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THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL MEDICINE,
10, Parks Road, Oxford.

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LINCOLN COUNTY COUNCIL

LINCOLNSHIRE.

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

County Health Services

PART 1.

REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

BY

W. G. BOOTH,

M.D., D.P.H.

1945.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEE

1945.

Chairman :

Mr. G. L. NUSSEY, J.P.

Ex-Officio :

Alderman O. B. GILES,

Alderman R. T. PROCTER,

Councillor E. WRISDALE.

Alderman E. H. GOOCH, Alderman S. WAIN.

Coun. G. H. BIRD, Coun. E. E. WELBY-EVERARD,

„ G. W. CHATTERTON, Mr. J. F. ALEXANDER,

„ O. DRACASS, Mr. L. J. DRIVER,

„ R. LEGGOTT, Mrs. W. F. HOWARD,

„ P. LOUGHLIN, Miss E. A. SWAIN,

„ C. R. THOMPSON, Rev. H. BURN.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

BY

W. G. BOOTH, M.D., D.P.H.

1945.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report on the school medical services for the year 1945, will show the extent of your services at the end of the war. Much of our work had been curtailed, and all dental work had ceased in Spalding and the south of the County. It will certainly take much hard work to pick up the lost ground when our staff return from the services.

The transfer of the Education Services from the Borough of Boston to the County Council on the 1st April, 1945, was smoothly arranged but until staff are procurable it will not be possible to give the Borough all the attention it needs. It is regretted that our figures for uncleanness among school children show an increase but an explanation for this will be found in the body of the report.

The immunisation of children under school age by the Health Visitors in the homes, and that done by practitioners is now showing its effect in a lessening of immunisation in the schools.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the excellent work done by the staff under trying conditions during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. BOOTH.

STATISTICS RELATING TO MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Area of County	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	267,936 acres
Population of Administrative County (1931 Census)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	92,313
Population of Administrative County (estimated mid-year)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	92,030
Number of School Departments:—						
Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	59
Non-Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	41
						—
						100
						—
Number of Children on Books (31st December, 1945)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,170
Average attendance year ending 31st December, 1945	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10,983
No. of School Attendance Officers on 31/12/45	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6

1. STAFF OF SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE, 1945.

School Medical Officer :

W. G. BOOTH, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy School Medical Officer :

J. FIELDING, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officers :

*A. C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
IRIS M. CULLUM, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
MARY C. DONOVAN, M.B., B.Ch.

Orthopædic Surgeon :

R. E. M. PILCHER, F.R.C.S.

School Dental Officers :

*C. A. JOHNSTON, L.D.S. (Edin.).
*A. D. HENDERSON, L.D.S. (Edin.), D.P.D.

Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon :

A. H. BRIGGS, M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.

Aural Surgeon (Part-Time) :

J. J. RAINFORTH, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

School Nurses :

Miss A. D. BLACK,	Miss A. Q. LINNELL,
Mrs. BOWERS (resigned 31/1/45),	Mrs. M. MEACHAM,
Miss E. ENSOR (resigned 7/7/45),	Miss H. E. SPENCER,
Miss E. HALLWORTH,	Miss D. M. BRAYBROOKS,
Miss M. A. KINGSTON,	(Transferred from Boston 1/4/45).
Miss H. M. LEWIS,	

Orthopædic Nurses :

Mrs. G. E. C. IBBOTSON,	Miss W. BOARDMAN.
(resigned 25/12/45)	

Dental Nurses :

Miss M. SIMPSON.	Miss J. M. STARKEY (resigned 31/8/45).
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Chief Clerk :

W. INGRAM.

The following have been employed in a temporary capacity :—

P. Coffey, M.D., D.P.H., Asst. School Medical Officer (commenced 26th Feb., 1942).

Betty M. White, M.B, Ch.B., D.P.H. (Asst. School Medical Officer, part-time).

N. Gerson, L.D.S., Temporary School Dentist in the place of Mr. A. D. Henderson (on War Service).

Miss C. S. Wells, L.D.S. (Temporary School Dentist in the place of Mr. C. A. Johnston [on War Service])—resigned 27/2/45.

Mr. J. R. James, L.D.S.—Temporary School Dentist—resigned 9/6/45.

*Indicates on War Service.

II.—EDUCATION ACT, 1944.

The arrangements for school medical inspection and treatment are included in Parts II. and IV. of the Act which came into operation on the 1st April, 1945. Each Authority is now required to formulate a scheme for the comprehensive treatment of illness in school children and any treatment given is to be a free service.

The Borough of Boston ceased to be a separate Education Authority on 31st March, 1945, and its functions were transferred to the County Authority. One full-time school nurse from the Borough joined the County staff but there was no transfer of medical or clerical staff from the Boston Health Department. The Health Centre at 4, London Road, Boston, was also taken over by the County Council.

The proposals of the Education Authority which are subject to the approval of the Minister of Education had to take two aspects into account, namely,

- (a) The Authority's services and
- (b) The Voluntary Hospital Services.

The following is a general statement of the Authority's arrangements together with the extensions which are proposed :—

A. Medical Inspection.—In the primary schools, children will be inspected as entrants, intermediates, and leavers. In the secondary schools, pupils will be inspected on attaining the age of 13 and again at 15 years.

B. Medical Treatment.—

Minor Ailments.—These cases will be treated at the school clinics at Boston, Spalding, Holbeach and Donington. Where school clinics are difficult of access, children will be treated at schools or, by arrangement, at the nearest welfare centre.

Defective Vision and Eye Disease.—Weekly refraction clinics to be held at Boston and Spalding, and monthly sessions at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge. Special cases, such as squint, etc. will be referred to the Council's Eye Surgeon, Dr. A. H. Briggs. Operative treatment will be available at Boston General Hospital or at any other Special Hospital on the recommendation of Dr. Briggs. Diseases of the eye will be dealt with either at the clinics or at Boston General Hospital.

Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat.—Special cases are referred to the Consultant, Mr. J. Lewin, F.R.C.S., and Mr. G. W. Morey, M.B., B.S., D.L.O. Operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids will be undertaken by these Surgeons at the Spalding and Boston General Hospitals respectively ; also at the Holbeach Emer-

gency Hospital by Mr. R. S. de Bruyn, F.R.C.S. It is now proposed to extend the arrangements to cover other defects, e.g., mastoid disease, etc.

Orthopædic Defects.—In-patient treatment is provided at the Holland County Emergency Hospital Orthopædic Block (a Special School), and at Harlow Wood Orthopædic Hospital, nr. Mansfield. Regular monthly clinics are held by the Orthopædic Surgeon at Spalding and Boston, and occasional sessions at Holbeach. Emergency cases are seen by special arrangement at the Holland County Emergency Hospital, Boston. Out-patient treatment is provided at the Holland County Emergency Hospital, at the Bargate Physiotherapy Centre, Boston, and, as an addition to the service a Physiotherapy Centre is being established at the former Education Offices, High Street, Spalding. There are two masseuses who undertake home visiting when necessary. Arrangements are in operation for the provision of special boots and orthopædic appliances on the recommendation of the Orthopædic Surgeon.

Cleansing Arrangements.—Arrangements have been made to carry out the provisions of Section 54 for the cleansing of children and/or clothing as follows :—

- (a) Clothing—At the Myntling Home, Spalding ; the Holbeach Emergency Hospital, and at Wyberton West Hospital, Boston.
- (b) Persons—At the Health Centre, 4, London Road, Boston, for North Holland pupils of both sexes, and at Short Street Depot, Spalding, for South Holland girl pupils. Male pupils in South Holland attend at the Myntling Home, Spalding.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.—There are two fully equipped dental clinics, one at the Health Centre, Boston, and one at the Spalding Centre. In addition there is a mobile trailer for the rural schools in North Holland and a motor dental van for South Holland. On account of the additional work which will be involved by the inclusion of all children in primary and secondary schools, the appointment of an extra dentist will be necessary.

Child Guidance Clinics.—The Authority's Scheme provides for a complete service, but this is dependent upon joint action with a neighbouring authority. Negotiations are in progress to this end. At the present time, occasional cases are sent to clinics at Nottingham or Cambridge.

Speech Therapy.—The appointment of a full-time Speech Therapist has been approved but it has not been possible to obtain one owing to the shortage of these specialists. Individual cases are being sent to the speech therapist at Peterborough but this arrangement is not a satisfactory one.

Rheumatism and Heart Clinics.—Arrangements were completed before the end of the year for Dr. J. W. Brown, Consultant Physician, to hold special clinics at two-monthly intervals for these cases. The sessions will be held alternately at Boston and Spalding. Cases requiring institutional care will be accommodated in the Council's hospitals.

Hospital Treatment.—Apart from the hospital treatment hitherto provided, the Authority's scheme will, subject to the approval of the Minister of Education, cover hospital treatment of all kinds, excluding venereal and infectious diseases. This treatment will be available in County Council or Municipal Hospitals in or outside the County, and in Voluntary Hospitals. Payment to Voluntary Hospitals for these services will be made on an agreed national basis.

III.—CO-ORDINATION.

Adequate co-ordination exists as the control of all the County medical services in the hands of the County Medical Officer. The fact that each health visitor is also school nurse for her district preserves continuity of supervision when a child is transferred from the maternity and child welfare service on admission to school.

IV.—MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The medical inspection of all children in the routine age groups—entrants, intermediates and leavers—has been continued; also of special cases referred by head teachers or parents. There was a decrease (709) in the number of children examined in the routine age groups, the number being 2837. Special examinations and re-inspections numbered 1431.

V.—SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Inspections of school premises and out offices are carried out by the assistant school medical officers during the routine visits to schools, and reports made as to their cleanliness and general hygienic conditions. Defects of a serious nature are referred to the County Architect or School Managers through the Director of Education. Owing to the general shortage of labour and materials, much remains to be done in this direction.

VI.—FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION—EFFECT OF THE WAR ON THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE CHILDREN.

The statistical tables appear at the end of the report. Skin diseases have been prevalent and there was a large increase in the number of cases of impetigo. The results of the nutritional survey suggest that the health of the children has been well maintained. The percentage recorded in the categories "Excellent" and "Normal" combined was 97.5 compared with 96.8 in the previous year.

VII.—TREATMENT.

Normal facilities for treatment have been available throughout the year ; this is shown in more detail in the following sub-sections :—

Minor Ailments.—The major part of the treatment for minor ailments is given at the established clinics, but treatment is also given at the schools and in the homes if necessary. 1,886 cases were dealt with during the year. The number of attendances at the clinics at Boston, Spalding, Holbeach, Donington and Swineshead was 5296. Included in this figure are 3,020 attendances made by children attending schools in the Borough of Boston.

Dental Service.—Mr. N. Gerson reports on the work in the northern part of the County as follows :—

I beg to submit my report on the School Dental Service for the year ended 31st December, 1945. On April 1st, 1945, the Council "took over" the administration of the Borough Schools but this change has made no difference whatsoever to the Dental Service. It will be observed, however, that in this report considerable more sessions automatically were undertaken. Out of 11 sessions per week five and a half were devoted to the Borough Schools and a similar number to the County Schools. In previous reports statistical tables were drawn up only to cover the total amount of work throughout the year on a basis of $5\frac{1}{2}$ sessions per week. Now the figures shewn in data form have increased considerably owing to double the amount of sessions. The passing of the "Butler Act" certainly tended to increase the amount of work in many ways. Foremost of all the abolition of the fee for any dental treatment in the Service, although the County Scheme for the past 8 years, one of the finest I consider of all the Counties in England, of an initial payment of 1/- to include all treatment given during the pupil's career at school, has stood its test admirably. Again free dental treatment now offered to all scholars attending the Grammar and High Schools will in the near future add to the extra number of children attending the Clinic.

From the figures above 4,439 (43%) Elementary school children were found to require treatment out of 10,119 children inspected and 1,380 were actually treated, an acceptance rate of only 31%, but it will be noticed that no less than 57% of children inspected did not require treatment. This fact, in my opinion and a viewpoint shared by many dental officers in the country, may be due in great measure to the changes in the National dietary particularly when war-time dietary conditions prevail. The total number of fillings in permanent and temporary teeth works out at about 0.5 fillings per child and it is my aim next year to bring it up to an average of 1 filling per child.

In conclusion may I take this opportunity of thanking the M.O.H., Anæsthetists, Dental Nurses, Head Teachers, Staffs of the various Schools, the Office Staff, the Voluntary Ambulance Drivers and all those whose co-operation has been so helpful throughout the year.

	1944	1945
Children inspected	8131	10119
Children found to require treatment	3540	4439
Number of attendances for treatment	1095	1598
Number of sessions for treatment	145	222
Number of sessions for inspection	75	140
Number of extractions (permanent teeth)	153	244
Number of extractions (temporary teeth)	1024	1781
Number of fillings (permanent teeth)	327	595
Number of fillings (temporary teeth)	44	77
Number of other operations	168	281
Number of administrations of general anæsthetic	271	459

Mr. J. R. James, temporary school dentist in the south of the County terminated his appointment on the 9th June, 1945. Since that date we have been without a dentist for this area.

The number of children inspected and the treatment given up to the 31st May, 1945, is as follows :—

Children Inspected	2066
Children found to require treatment	1175
Number of attendances for treatment	965
Number of sessions for treatment	168
Number of sessions for inspection	26
Number of extractions (permanent teeth)	110
Number of extractions (temporary teeth)	561
Number of fillings (permanent teeth)	448
Number of fillings (temporary teeth)	156
Number of other operations	169
Number of administrations of general anæsthetics	279

ORTHOPÆDIC SCHEME.

Thirty-three Orthopædic Clinics were held at the Centres at Boston, Spalding and Holbeach. During 1945, 211 children were seen at the clinics and the number of attendances made was 303.

The following table shews the classification of cases according to the nature of the disease :—

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

322 elementary and 8 secondary school children received operative treatment under the Authority's scheme during the year and 8 children received other forms of treatment. The arrangements for operative work to be carried out at the Holbeach Emergency Hospital in addition to the Boston and Spalding General Hospitals have enabled prompt treatment to be provided.

DEFECTIVE HEARING AND EAR DISEASES.

Eight cases were referred to the Consultant under the prevention of deafness arrangements and the prescribed treatment was carried out.

NUTRITION.

The tables at the end of the report classify the children in three groups. 97.5% were classified as of excellent or normal nutrition.

TUBERCULOSIS.

148 attendances were made by school children at the two dispensaries in the County. 28 cases received in-patient treatment during the year.

UNCLEANLINESS.

There was an increase (15,832) in the number of examinations of children, the actual number being 49,231. It is regrettable to report that many more children were found to be verminous, namely, 1347 compared with 448 in 1944. This was partly due to the fact that, as from 1st April, 1945, the figures included the Borough of Boston schools which alone accounted for 549 cases of uncleanliness. A second cause is undoubtedly the lack of school nursing staff. Two areas in the County are without a school nurse as it has not been possible to fill the vacancies and an additional school nurse is urgently necessary in the Borough of Boston as soon as circumstances permit.

As stated previously cleansing stations are in operation at Spalding and Boston.

2 cases of scabies received in-patient treatment at Wyberton West Hospital during 1945, and 10 at the Freiston Hall Sick Bay, nr. Boston.

71 scabies cases attended the minor ailments clinics.

VIII.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

School Closure.—It was not necessary to close any school during the year, but 32 certificates were given in respect of schools in which the attendance had fallen below 60 per cent. owing to epidemic illness.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The arrangements have been continued whereby children may be immunised at the time of school inspections by members of the County Medical Staff. The protective treatment may also be given at the nearest welfare centre if any considerable delay is likely to occur. 189 children were

XII.—EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

In addition to the children in the Special School attached to the Orthopædic Block at the Holland County Emergency Hospital, Boston, 4 blind children, 5 deaf and dumb children, 1 epileptic, and 2 mentally sub-normal children are attending out-county special schools.

The provision of accommodation in the County for educationally sub-normal children is an urgent necessity as it is practically impossible to obtain vacancies in out-county special schools, and the only alternative is to allow them to remain in the ordinary primary schools.

Seventeen cases were referred during the year to the Local Authority for action under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

Freiston Hall Sick Bay, nr. Boston (now a Children's Hospital) continues to receive sick and convalescent children and public assistance cases. Accommodation is available for 25 children.

TABLE I.
Return of Medical Inspections.
PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

	Number inspected.
Entrants	1162
Second Age Group	1019
Third Age Group	656
Special Inspections and Re-inspections	1290
Total	4127

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Entrants	320
Pupils attaining 13 years	99
Pupils attaining 15 years	87
Special Inspections and Re-inspections	141
Total	647

TABLE II.
Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	5.1
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by School Nurses	49231
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean	1347
(iv) Number of children cleansed	297
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken	1

TABLE III.

Classification of the Nutrition of Holland and Evacuee Children inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Age Groups	Number of Children Inspected	Nutritional Classification of Children Inspected						
		(A) Excellent		(B) Normal		(C) Slightly Sub-normal		
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
PRIMARY SCHOOLS								
Entrants	1162	46	3.9	1089	93.7	27	2.4	
Second Age Group ..	1019	49	4.8	947	92.9	23	2.3	
Third Age Group ..	656	44	6.7	584	89.0	28	4.3	
Total	2837	139	4.9	2620	92.4	78	2.7	
SECONDARY SCHOOLS								
Entrants	320	34	10.6	281	87.8	5	1.6	
Attaining 13 years ..	99	8	8.0	91	92.0	—	—	
Attaining 15 years ..	87	18	20.7	69	79.3	—	—	
Total	506	60	11.9	441	87.2	5	.9	

TABLE IV.

Treatment Tables.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS.

Disease or Defect	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year		
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
	Holland Children and Evacuees		
Skin—			
Ringworm—Scalp	5	—	5
Ringworm—Body	10	—	10
Scabies	90	4	94
Impetigo	351	8	359
Other Skin Diseases ..	129	2	131
Minor Eye Defects	181	3	184
Minor Ear Defects	82	1	83
Miscellaneous (e.g. minor injuries, bruises, sores, &c.)	1038	—	1038
Total	1886	18	1904

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (EXCLUDING MINOR EYE AILMENTS).

Number of Defects dealt with						
	Under the Authority's Scheme		Otherwise		Total	
	Primary Schools	Secondary	Primary Schools	Secondary	Primary Schools	Secondary
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ..	607	75	5	8	612	83
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes)	7	3	—	3	7	6
Total	614	78	5	11	619	89
Number of Children for whom glasses were prescribed and obtained ..	345	40	5	8	350	48

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Number of Defects					
	Received Operative Treatment			Received other forms of treatment	Total numbers treated
	Under the Authority's Scheme	By Private Practitioner or Hospital	Total		
Elementary Schools	322	—	322	7	329
Secondary Schools ..	8	4	12	3	15

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

	Under the Authority's Scheme			Otherwise			Total number treated
	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non-residential treatment at an Orthopaedic Clinic	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non-resident treatment at an Orthopaedic Clinic	
Number of Children Treated	55	2	154	—	—	—	211*

*Some children received both residential and clinic treatment during year.

GROUP V.—DENTAL DEFECTS.

Number of children (including Evacuees) in Primary and Secondary Schools who were inspected by the dentists :—

	Aged	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Total
Routine Age Groups	5	1468	—	
	6	1515	—	
	7	1448	—	
	8	1448	7	
	9	1387	18	
	10	1418	152	
	11	1235	293	
	12	1087	315	14123
	13	1137	358	
	14	42	292	
	15	—	259	
	16	—	176	
	17	—	68	
	18	—	—	
	19	—	—	

Half-days devoted to inspection .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	166
Half-days devoted to treatment .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	390

	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools
Children found to require treatment	4975	639
Children actually treated	2027	241
Attendances made by children for treat- ment	2298	265
Fillings—Permanent Teeth	847	196
Fillings—Temporary Teeth	227	6
Extractions—Permanent Teeth	291	63
Extractions—Temporary Teeth	2271	71
Administrations of general anæsthetics	707	31
Other Operations—Permanent Teeth	265	84
Other Operations—Temporary Teeth	85	16