ailment Clinic	697
KINGSTONE	Minor Ailment Clinic	91
KINGTON	Church Hall	76
LEDBURY	Cottage Hospital	131
LEOMINSTER	Minor Ailment Clinic	543
ROSS-ON-WYE	Minor Ailment Clinic	570
	TOTAL	2,206
Attendances—school visits	.....	1,833
Total attendances	.....	4,039
Number of children treated	.....	525

MINOR AILMENT CLINICS

Throughout the county there are four minor ailment clinics which are situated at the following addresses (details are also given as to times of opening) :—

HEREFORD	Gaol Street, Hereford. Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.—12 noon. Medical Officer attends Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.30 a.m.—10 a.m.
KINGSTONE	Kingstone Camp, Clehonger, Hereford. Tuesday and Friday, 10.30 a.m.—11 30 a.m. (during school term). Medical Officer attends on Tuesday each week.
LEOMINSTER	Westfield Walk, Leominster. Monday and Friday, 10 a.m.—11 a.m. (during school term). Medical Officer attends on Friday each week.
ROSS-ON-WYE	Chepstow House, Ross-on-Wye. Monday, 10 a.m.—11 a.m. (during school term). Medical Officer attends.

Total number of attendances at authority's minor ailment clinics	1,655
Number of cases of miscellaneous minor ailments treated by the authority	591

The undermentioned schools have been provided with special equipment and a health visitor visits once a week to deal with the treatment of minor ailments :—

Hunderton C.P. School, Hereford.
Whitecross C.S. School, Hereford.

TABLE VII.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN

(excluding uncleanliness for which see below)

Number of defects treated, or under treatment, during the year.

Type of defect	No. of cases treated	
	By the authority	Otherwise
Ringworm :—		
(1) Scalp	—	—
(2) Body	2	—
Scabies	—	—
Impetigo	13	—
Other skin diseases	124	3
TOTAL	139	3

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

Concentrated inspections are carried out by the school health visitor at the beginning of each term. In a minority of schools there remains a hard core of infestation but this is decreasing in inverse proportion to the school child population and the situation is well in hand.

The general "health inspection" of each child resulting in reference of any unsatisfactory condition for medical attention, as well as the opportunity for introducing precepts of health, can make these visits a valuable adjunct to the periodic medical examination.

Total number of examinations in schools	55,067
Total number of individual pupils found infested	436
Number of cleansing notices or orders issued (Section 54, Education Act, 1944)	Nil

SCHOOL HEALTH VISITING

This work continues without any marked change. Apart from taking any opportunity for individual teaching in principles of health and hygiene it would seem that the only real chance for health education arises when a session is allocated to the health visitor as part of the school curriculum. This arrangement remains confined to the girls of Redhill Secondary Modern School, and now in its second year the work continues to thrive. Whatever may be said concerning the importance of other aspects of parentcraft, teaching of the "simpler" skills provides an introductory point often better suited to the age and understanding of these groups.

There has been no further development in linking the health visitor with parent teacher associations, and follow up work between school and home arises largely from school medical inspections.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER.

For the past few years progressive deterioration of the Dental Service has introduced a discouraging and serious note into this section of the School Health Services. Unfortunately this report on the year's work can only register still further disintegration, but since the causative problems have been enumerated so many times, it might appear to be superfluous to do so again. It is relevant however to mention that the problems and difficulties of the School Dental Service have been most succinctly highlighted in the Memorandum on the Local Authority Dental Services published by the British Dental Association and issued to all Authorities, and other interested bodies during the year.

For most of the year the available dental staff was 1 3/11 expressed in terms of full time dental surgeons out of an establishment of 6 full time officers. No imagination is needed to realise the limitations imposed by such understaffing with over 20,000 children on the register of maintained primary and secondary schools.

With this ratio of dental staff to children no acceptable service could be provided and reorganisation became imperative. Resulting from such reorganisation as was considered possible, routine inspection and treatment of pupils attending schools in the City of Hereford was discontinued with effect from March

and concerned approximately 7,000 children. Having regard to geographical features of the County it was felt that to discontinue routine inspection and treatment of the rural school population would cause greater hardship and inconvenience than it would to those on the register of city schools where the General Dental Services are more accessible and include two ex school dental surgeons. Facilities for the relief of pain and sepsis for city children remain unaffected by this reorganisation. It would be a serious mistake however to suppose that a fully comprehensive service is now available in rural Herefordshire.

During the year a new and pleasant surgery with modern equipment was opened at Leominster, thereby fulfilling a great need in this area. For a short period it was possible to staff this surgery with a part-time officer.

On discontinuing routine inspection and treatment of city schoolchildren, an increase in the number presenting with toothache could reasonably be anticipated. Surprisingly enough this has not been the case, though many parents complain that they cannot obtain treatment for their children under the General Dental Service. Oral conditions observed at inspection indicate there is a mass of untreated dental disease.

Perusal of the tabulated statistics shown below give a clear indication of the inadequacy of the service, and to those who like the writer of this report have spent over a quarter of a century in the practice of dental surgery on children, the present position is most disquietening.

Number of pupils inspected by the authority's dental officers :—

(a) At periodic inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,948
(b) Specials	.....	.....	.....	.....	293
TOTAL					4,241

Number found to require treatment	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,658
Number referred for treatment	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,517
Number actually treated	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,574
Attendances made by pupils for treatment	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,753
Half-days devoted to : Inspection	.....	.....	.....	.....	46½
Treatment	.....	.....	.....	.....	538
TOTAL					584½

Fillings :	Permanent teeth	.....	.....	.....	2,160
	Temporary teeth	.....	.....	.....	17
	TOTAL					2,177

Number of teeth filled :	Permanent teeth	.....	.....	.....	1,885
	Temporary teeth	.....	.....	.....	17
	TOTAL					1,902

Extractions :	Permanent teeth	.....	.....	.....	563
	Temporary teeth	1,933
	TOTAL				

Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	65
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ORTHODONTICS :

Number of pupils supplied with artificial dentures	4
Other operations :	Permanent teeth	129
	Temporary teeth	.....	.....	.....	3
TOTAL					132

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN SCHOOLS

During the year no schools were closed on account of infectious disease.

TABLE VIII

This table shows the number of notifications of infectious and other notifiable diseases among children of compulsory school age during the year.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever	37	27	64
Whooping Cough	56	55	111
Acute Poliomyelitis—			
(a) Paralytic	—	—	—
(b) Non-Paralytic	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	93	96	189
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	23	13	36
Dysentery	82	81	163
Smallpox	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis—			
(a) Infective	2	1	3
(b) Post-Infectious	1	—	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	7	10
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	9	14	23
Total notifications	306	294	600

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

During the year the following children were newly ascertained as requiring special educational treatment in special schools :—

Blind	1
Partially sighted	2
Deaf	—
Partially Deaf	1
Delicate	25
Physically handicapped	1
Educationally sub-normal	36
Maladjusted	5
Epileptic	—
Speech	—
TOTAL	71

79 Children were admitted to special residential schools and hospital special schools during the year and the same number were discharged.

18 Boys were admitted to Pudleston Court School for educationally sub-normal pupils and 15 were discharged. One of the boys discharged was reported to the local health authority under section 57(3) of the Education Act, 1944 as ineducable and 3 were reported under section 57(5) as requiring supervision after leaving school. At the end of the year 7 boys, whose parents had given their consent, were on the waiting list for admission to this school and 4 of these were to be admitted in January, 1961.

During the year 3 educationally sub-normal girls were admitted to Haughton Hall Special Residential School, Shifnal, Salop and 4 were discharged. On the 31st December there were 6 girls awaiting places at this school and 2 of these were to be admitted in January, 1961.

12 Boys and 6 girls were admitted to Uplands School for Delicate Children, Folly Lane, Hereford and 12 boys and 8 girls were discharged. This Special School takes children between 5 and 11 years of age up to a maximum of 27. 3 Children were awaiting admission at the year end, all to be admitted at the start of the Spring term 1961.

TABLE IX

The number of Pupils ascertained is given in the following table which shows the position on 31st December, 1960.

Category	In Special School*		In Maintained Schools		In Independent Schools		Not at School		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
(a) BLIND	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
(b) PARTIALLY SIGHTED	1	1	3	4	1	1	1	-	6	6
(c) DEAF	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4
(d) PARTIALLY DEAF	1	3	20	13	-	-	-	-	21	16
(e) EDUCATIONALLY SUB-NORMAL	46	14	75	51	-	1	2	1	123	67
(f) EPILEPTIC	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
(g) MALADJUSTED	5	2	6	3	-	1	-	-	11	6
(h) PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED	-	1	3	1	-	1	4	2	7	5
(i) SPEECH DEFECT	-	-	229	97	11	4	7	1	247	102
(j) DELICATE	10	11	32	40	-	-	3	1	45	52
(k) MULTIPLE DEFECTS	16	6	16	9	-	-	2	1	34	16
TOTAL	89	47	384	218	12	8	19	6	504	279

*Includes Hospital Special Schools.

CASES REPORTED TO LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

Under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944, the local education authority is required to examine those children in its area who, having attained the age of two years, are suffering from disability of mind of such a nature or to such an extent as to make them incapable of receiving education at school.

On the 1st November, 1960 new legislation contained in section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1959 and the second schedule of the same Act came into operation. Section 57(4) reads:—

“ If, after considering the advice given with respect to any child by a medical officer in consequence of a medical examination under this section, and any reports or information which the local education authority are able to obtain from teachers or other persons with respect to the ability and aptitude of the child, the authority decide that the child is suffering from such a disability of mind as aforesaid, they shall (subject to subsection (5) of this section) cause the decision to be recorded and furnish to the local health authority a report of the decision, together with a copy of any written advice, report or information which was taken into account for the purposes of the decision.”

Under section 57A where a decision has been recorded under amended section 57 the parent of a child may at any time (but not earlier than twelve months after the recording of the decision nor more often than once in any subsequent period of twelve months) request the local education authority to review the decision.

If the local education authority then decide, after considering the advice of the Principal School Medical Officer and the reports available, that the child is no longer unsuitable to receive education at school they must cancel their original decision.

Under the new legislation there is no legal requirement for the local education authority to notify the local health authority that a child may require supervision after leaving school on account of mental disability. It is suggested, however, that such notification should continue on an informal basis.

During the past year the undermentioned children were reported :—

Under section 57(3) (Prior to 1/11/60)	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Under section 57(4) (From 1/11/60)	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Under section 57(5) (Prior to 1/11/60)	.....	.....	.....	.....	12

Decisions that a child is unsuitable for education in school cancelled under section 57A (2) Nil

CHILD GUIDANCE SERVICE

148 new cases were seen at the Child Guidance Centre during the year, and 96 at schools or other centres. The number of attendances at the centre was 1,718, and 120 schools and 5 clinics were visited by the educational psychologist.

The new patients seen at the Child Guidance Centre were referred from the following sources :—

School medical officers	.....	.....	.....	.....	37
Family doctors, or hospital	.....	.....	.....	.....	44
School	.....	.....	.....	.....	27
Court or agency	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Other	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
					<hr/>
					148
					<hr/>

The children above were grouped diagnostically as follows :—

Anxiety	.....	.....	.....	.....	58
Enuresis	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Behaviour disorders	.....	.....	.....	.....	26
Backwardness	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Educationally sub-normal	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Others	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
					<hr/>
					148
					<hr/>

The recommendations made in these cases were :—

Treatment	.....	.....	.....	.....	52
Transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
Environmental adjustment and maintain contact	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
Special educational tuition	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Remedial teaching	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Other	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
					<hr/>
					148
					<hr/>

The number of children receiving treatment at the Centre during the year was 86, including those for remedial teaching. At the end of the year 30 children were still being treated, 8 were on the waiting list for treatment and 20 were awaiting examination.

The interviews carried out by the social worker with mothers both at the Centre and by way of home visits were specially valuable.

A party was held at the Centre in March and was greatly enjoyed and an "Open Day" held on Wednesday, 13th July, was a great success.

PUPILS WITH SPEECH DEFECTS

With only one speech therapist working in the County until September some patients had to be treated on a fortnightly basis. With the appointment of Miss Hayes all clinics were again held weekly and the number of patients receiving treatment during the year was 224—exactly the same number as the previous year. Treatment has been carried out at the following clinics :—

BROMYARD	Dumbleton Hall, Bromyard.
HEREFORD	Child Guidance Centre, Union Street, Hereford.
KINGTON	Cottage Hospital, Kington.
LEDBURY	Cottage Hospital, Ledbury.
LEOMINSTER	Westfield Walk, Leominster.
ROSS-ON-WYE	Chepstow House, Ross-on-Wye

In addition sessions have been held regularly at Pudleston Court School and the Barrs Court Junior Training Centre and frequent visits have been made to Uplands Residential School.

Unfortunately, some patients are unable to attend the various clinics due to transport difficulties and requests to my treatment sessions have had to be refused due to lack of time.

Cases in attendance at beginning of 1960.....	118
New cases treated	102
Old cases re-entered	4
	224

Cases on waiting list after first interview	61
Cases on list awaiting interview	101
Cases discharged after treatment	34
Cases discharged, no treatment required, or refused	25
Cases discharged on leaving school	13
Cases discharged on leaving the district	9
Cases placed under observation after treatment	33
Total number of attendances	3,124

CLINICAL ANALYSIS

Multiple dyslalia	34
Simple dyslalia	48
Sigmatism	51
Stammer	44
Cleft palate	3
Rhotacism	4
Dysphasia	2
Poor language development	6
Cluttering	1
Dyslalia and deafness	5
Sigmatism and stammer	1
Dyslalia and subnormality	13
Cleft plate and stammer	1
Dysarthria	5
Laryngectomy	1
Stammer and dyslalia	5
	224
TOTAL	224

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Arrangements have been made with the proprietors of eight schools not maintained by the authority for the provision of medical inspection and treatment under section 78 (2) of the Education Act, 1944.

Number of schools inspected	8
Periodic medical inspections—	
Number of children inspected	194
Number of children found to require treatment—	
For defective vision	9
For any other condition	6
Total individual children	15
Physical condition of the children examined—	
Satisfactory	194
Unsatisfactory	—
Number of children found to require observation	33
Number of special inspections	—
Number of re-inspections	119

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

Children of compulsory school age, employed out of school hours, are required to submit to medical examination in order to ascertain that the employment is not prejudicial to their health or physical development and does not render them unfit to obtain proper benefit from their education. During the year 80 children were examined by school medical officers and granted certificates.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF SCHOOLS

When a school medical officer visits a school to carry out medical inspection he prepares a report on the school premises. This includes brief notes on the sanitary arrangements, water supply, washing accommodation, canteen and sculleries, heating, lighting and ventilation. Matters which appear to require attention or investigation are referred to the Director of Education.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

Candidates applying for entry to training colleges, university departments of education, and approved art schools are required to submit to X-ray examination and to a medical examination by a school medical officer of the area in which they live in order to determine their fitness for these courses.

Arrangements are also made for teachers entering the service of the authority to undergo a medical examination, including a X-ray test of the chest, to exclude the possibility of infection.

During the past year the following examinations were carried out by the authority's medical staff :—

Entrants to training colleges, etc.	66 (1 failed)
Teachers	94

Special arrangements were made during the annual visit of the Dudley Mass Radiography unit for the X-ray of students attending the Hereford Training College.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Diphtheria immunisation is offered at the school medical inspections on the child first commencing attendance at school at five years of age, either a full course of two or three injections, or a single reinforcing injection when the child has been immunised in infancy. This service is again offered when the child reaches nine years of age.

During the year 1960 diphtheria immunisation sessions were held at school medical inspections in 146 maintained and 5 private schools in the area of the local education authority. Notices regarding this service, embodying a form of consent, were forwarded to the parents of 3,512 children in the age groups of 5 and 9, and treatment at the school was accepted in respect of 2,445 pupils, an acceptance rate of 69.6 per cent. Of these, 362 children had not been previously immunised and were given a full course of injections and 2,083 children were given a single reinforcing injection. In addition, 20 primary immunisations and 238 reinforcing injections were administered to children of school age by general medical practitioners and at minor ailment clinics.

No cases of diphtheria were notified in the area of the authority during the year.

PROTECTION FROM POLIOMYELITIS

Vaccination against poliomyelitis continued to be offered during the year but very few new registrations for vaccination were received from parents for children of school age. Injections are either undertaken by family doctors or by appointment at County Council clinics.

Three out of four children have now been vaccinated with the full course of three injections.

Revised recommendations were received from the Ministry of Health regarding the timing between poliomyelitis vaccination and other immunising procedures. When appointments are offered for poliomyelitis injections parents are also asked to notify the health department if the child has recently received or is about to receive any other injections. The necessary alterations are then made in the dates of appointments.

No case of poliomyelitis was reported during the year.

The following table shows the number of children of school age vaccinated during the year :—

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

<i>Year of birth</i>	<i>Vaccinated with two injections</i>	<i>Vaccinated with third injection</i>	<i>Total number given three injections since beginning of scheme</i>
1946	30	169	1,623
1947	30	165	1,823
1948	18	139	1,695
1949	27	136	1,577
1950	21	117	1,607
1951	16	134	1,499
1952	28	139	1,581
1953	34	196	1,586
1954	45	165	1,495
1955	34	181	1,516
TOTAL	283	1,541	15,972 ¹⁵⁹⁷² 16002

B.C.G. VACCINATION

B.C.G. Vaccination is offered, subject to obtaining parental consent and to the necessary preliminary tests, to school children who are aged 13 years and upwards. The tuberculin testing and actual vaccination are carried out by members of the medical staff who visit the schools and apply a skin test to the children. Later the children are seen again and those producing a negative result are vaccinated.

The majority of the children vaccinated in 1959 have been re-tested and those producing negative results have been re-vaccinated.

The procedure of B.C.G. vaccination is safe and effective in preventing the more acute forms of tuberculosis and the scheme should be actively encouraged.

Number offered P.P.D. test and B.C.G. vaccination (if necessary)	2,248	
Number of acceptances	1,686	70.4%
Number tested during the year	1,651	
Number found to be negative reactors and vaccinated	1,414	85.6%
Number found to be tuberculin positive	237	14.4%
Number referred to Chest Physician	6	
Number referred for X-ray only	4	
Number vaccinated with B.C.G. in 1959 who have been re-tested	1,038	
Number found to be negative reactors and re-vaccinated	109	10.5%
Number found to be tuberculin positive	829	89.5%

School medical officers visit the schools again 6-8 weeks following vaccination to examine the arms of the children and note any reactions.

B.C.G. Vaccination was offered at the beginning of the Autumn term to students attending the Hereford Training College. Of the 77 students offered 54 were tuberculin skin tested. Of these 31 were found to be negative reactive and were vaccinated.

TUBERCULOSIS IN SCHOOL CHILDREN

One school child has been notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and is receiving treatment in hospital and another school child notified as a case of glandular tuberculosis has had hospital treatment with good effect and is under clinic supervision.

Thirty-seven school children who were contacts of tuberculous cases, had B.C.G. vaccination at the Chest Clinic.

The low incidence of illness in school children due to tuberculous infection is a satisfactory finding.

PROVISION OF SCHOOL MEALS AND MILK

2,794,165 meals were provided by the school meals service in 1960 and all schools maintained by the Authority were supplied with either pasteurised or tuberculin tested milk daily.

New self-contained canteens have been opened during the year at Bluecoat Secondary Modern School, Hereford, and the County Secondary School, Ledbury, but it was found necessary to close Aston Ingham School self-contained Canteen owing to the fact that it did not meet certain Food and Drugs Act requirements.

Structural improvements have been undertaken at several of the Authority's rural school canteens and more modern equipment has been installed in many cases.

In the fight against dental decay apples were issued as an experiment to children attending the Kington Dining Centre.

Training Courses have again been held this year for supervisors, cooks-in-charge and assistant cooks.

Various emergency arrangements were made in the Ross area during the period 26th October to 11th November owing to a failure in the gas supply and in December emergency arrangements had to be made owing to extensive flooding in the County.

The standard of the school meal has continued to improve during the year and with the construction of modern self-contained canteens at the Authority's new secondary schools, it is hoped to provide an even better service.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Playgrounds

Repairs have been effected to the playgrounds of 8 schools. Additional tarpaved areas have been provided at 3 schools.

Heating

New stoves and grates have been provided and repairs carried out to existing stoves and grates in 32 schools. New boilers have been installed at 6 schools and repairs have been carried out to central heating systems at 19 schools. The boilers at 2 schools have been enlarged.

Equipment

New desks and tables (replacements) have been supplied to 40 schools.

General Sanitary Arrangements

The earth closets of 7 schools have been converted into water closets and conversion work has been approved in 7 other cases. Improvements have been carried out to the sanitary arrangements at 6 schools.

The natural lighting, ventilation, cloakroom and washroom arrangements at 15 schools have been improved.

Drains have been overhauled and repaired in 9 schools.

Application has been made for 6 schools to be connected to the public water supply. Supplies have been laid on at 7 schools and boreholes have been sunk at 2 schools with satisfactory results.

Appropriate action has been taken to improve the quality of the water at 6 schools.

General

The new County Secondary School at Ledbury was occupied as from the 28th April, 1960. The new County Secondary School at Bromyard has been completed and will be occupied as from the commencement of the Summer Term 1961. Additional classrooms have been erected or are in course of erection

at 7 schools. A start has been made on the new laboratory and classroom block at Leominster Grammar School.

Work has also begun on the erection of a new Youth Club/Community Centre at Ross Road, Hereford.

Repairs have been effected to school floors in 21 cases, and renovations carried out at 50 schools.

Electric light has been installed in 2 schools and improvements have been effected to the existing installations at 4 schools.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It is pleasing to report an all-round improvement in the development of physical education, in both primary and secondary schools throughout the County. The major factors which have contributed to this include the extremely successful scheme of swimming instruction which was introduced for rural schools, the general improvement of Capitation and Games Fund allowances for both primary and secondary schools and the continued success of the local Schools' Sports Association.

The scheme of swimming instruction was implemented according to plan in the Ross, Ledbury, Leominster and Colwall areas of the County. The scheme has been acclaimed by head teachers of the schools concerned as one of the most outstanding and successful ventures granted to the rural schools in recent years. It has proved of inestimable educational value and it has been most gratifying to receive praise on behalf of the Education Committee. No less than 39 primary schools were able to take advantage of this scheme, and some 908 individual children, resulted in a total of 7,968 attendances throughout the summer term. Progress was rather limited but it is encouraging to note that although the scheme produced 226 swimmers in 10 lessons, it is true to state that all the children learnt a great deal, since the first and most important obstacle to overcome was the fear of water. During 1961 it is anticipated that this scheme will be enlarged to accommodate children in other areas, where in the past facilities have not been available.

In connection with the Education Authority's Badge Scheme for the encouragement of swimming, it will be of interest to note that during the year 826 children were taught to swim at the Hereford Corporation Baths.

The increased Capitation and Games Fund allowances have given greater flexibility, both with regard to the purchase of equipment and in arranging inter-school visits for minor and major games. In our primary schools there has been a steady increase in the number of inter-school visits for games and athletics meetings, and a great deal of educational benefit is derived particularly by those children who live in the more remote areas. The secondary schools have enlarged their school fixture lists and the financial help received has made it possible for the provision of a greater variety of gymnastic equipment.

Several schools are now actively engaged in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Apart from the many other excellent aspects of this scheme, it is felt that it has encouraged the development of physical education on a much wider level, it has opened up new possibilities in a healthy new world of adventure, and the children now enjoy the stimulating challenge engendered by canoeing, camping, fell walking, rock climbing, etc.

The Herefordshire Schools' Sports Association continued to make satisfactory progress, both rowing and basketball have been included in the past year's activities. The efforts of the County Football XI were rewarded with the winning of the inter-cities football shield, whilst in athletics a small but successful team represented the County in the National Championships. In this latter event three children gained distinction, thus maintaining the high level of attainment which has characterised this activity since it was introduced some 10 years ago.

The Education Authority continues to support and encourage courses for both children and teachers, and during the past twelve months there have been good attendances at athletics, swimming, and rebound tumbling courses.

HOUSECRAFT INSTRUCTION

Ledbury School of Domestic Economy which had been used as a centre for senior girls since 1912 was closed at the end of the Spring Term and the building is now used as a Youth Club. The Teacher-in-Charge was transferred to the staff of the new Secondary School at Ledbury where a large housecraft room has been provided, together with a "flatlet" consisting of a bed-sitting-room and bathroom.

At Redhill County Secondary School the second domestic science teacher took up duty in September. At this school a bed-sitting room and bathroom have been built between the two housecraft rooms, so that all the girls will have an opportunity of using them during their course. An instructional "flatlet" is also available at Canon Frome County Secondary School.

A specialist was engaged to give nine separate lecture/demonstrations on "Good Grooming" to school leavers at one grammar school, six county secondary schools, one all-age primary school and to a combined group of youth club evening class students and school leavers. Good reports were received following this series.

A group of deaf girls were admitted to a housecraft class on one day per week through the co-operation of the head master of a county secondary school; the facilities were greatly appreciated by the principal of the special school and by the girls themselves.

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