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Gloucestershire Education Committee.

20 JUL 1928

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

ON THE

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

OF THE

CHILDREN

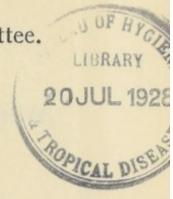
ATTENDING

The Public Elementary Schools of the County

For the year ended December 31st, 1927.



Gloucestershire Education Committee.



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Fer the year anded December 31st, 1927.

Gloucestershire Education Committee.

SHIRE HALL,
GLOUCESTER,
9th April, 1928.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The accompanying report contains a very condensed summary of the work of the School Medical Inspectors, Dentists and Nurses in the Elementary Schools (mostly in connection with the nineteenth round), and in the Secondary Schools (during the seventh round), and of the treatment given under the scheme to school children during 1927. The records are mainly of a routine character, but attention may be drawn particularly to the steady development in the advantage taken of the treatment arrangements.

A brief note comparing recent findings with those in the early days of medical inspection is included and, so far as it goes, it shows improvement in the condition of the later generation of children. The scope of the treatment provided under the scheme is enlarging gradually; in particular, the supervision of children with orthopaedic defects is more thorough and many more have been brought under treatment. Further, arrangements have been made for the special examination of children with signs of heart disease in conjunction with the Bristol University Cardiac Research Institute.

The Committee are fortunate in having retained the services of the same doctors and Health Superintendents for several years: that the work proceeds so smoothly is evidence of the manner in which it is done by them and by the District Nurses throughout the County.

For the cordial assistance of all engaged in the work, I am grateful.

I have the honour to remain, Your obedient servant,

J. MIDDLETON MARTIN.

School Medical Officer,

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Twentieth Annual Report

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

Staff.

Medical.—The Education Committee have been fortunate in retaining the same Medical Staff for seven years, namely:—

Dr. T. F. H. Blake ,, Sarah Wilson ,, H. F. W. Adams ,, R. Green ,, T. Rhind	,,	1 Sept., 1908 14 Oct., 1916 7 Feb., 1921 1 Sept., 1912 1 Feb., 1913 Whole Time. Also M.O.H. for their respective Districts.
Dental—		
Mr. B. F. Wren, P. J. Wakley	199	1 May, 1919 5 May, 1919 } Whole Time.

Nursing.—The nursing work in the schools is supervised by the eight County Health Superintendents, among whom there has been no change since September, 1925. Their names are:—

```
      Miss A. Boyd
      ... appointed
      5 Aug.,
      1916.

      ... V. M. Crow
      ... 1 Sept.,
      1925

      ., M. H. Griffiths
      ., 1 March,
      1915.

      Mrs. F. E. Lyne
      ., 16 March,
      1921.

      Miss J. I. McLauchlan
      ., 30 July,
      1917.

      ., E. Mason
      ., 5 June,
      1916.

      ., D. K. Palin
      ., 10 March,
      1919.

      ., M. S. Payne
      ., 17 Nov.,
      1923.
```

The greater part of the actual work is undertaken by the District Nurses in the County. In 1916 the number of Associations co-operating with the County Council in its public health work was 75, but this number had increased by the end of 1927 to 121, covering 299 of the 353 civil parishes. The volume of their work is indicated by the following statement:—

		No. of District Nurses.	Visits to Schools.	Children examined for pediculosis.	No. of examinations.	Visits to Defective Children.
1921	 	109	2,007	41.947	53,213	3,334
2	 	113	2,312	43,540	53,177	4,371
3	 	117	2,168	47,276	54,737	4,901
4	 	122	2,357	49,822	58,065	4,237
5	 	129	1,879	54,650	63,062	4,738
6		131	1,799	57,530	64,015	6,573
7	 		1,673	55,452	61,756	5,272

What cannot be indicated in any such statistical statement is the personal interest taken by the Nurses in the children: this varies considerably in different parts of the County, but it is a valuable feature of the County arrangements, for of all visitors to homes no person is more acceptable than the District Nurse.

A further advantage is that the District Nurse is also the Infant Visitor, who has had the child under observation before admission to school, and who has often attended at its birth. While there are arguments which may be advanced in favour of more highly trained special School Nurses, who from their special training may be able to give more skilled advice, the value of the advice is the product of its quality and the reception: the conclusion reached by a special committee in the United States is that this product is greater in the case of the District Nurse than of the whole time visitor.

School Hygiene.

The Medical Inspectors noted in their routine reports improvements which they found in 7 schools during their round, and drew attention to matters at 7 other schools whereby conditions might be made more satisfactory. In one instance, alterations which had been proposed were then being carried out.

Medical Inspection.

- A. General Arrangements.—The same procedure has been followed throughout and the arrangements worked as smoothly as usual. The schedule of visits is arranged with the Head Teachers, who make the necessary preparations, and District Nurses attend at about two-thirds of the schools, with the doctors at the times of their routine visits: in other schools, assistance is willingly given by the teachers.
- B. Places of Inspection.—In 411 of the 425 departments the inspections were made in rooms at the respective schools: in 9 cases the teachers' room was used, 2 the Chapel vestry, I mission

room, I managers' room and I school house. In 6 schools of one room only a part was curtained off for the purpose.

- C. Appliances.—A measuring standard, with a moveable head-piece, is fixed in each school. For weighing, a portable steelyard in a compact case is taken to each school. These are tested by the Inspector of Weights and Measures each summer, and rarely there are more than minor matters requiring attention. In 1927 3 were returned to the makers (Messrs. Avery & Co.) for overhauling, as the Inspector reported that the knife edge centres required attention.
- D. Numbers of Children.—The numbers of children in the different groups during the nineteenth round of the schools are set out in the following statement:—

No. of children on the registers of 4	125 der	oartme	nts .		39,991
Children examined-					
A. Code Groups.					
Entrants				4,819	
Intermediates				3,299	
Leavers				3,985	
					12,103
B. Specials.					
Re-examinations				5,745	
less examined as rou	tine			547	
				5,198	
New Specials (not, ro	utine)	***		325	
				-	5,523
W-+-1 -1:11					17.000
Total children examined				** ***	17,626

In the following statement is set out the percentages of children in average attendance examined in the three code groups year by year together with the birth-rate five years previously:—

		Birth Rate.		on average a Intermediates	
1919-20		18.0 (1915)	15.2	12.4	14.2
1920-21		17.9 (1916)	12.1	11.3	10.7
1921-22	***	14.7 (1917)	9.9	11.3	10.2
1922-23		15.2 (1918)	9.9	11.5	10.3
1923-24		16.4 (1919)	11.1	11.2	10.4
1924-25		23.8 (1920)	13.0	11.3	10.0
1925-26		19.9 (1921)	14.6	9.0	11.7
1926-27		18.5 (1922)	13.4	9.15	11.0

All children who have presented any defect are reviewed at each visit to the school: the number of these remains at an almost constant figure of about 8,000; that is about one-fifth

of the children on the registers. Many of the conditions bringing them into this category may be slight, but the provision of a "special" card for any such child helps to ensure that no case which would be the better for attention is overlooked.

Findings of Inspection.

The general results of the examination of 14,743 children (12,103 routine and 2,640 specials) are set out in Table II at the end of this report, and in the statement below. These are summaries of the findings of the same five examiners who have been engaged in the work for seven years, and the records year by year are therefore comparable. There is evidence, however, that the statistics for different areas are influenced by the personal equation of the different examiners: this is brought out by an analysis that has been made of the findings of the five Medical Inspectors in this County, and emphasises the importance of weighing this factor carefully in comparisons of different areas to determine local influences.

The grouping of the defects noted in the nineteenth round of the schools is set out shortly in the following table:—

	-	Entr	ants.	Intern	nediates.	Le	avers.	T	otal.
No. examined		4,8	19 3,299		3,985		12,103		
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Nose and throat		1,229	25.5	651	19.7	670	16.8	2,550	
Teeth (over 3 decayed)		1,021	21.2	549	16.6	267	6.7	1,837	15.2
Heart trouble		78	1.62	97	2.94	212	5.31	387	3.20
Glandular enlargement		545	11.3	305	9.3	186	4.67	1.036	8.5
Vision (6/12 and worse)									
R. eye		9	6.8	145	4.54	237	5.82	391	5.28
External eye		117	2.43	101	3.06	90	2.26	308	2.54
Defective Hearing (R.)		43	.89	44	1.33	37	.93	124	1.02
Ear discharge		65	1.35	46	1.39	39	.98	150	1.24
Skin disease		52	1.08	29	.88	25	. 63	106	.87
Deformities		67	1.39	29	.88	31	.78	127	1.0
Bronchial catarrh		71	1.47	21	.64	7	.18	99	.85
Anæmia		15	.31	16	.49	25	. 63	56	.46
Others		57	1.18	68	2.06	196	4.92	321	2.66
Total		3,369	69.72	2,101	59.27	2,022	44.79	7,492	58.6

Of the 12,103 children examined, 6,161, or 51 per cent., presented no defect calling for notice: the remaining 5,942 (49 per cent.) were reported to have 7,492 defects, 1.26 per child, an average of 5 for every 4 children, the same as last year. In general, the proportion of children affected in various ways varies but little year by year, and even in a long series of results but

slight changes are to be noted, except with respect to a few conditions.

A comparison has been made of the results for two periods of five years, 1912-16 and 1922-26, and it would appear that the conclusions drawn by Sir George Newman, the Principal Medical Officer of the Board of Education, hold good with respect to this County. Thus, the proportion of children with no recognisable defect is above instead of below half the number: more children are reported to be above the normal generally and less poorly nourished: fewer children have defective vision and hearing; the proportion of dull and backward children is now about one-half the former figure. There were several changes in the examiners as between these two periods, and personal equation is probably a factor to be considered, as above mentioned. It is, however, satisfactory that, on the whole, the change is towards improvement, though there may not be strong grounds for claiming it to be the result of medical inspection. As regards one condition—dental decay—a reduction amongst leavers by about one-half may be attributed directly, at least in some measure, to the work of the School Dentists.

With the object of ascertaining the treatment services required, general surveys of 5,862 children attending schools in selected urban and rural neighbourhoods were made. As a general result, the defects found were skin affections (1.4 per cent.) defects of throat (1.35 per cent.), defective vision (.7 per cent.), external eye (.7 per cent.), ear discharge (.4 per cent.), defective hearing (.3 per cent.), debility (.3 per cent.), and other conditions (.3 per cent.), a total of 55 children per 1,000.

Pediculosis.

In regard to a gross condition, pediculosis, there is evidence of an even greater improvement: thus, from the School Nurses' reports only 23 children were found in 1927 to be infected for every 100 in 1908–10, and similar reports are made by the Medical Inspectors. It is an interesting side-light on the extent to which the effect is felt in the home that as great improvement is not noticed among infants, the proportion infected being 33 compared with 100 in 1908–10: comparing schools in rural and urban districts, the improvement is greater in the former (14) than in the latter (26).

The labour involved is indicated by the following summary statement of the work done since 1916, fuller details with respect to 1927 being given in Table B at the end of the report.

				No. of	Childi	en.	
			partments visited.	Examina- tions.	No. examined.	No. infected.	Percentage. infected.
1916			251	39,582	26,175	4,257	16.3
7			249	31,197	22,192	3,445	15.5
8		***	276	31,480	24,854	3,172	12.8
9			239	25,067	19,378	2,299	11.9
1920			370	42,433	32,705	4,627	14.1
1			491	53,213	41,947	5,832	13.9
2			516	53,177	43,540	5,122	11.8
3		***	579	54,737	47,276	4,911	10.4
4			597	58,065	49,822	5,108	10.3
5	***	***	669	63,062	54,650	5,310	9.7
6			692	64,015	57,530	4,816	8.3
7	***	***	672	61,756	55,452	3,842	6.9
1	***	***	072	01,700	00,402	0,042	0.0

In the last resort, generally after at least three warnings, the child is excluded and proceedings are taken against the parents for the child's compulsory absence from school, under the Bye-Laws. A more satisfactory alternative course is offered under Section 87 of the Education Act, 1921, under which it is an offence to allow a child to become infected after "cleansing" at an approved place. So far only one such "cleansing station" has been provided in this County, namely at Stroud: this has been in operation since the end of 1924. In 1925 notices were issued with respect to 41 children and 17 were actually treated at the "cleansing station": in 1926 the numbers were 22, and 20 respectively, and in 1927 23 and 21. In no instance has occasion arisen for proceedings on account of re-infection, though after long intervals the same children have been again under notice.

Infectious Diseases.

From the returns made weekly by the Head Teachers, through the Medical Officers of Health, the prevalence of infectious conditions was less than in the previous two years. This applies particularly to measles, diphtheria, scarlet fever and whooping cough: mumps was slightly more prevalent and chickenpox almost as much as in 1926.

The numbers of children excluded on account of infectious skin conditions were about the average, viz., 343 cases of impetigo, 222 of ringworm and 31 of scabies. The lists of affected children are sent by Head Teachers each week to the Medical Officer of Health for the District concerned, and are passed on by him to the School Medical Officer. In this way the former is kept informed of the occurrence of cases, enabling him to take appropriate action. On receipt of the lists, the School Medical Officer

sends the names of children with infectious skin conditions to the District Nurses, so that they may ensure that they are brought under effective treatment. Further control is maintained by monthly reports by Head Teachers on each child absent from school on account of infectious skin disease.

211 schools were closed during 1927 on account of infectious diseases, 194 closures being due to the influenza epidemic in the early months of the year. 169 certificates were issued in respect of periods of low attendances due to epidemic illness.

Arrangements for following up Children with Defects.

The arrangements have been described in previous reports, but it may be stated shortly that—

1. The School Medical Inspectors make out lists of children after each visit to the school.

2. The lists are sent to the School Nurse, Children's Care Committee (where there is one) and to the Head Teachers.

3. Reports on the respective cases are received, generally from the Nurses.

4. In areas, accessible to Out Stations, reports are made monthly until each case has had appropriate treatment.

5. When difficulty is experienced in getting parents to appreciate the importance of giving treatment to any child and the efforts of local persons and of the School Medical Officer have proved unsuccessful, the assistance of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is invoked.

As a result of this combined effort, treatment is, in general, given more promptly than in the early days of this work. There are, however, always some cases in which the last step is necessary, and in many instances a visit from the local Inspector of the Society promptly secures the action desired.

Treatment.

The facilities available for the treatment of defects include general medical practitioners, hospitals and the arrangements under the scheme for the extension of Medical Services, with the assistance of the District Nurses. The arrangements under the scheme were enlarged during 1927 by the opening of the Out Station at the Lydney Hospital, where the work has developed very rapidly. The places now available are:—

GENERAL HOSPITALS ... Bath and Bristol (for approved eye, ear, nose and throat cases only), Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud.

Special Hospitals ... Cossham Hospital, Gloucester Children's Hospital and Stratford-on-Avon and Chepstow Hospitals (for eye, throat and ear cases only).

OUT-STATIONS-

Cottage Hospitals ... Almondsbury, Berkeley, Chipping Sodbury, Cirencester, Fairford, Lydney, Moreton-in-Marsh, Tewkesbury and Winchcombe (eye cases only).

Special Buildings ... Chipping Campden, Cinderford, Soundwell and Thornbury.

The general progress of the work done under the scheme is shown in the following condensed statement, which deals only with school children: there is now a tendency for much greater increase of work among infants under 5 years of age, the limits with respect to school children in the areas at present covered by out stations appearing to have been reached and the numbers tending to remain stationary.

No. of Out-Stations		921-22. 8 out 8 mo	1922. 8 onths)	1923. 8	1924. 9	1925. 10	1926. 11	1927. 12
Openings of Out-Station	18:							
Routine		225	407	407	420	442	533	571
Intermediate		-		-	280	289	603	501
Cases seen		272	942	1,566	1,954	2,132	3,161	3,394
Attendances		758	2,282	4,239	5,326	5,443	10,768	8,618
Average attendance at								
Routine openings		3.3	5.6	10.6	9.9	9.6	13.8	9.0
Specialist cases:								
Vision		121	489	692	617	706	974	1,048
Ear, nose and thre	oat	48	210	374	730	888	1,095	1,260
Orthopaedic		-	-	25	48 .	66	170	140
Throat operations		56	159	312	386	556	611	717
Spectacles obtained		24	169	428	325	361	550	581

The Medical Services Committee have been encouraged by the success of their arrangements, both as regards the progress of work and the satisfactory manner in which it has been done, to decide to enlarge the scope gradually and to open one or two new Out Stations each year until the whole of the County is covered and the facilities for treatment are available in all parts. The areas now under special consideration are the east central and the part to the north of Bristol.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Considerable progress has been made in bringing cases under review by the Orthopaedic Surgeon and a good foundation has been laid for developing this work on sound lines. The numbers of cases seen by him year by year have been 40 in 1924, 140 in 1925, 310 in 1926 and 699 in 1927: these include children of all ages, and it is particularly satisfactory that infants are being referred in increasingly large numbers: thus out of the 316 cases seen during 1927, 176 were among children under 5 years of age and 140 between 5 and 14 years.

The defects from which the 316 children were reported to be suffering are summarised as follows:—

Paralytic—						
Infantile paralysis	S				46	
Spastic paralysis				***	11	
Birth palsy	***				7	
Acute poliomyelit	is				4	
Muscular paralysi	S				2	
					-	70
Rickets			***	***		12
Spine—Scoliosis and I Hip Joint—	kypho	sis	***			15
Congenital disloca	tion				9	
Perthe's disease					3	
					-	12
Knees and Legs—						
Bow legs					45	
Knock knees					5	
Knee joint					7	
Feet-					7	57
Flat foot					59	
Club foot					30	
Hammer toes					5	
					-	94
Hare Lip and cleft pa	late		***			15
Various				***		41
						316

The arrangements are now on a more definite basis and, shortly, are as follows:—

- 1. Information as to cases is received from various sources and, as to infants, in increasing numbers from Health Visitors. The names are entered on a card index register and this now contains entries of 536 cases.
- 2. Cases are reviewed by the Orthopaedic Surgeon of the Cheltenham General Hospital at the Hospital and at seven Out Stations, and copies of his reports are sent to the usual medical attendants and nurses concerned.
- 3. The cases are kept under supervision by the Surgeon and whole-time Orthopaedic Nurse, the former visiting

- Out Stations quarterly and the latter weekly. The Nurse also sees as many cases as possible in their homes.
- 4. Treatment is given in the Hospital and at the Out Stations. All operative work is done in the former, where the Committee have reserved six beds. Intermediate treatment is given by the Orthopaedic Nurse at the Out Stations and to a limited extent in the homes. Efforts are made to interest District Nurses in this work, and it is hoped that they will be able to give increasing assistance in the supervision of remedial exercises, care of appliances, etc.
- Efforts are made to encourage children to lead as normal a life, including attendance at school, as possible: beyond this it has been possible, so far, to do very little in the way of providing occupation (hand work, etc.) for children not able to attend school, but it is hoped in time to discover some one person who will be willing to help in this direction with respect to each child. Some children would be suitable for a special school, and it was desired that provision should be made for them in the pavilion for surgical cases in the tuberculosis institution: this proved impracticable owing to the special constitution of the Joint Committee for Tuberculosis. The only existing school for physically defective children in the County is that at St. Rose's Convent, Stroud, where very good work is done: so far no cases have been sent by the Education Committee, partly in view of the cost.

The arrangements whereby patients are examined by the Orthopaedic Surgeon and intermediate treatment is given by the Orthopaedic Nurse at the Out Stations have proved very useful. The numbers of attendances in 1927 were:—

Out Station.			For examination by Surgeon.	For treatment by Nurse.
Berkeley	***		74	217
Chipping Can	pden		69	220
Cinderford			125	234
Cirencester			120	228
Lydney			59	75
Tewkesbury			62	322
Thornbury	***	***	32	46
Totals			541	1,342

Even with these facilities there are many patients who cannot attend even for the visits of the Surgeon: this difficulty has been overcome in a few parts by arrangements for transport which have been proved so successful that it is hoped the arrangement may be enlarged. It is also proposed to open more Out Stations gradually and preliminary negotiations in respect of two in association with Cottage Hospitals are proceeding.

With a view to providing more regular and systematic intermediate treatment the Medical Services Committee are proposing to appoint a second Orthopaedic Nurse and with her assistance it would be practicable not only to maintain more effective direct supervision of cases but also to spend more time in showing the District Nurses ways in which they can give assistance.

Dental Treatment.

This branch of work has proceeded as smoothly and as satisfactorily as in previous years and probably there is none that meets with greater appreciation from all concerned. In the tenth round of the schools now specially under consideration the age groups were extended from 6 to 10 years, to include the children between 5 and 6 years, thus bringing over half the children in attendance under review by the dentists. This extension has resulted in 5,000 additional children being examined and 2,000 being treated by the dentists: the actual numbers examined were 18,343 and treated 8,712, including 964 "casuals," i.e. children not actually coming within the age groups but needing attention at the times of the dentists' visits. The numbers also include the extra children in 20 small schools where all the children in attendance were examined. Fuller details will be found in Tables C and IV at the end of the report.

Physical Training.

No special provision has been made for physical training beyond the usual drill and exercises carried out under the supervision of the teachers.

The Secretary for Education reports that no Courses of "Instruction in Physical Exercises" for teachers were conducted in the County during 1927.

Provision of Meals.

The Secretary for Education reports that no formal arrangements were made by the Local Education Authority for the Provision of Meals in their area during the year 1927.

Baths for Children.

In no instances as yet have baths been provided in connection with any school in the County and—so far as is known—the only place in the County where special provision has been made for school children is Tewkesbury. There, two baths were pro-

vided for soldiers during the war, and at the instance of Mrs. Smith, one of the District Nurses, the Corporation agreed to open them for school children in December 1921. For some months she herself superintended the arrangements: encouraged by the success of her enterprise, the Corporation employed a woman for the purpose from the autumn of 1922, and towards the end of the same year added two more baths, making a total of four. The following year they were made available for women and girls from 2 to 8 p.m. on Fridays at a charge of 3d., and later Thursday and Saturday afternoons were allotted to men and boys. The time for children is 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. on Saturdays, with no charge.

Both the nurses and the bath attendants report that the opportunities are greatly appreciated, and it is stated that it is proposed to provide an additional two baths. The attendances in 1927 averaged 19 per week.

Emphasis is laid on this subject as, simple though it appears, it is a valuable influence in public health education. In some ways baths established in this way have advantages over those in cottages, as here the water is ready and the use of the bath does not lock up a room in the house. Another reason is that, in these Tewkesbury baths, is an example of the simple and cheap manner in which they can be provided: the building is an old malt house with a part of the first floor partitioned into cubicles for bath-rooms and the boiler in the basement. The threepence per bath paid by the adults goes a long way towards covering all the working expenses, so that the Corporation are able, without serious loss, to grant the use of the baths free to children.

Special Subjects.

Bronchial Catarrh.—In the report for 1925 (p. 20) was included a note on the catarrhal condition of the lungs, which was found so frequently, especially among infants. The proportion of entrants affected has varied slightly from year to year, the average during 18 years being 1½ per cent.: amongst children at the time of leaving school it is one-third per cent. In both groups boys are affected more than girls in the proportion of about 4 to 3, girls recovering more rapidly than boys. In the note above mentioned it was said that Dr. R. C. Clarke had observed that amongst infants aged 3 to 6 weeks about one-half have respiratory catarrh, and that he suggested that our figures are too low in that probably the objective signs are not always present. His conclusion was that the bronchitis of middle and later life is but a relapse to this condition.

The personal factor of the examiner comes into this matter

as with respect to other conditions, but it appears to be clear that for some reason or other the pulmonary mechanism of infants commonly has a catarrhal state, and it would be interesting to determine the significance, if any.

Rheumatic Heart Disease.—Another condition is found not infrequently in the course of the examination of the children, and like bronchial catarrh—often without symptoms. This is some abnormal sign in the heart sounds, which may be due to an attack-slight or severe-of some acute rheumatic affection. The conditions under which children are examined in the school buildings are by no means ideal for a refined analysis of slight sounds, but any child presenting suspicious signs is noted, so that it may be kept under observation. It is probable, therefore, that the annual numbers include very many children in whom there is no organic disease. Further, the personal factor of the examiner is probably even more strongly emphasised in the findings than with respect to most conditions: this is shown by the very considerable variations in the proportions found by different observers. Fortunately, a considerable range of statistics is available, in which there has been no change in the personnel so that it has been possible to compare the results over a series of seven years, the only differences being the year of birth of the child examined. In the following statement are given the percentage of children found in the course of examination (under the very unfavourable conditions for this purpose) to present signs consistent with organic disease of the heart :-

			Entrants.	Leavers.
1920			6.6	9.7
1			6.8	4.6
2	444	***	4.85	9.7
3			4.55	9.5
4			3.4	10.1
5			2.4	7.2
6		***	1.7	5.65
7			1.6	5.3

It would appear that children born about 1912-14 were particularly liable to present these signs as shown by the high proportions for "entrants" in 1918 and 1919 and for "leavers" in 1923 and 1924: successive generations of children exhibit the signs less and less until by 1927 the proportion had steadily fallen from 6.8 per cent. in 1921 to 1.6. This conclusion is supported by the corresponding results observed amongst the same groups of children when they became due for examination as "leavers," as evidenced in the gradual fall from 10.1 per cent. affected in 1924 to 5.3 per cent. in 1927. The observation is of special interest in view of the fact that the condition is now so generally regarded as the result of an infection. Infectious conditions

are recognised as occurring in "leavers," and it would appear that the cycle with respect to rheumatic infection (whatever that term may mean) extends over a long period of years.

The condition is now the subject of a combined special enquiry in the counties of Gloucestershire, Somersetshire and Wiltshire and the contained County Boroughs, but it was only early in 1928 that the preliminary arrangements were completed. These include:—

(a) The formation of a special committee which will coordinate, summarise and analyse the work.

(b) Reference of cases by Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities, Education Committees and medical practitioners.

(c) Review of cases by a panel of five physicians at the Out Stations and Hospitals.

(d) Observation of children as regards exercise and work. The enquiry will probably extend over a period of two or three years, for it will be impracticable to obtain useful results from a less close investigation.

General Surveys.

In addition to the usual inspections made at the schools in the County special visits were paid to groups of schools in the neighbourhood of Out Stations, more particularly with the object of ascertaining what minor ailments there were and how far effective treatment was given systematically. 34 schools were visited by Dr. Blake and Dr. Sarah Wilson.

Blind, Deaf, Defective and Epileptic Children.

A numerical return of these children is given in Table III at the end of this report.

Blind Children.—There are 36 children between 5 and 16 years of age under observation by the Committee and the Gloucestershire County Association for the Blind. These children are distributed as follows:—

At certified reheals				10
At certified schools			***	10
At other Institutions	***	***	***	2
On "waiting list" for admission to blind schools	***			4
At home, too ill for admission to blind schools	1.52			4
				2
With some sight and now at work				2
Attending public elementary schools with very	defec	tive vi	sion.	
being "watched" by visitors	***		***	12
				=
				36

In previous reports mention has been made of the desirability of provision for the special instruction of short-sighted or myopic children. The only school of this type in this part of the Country is at Bristol, in connection with which it was hoped arrangements might be made for certain cases from this County. Unfortunately, however, the Committee have not yet been able to make provision for such cases.

Deaf.—The Committee are maintaining 14 children in a special school, and there are 3 further cases under observation, 2 of them under 7 years of age.

Mentally Defective Children.—The following statement gives a summary of the reports on the mental condition of 656 children examined during the course of their school life and now on the County register:—

	Total nun	nber exe	amined.	Number	Dead	Number
	To 31st Dec. 1926.	1927.		7-16 yrs. on 31st Dec., 1927.		over 16 yrs on 31st Dec., 1927
Children suitable for		100				
Instruction in a Public Elementary Sch.	105	11	116	54	1	61
Special Class	97	3	100	32	7	61
Special Day School	69	-	69	9	3	57
Special Res. School	213	13	226	89	26	111
Other Special Schools Children unsuitable for	13		13	4	1	8
Instruction in a Special School	130	2	132	45	38	49
Total children specially examined	627	29	656	233	.76	347

During the period 1st January, 1927, to 31st December, 1927, 2 children were specially examined and certified to be unsuitable for instruction in a special school. These were classified as Imbeciles, and were notified to the local authority.

Epileptic.—The number of children examined by the School Medical Inspectors and reported to suffer from epileptic fits is 20, 15 being in attendance at a school and 5 suffering so seriously as to make it desirable they should not attend. There are 3 further children not in attendance at any school awaiting examination as opportunity offers, making a total of 23.

No children are being maintained in a special school,

Physically Defective Children.

The following is a summary of the register compiled from returns from the school attendance officers, of children in the County who are not in attendance at any elementary school:—

CHILDREN NOT IN ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL.

		Ag	е	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total.
Monteller Defection					3	11	3	6	8	7	9	14	61
Mentally Defectiv	е	***	***			11					1	2	
Delicate	***		***	4	6	5	2	6	2	-	+		31
Cripples				-	2	3	5	3		3	4	3	23
Paralysis				3	5	4	-	2	1	-	4	1	20
Tuberculosis				1	1	3	2	1	-	3	1	3	15
Heart Affection			***	-	2	1	1	-	5	1	2	2	14
Debility				4	1	2	1	1	2	-	2	1	14
Epileptic				-	2	2	-	1	-	2	_1	-	8
Blind or Partially	Blind			1	2	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	8
Deaf and Dumb				-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 .
Other Defects				2	3	2	4	1	2	-	2	2	18
Totals				15	29	36	18	22	20	16	31	28	215

Efforts are made to get the children into convenient schools for medical examination, and most have been seen either in the schools or in their own homes. As far as practicable, endeavours are made to secure effective treatment, especially of the physically defective, so that, if possible, the respective children may have the advantage of instruction.

Miscellaneous Work.

Amongst other work undertaken during 1927 was the following:—

1.—Fourteen pupil teachers, etc., were examined and were classed as follows:—

A	1.—Free from physical defect	10
A	2.—In good health, but with some defect not likely to shorten the full term of service	4
В	1.—In good health, but with some permanent defect likely to shorten the full term of service	0
В	2.—In good health but with some defect likely to interfere to some extent with efficiency	0
В	3.—Temporarily in sub-normal health, but may make a good recovery	0
C	—Those whose physical condition is such as to make them unfit for the teaching profession	-0

2.—In accordance with the requirements of the Board of Education, laid down in their Circular 1,169, of 9th July, 1920, sixteen Supplementary Teachers were medically examined and were classed as follows:—

A	1.—Free from physical defect	13
A	2.—In good health, but with some defect not likely to shorten the full term of service	3
В	1.—In good health, but with some permanent defect likely to shorten the full term of service	0
В	2.—In good health, but with some defect likely to interfere to some extent with efficiency	0
В	3.—Temporarily in sub-normal health, but may make a good recovery	0
C	-Those whose physical condition is such as to make them unfit for the teaching profession	0

3.—Thirty-nine specimens of hair were examined for the spores of ringworm, which were found in sixteen cases.

Secondary Schools.

Inspection.—The number of secondary schools was increased by one during 1927, the Grammar School at Northleach being resuscitated, making a total of 19 with 3,753 children—1,948 boys and 1,705 girls—on the registers: 13 schools take both boys and girls, and there are 3 for boys only and 3 for girls only. The children at these schools were examined by the whole-time School Medical Inspectors—Dr. Blake and Dr. Sarah Wilson. Owing to the very small number of entrants and local difficulties in making arrangements, the schools were not visited in the spring term: the work in the summer term occupied 22 days and in the autumn term 85 days, a total of 107 days. The number of examinations was 3,077, 619 in the summer and 2,458 in the autumn term.

The total number of children for whom special cards were provided is 636, or 16.9 per cent., which compares with 22 per cent. for the children in the elementary schools. From this the secondary school children are distinctly at an advantage, and when the results are examined more closely it is found that they hold this advantage with respect to nearly every condition except defective vision: in regard to this condition about 16 per cent. of secondary school children are noted to have poor vision compared with 8 per cent. among elementary school children. To

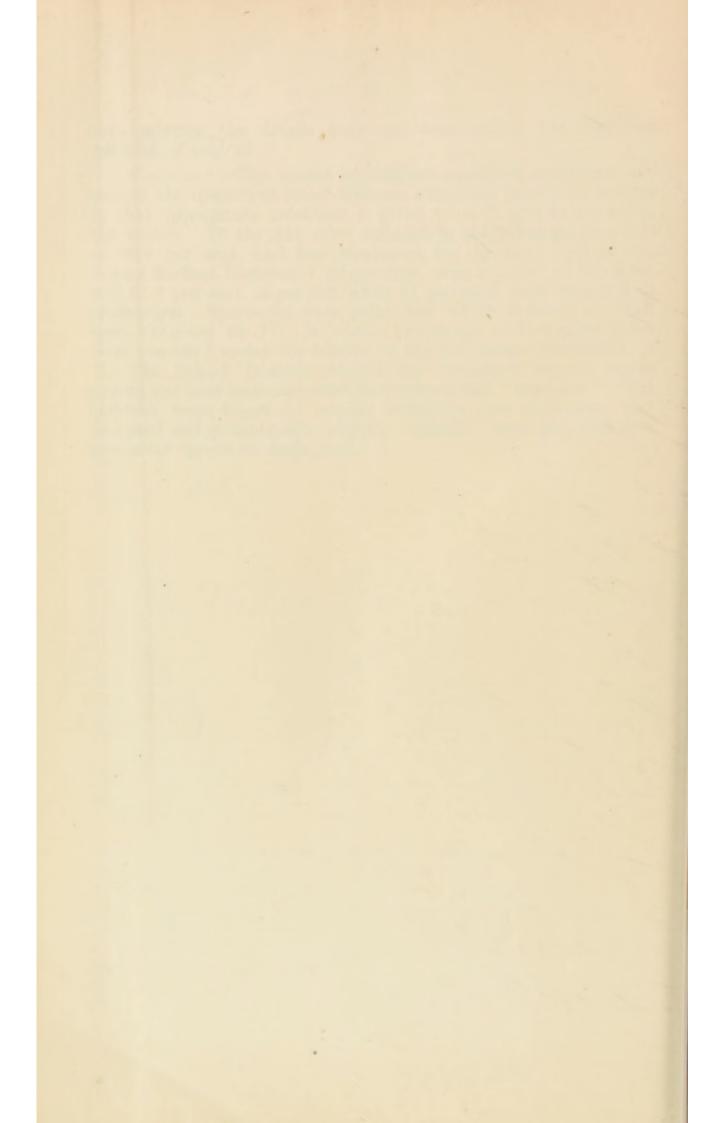
save printing the details have not been given, but they are available if desired.

Treatment.—The names of children requiring treatment are sent to the respective Head Masters, who have been very helpful in that appropriate attention is given to each and in reporting the results. Of the 344 cases referred in the previous year 339 or 98.4 per cent. had had treatment by the next visit of the School Medical Inspector: 20 per cent. were reported to be cured, and 61.8 per cent. improved, while 17 per cent. were regarded as unchanged. Spectacles were prescribed for 78 children and had been obtained by 77. In about two-thirds of the cases these were provided under the scheme of the Education Committee.

The School Dentists visited the secondary schools again during the year and examined the teeth of 603 "entrants": 432 children were found to require attention and treatment was accepted and given to 286. Seven "casuals" were also seen and

treatment given to each case.





SCHOOLS CLOSED ON ACCOUNT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING 1927.

	Total	1	1	ĵġ.	60	1	194	211
OSED	By R. D.C. and Managers		1	1	1	1	-	1
SCHOOLS CLOSED			-			-	-	
SCHO	By S. M.O.	1	1	1	1	1	6	6
	By M.O.H. with approval of S.M.O.	7	-	10	er.	1	185	202
		:	:	:	:	:	1	 :
		:	:	:	:	:	:	Total
		:	:	÷	:	:		
	Infection	:	:	:	:	;	:	
	In	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Chicken Pox	Influenza	

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	TO THE	500	igo				
	samulari.	Chicken Pex	Wheeling Conft				
1							

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TABLE B.

PEDI	CUL	OSIS.—Foll	owing-up, 1	927.		
		Mixed	Boys	Girls	Infants	Total (All Departments)
Departments	***	543	30	30	69	672
Number of Examinations		46,788	3,713	3,908	7,347	61,756
Children examined		42,095	3,584	3,369	6,404	55,452
Children infected		2,778	102	412	550	3,842
Percentage infected		6.6	2.8	12.2	8.6	6.9
Cards:—						
Blue (Mild)		1,431	55	211	317	2,014
Green (Stronger)		1,441	51	219	303	2,014
Red (Second Warning)		657	17	106	154	934
Letters (Subsequent Warnings)		600	21	174	139	934
Children excluded		229	- 1	37	48	315
Prosecutions (under Bye-Laws):-						
Results:— Fines		5	=-	_	_	5
Cautioned		1	_	_	_	1
Withdrawn		3	_	1	-	4

Fines:—3—5/-; 2—4/-.

Comment of the

TABLE C. TREATMENT OF DENTAL DEFECTS. Results from Commencement of Scheme.

	First In 191 Apr 6-1	5-16	Second Is 191 Age 6-1	1-18		napaction 9–21 0 years		upection(i) Mar., 1922 0 years	Fifth In. Feb., 1922- Age 6-10	Feb., 1923	Sixth In Feb. to D Age 6	er, 1923	Seventh I Jan. to N Age 6-		Eighth In Sept. 1924 to days 6-1	Sept. 1925			Tenth Is June, 1926a Age 5-1	June, 190	17		
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cost.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cost	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cost.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per Cent.			
No. of Departments	364	_	123	-	452		452		445	-	439	-	433	-	430	-	430		423				
No. on Registers	34,673	-	12,167	-	42,065		41,948		41,235	- 1	41,119	-	40,264	-	40,187	-	00,124		40,036				
NSPECTION.																							
Children due for examination	8,518	24.4	5,438	44.7	18,927	45.0	18,489	44.1	18,183	44.0	17,381	42.2	16,114	40.0	15,448	38.4	15,170	37.9	20,897	52.1	of No. or	Registers	
, examined	7,877	92.5	5,110	94.0	16,906	89.5	16,482	89.1	16,060	88.3	15,278	87.9	14,420	89.5	13,663	88.5	13,356	88.2	18,343	87.9	of No. d	se for Ex	minatio
e requiring treatment	4,176	53.0	2,673	52.3	10,300	60,9	10,341	62.9	9,892	61.5	9,709	63.6	8,905	61.7	8,793	64.3	8,550	64.1	10,981	59.9	of No. es	ramined	
REATMENT.																							
Children treated by School Deutist	2,274	51.4	1,600	59.8	6,144	29.6	5,668	54.2	5,339	54.0	5,495	56.5	5,419	60.9	5,948	67.6	5,729	06.9	7,648	69.6	of No. re	quiring tre	tesuste
Dentist privately	51	1.2	27	1.0	270	2.6	61	. 6	39	.4	34	.4	50	.6	40	.5	34	.4	22	.2			
absent and left	353	8.5	194	7.3	765	7.4	203	2.0	83	.8	116	1.2	41	.5	32	.4	35	.4	57	.5			
Palance not accepting treatment	1,498	35.9	852	31.9	3,121	30.4	4,460	43.2	4,431	44.8	4,064	41.9	3,396	38.0	2,773	31.5	2,761	32.3	3,254	29.6			
Casuals treated	216		136		785		778		792		982		756	_	1,055 (6)		1,069 (III)		964 (5	w) —			

(i) Treatment given on day of Inspection from June 1921 onwards (part 4th Rd.) (ii) Including 243 in additional age groups in 52 small Schools. (iii) Including 227 in additional age groups in 30 small Schools.

. , TEN ART WATER TO

RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

SN		4,819	3,299	3,985	12,103			1,624	5,745	7,369
A—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS	Number of Code Group Inspections:	Entrants	Intermediates	Leavers	Total .	Number of other Routine Inspections	B-OTHER INSPECTIONS	Number of Special Inspections	Number of Re-Inspections	Total .

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY HEDGAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 314 DECEMBER, 1657.

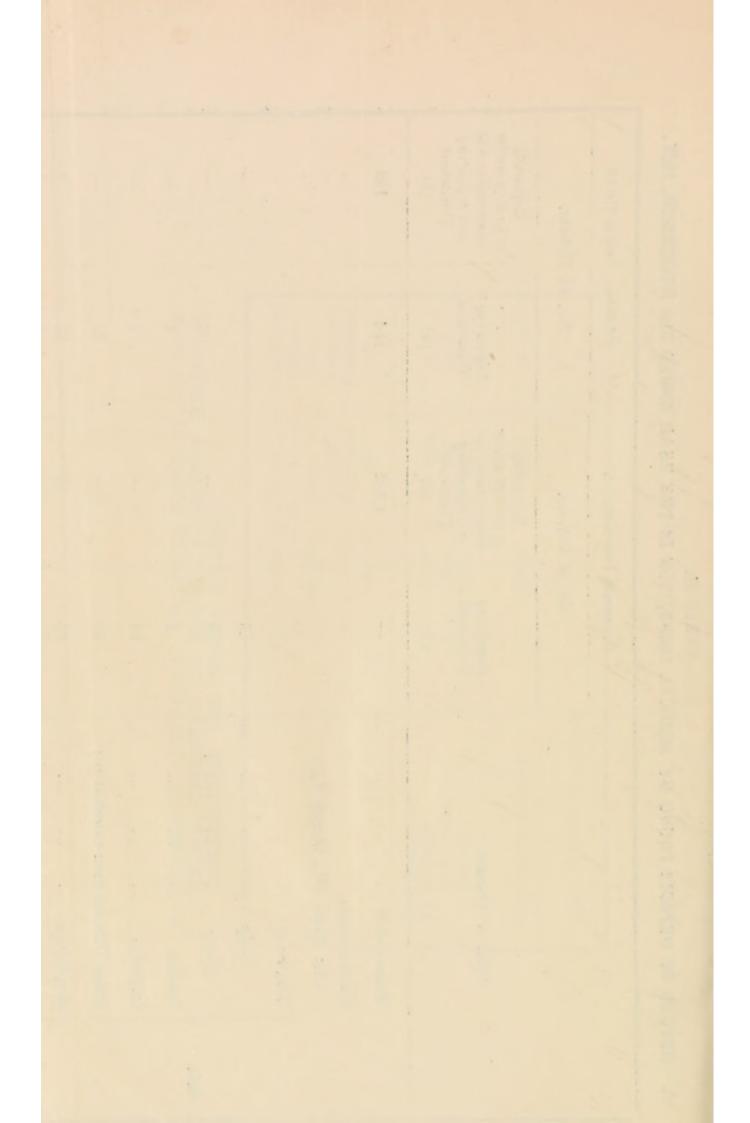
ROTTLE INTECTIONS

SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

		No. of	No of Defects	No. of	Theforts
		30, 0	L'ASSOCIAL.	A9, 91	No. of Dillotts,
	Defect or Disease	Requiring Treatment	Repairing to be bept under observation, but not repairing	Regnising Treatment	Repairing to be large under observation but not requiring
	(3)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Treniment (5)
	Malnutritien	1	1,732	116	181
	Undermliness (See Table IV., Group V.)				
		12		9	1
GLOB	Body	×			i
Own	Sabies	11		01	1
	Impetigo	16		*	
	Other Diseases (non-lubreculous)	19		120	1
	(Bisphatitis	2	04	92	+
	Conjunctivitie		ot	10	8
	Kenstitis				19
Eye	Corneal Opposities	9	19	0	9
	Defective Vision (exchasing Squint)	162	103	635	105
	and and	-0	ī	133	9
	Other and Billion	-	. 8	10	11
	Contract Manager		3 5		. 2
	Disective Hearing		8 8	8 1	0 1
Est	Otitis Media	a	68	8	
		n	4	1*	0
	CEntaged Tomils only	313	1,300	156	121
Nose	Admoids only	136	112	129	45
Throat	Enlarged Tousils and Adenoids	118	21	107	10
	1	1	340	85	12
	I Glands (non-				
		8	926	2	ST.
	Defective Speech	9	8	=======================================	10
Teoth	Dental Diseases	1,837		11	1
	TRACTO TOMORRO :				
Chough.	Vantiond	8.	ii.	8	119
	Ansmis	17	19	16	1-
		8	l»	2.5	*
Lungs	tabeershots Diseases	8	315	77	
	Samueled	,	:		
			-		
Taber-	Glands	1	7	04	65
-		1	1	1	1
	Hip		1	-	-
	Other Boxes and Joints	1	1	1	
	Skin	1	-	1	1
	Other forms	1		-	-
	Colombia		N		9
System	Chofea	01	+	00	+
	Other outsilions	12	8	23	10
	Richeta	9	7	9)
Deform-	Spinal Carradure	-	1	00	17
	Other forms	127	101	67	44
					90

B.—NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FOUND AT BOUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS AND DERFAL DISEASES).

	Number of	Number of Children.	Percendage of
GROUP.	Inspected.	Found to	found
0	6	Treatheast,	Trestenest.
Code Groups : Entrants Intermelates	4,819 3,299 3,995	848	10.0
Total (Code Groups)	12,103	1,390	10.7
Other Routine Impactions	1	1	1



		Physically Defective				Epileptics		Mentally	deaf)	Deaf (including deaf and deas)	parsally band)	Blind (including
Cripplet Children (where than those with active tuber- calour disease), e.g., edithers set- fering from par- fering from par- alysis, etc., and including those with sweet heart disease.	Activo non- pulmonary tuberculosis.	Delicate children (e.g., pre-ori latent talarrealons, and nutrition, debil- ity, anama, etc.).	Men-infections but active pul- menary and glan- fular tuberculosis.	Infections pul- menting and glan- dular tuberculosis.	Suffering from epilepsy which is not severe.	Saffering from service epilopsy.	Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year.	Feeberminded (cases not noti- fiable to the Lecal Central Authority).	(6) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the par- tially deat.	(i.) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the total deaf or deaf and dumb.	(ii) Suitable for training in a School or Chas for the par- tially bland.	(6) Suitable for training in a Sificol or Class for the totally bind,
At Certified Hospital Schools At Certified Hospital Copple Schools At Certified Day Cripple Schools At Palain Elementary Schools At one School or Institutions	At Sanatonia or Hospital Schools approved by Minatory of Hoalth or the Board At Public Blementary Schools	At Gertäfied Residential Open Air Schools At Oricified Day Open Air Schools At Pathir Emmentary Schools At solve Institution	At Stantoria or Stantorium Schools approved by the Missay yt Health or the Hand	At Sonsteels or Sansteelum Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Beard	Attending Public Riementary Schools At no School or Institution	Attendag Certified Special Schools for Egileptica In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools Attending Public Planeatury Schools	Peebleminhed (on residing 16 years of age)	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Caldren. Attending Public Elementary Schools	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf Attending Politic Elementary Schools	Attending Certified Schools or Chance for the Doaf Attending Parkin Elementary Schools	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind Attending Public Elementary Schools	Attending Certified Schools of Classes for the Bland Attending Public Elementary Schools
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RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

RETURN OF DEFICES TREATER DURING THE YEAR EXDED AND OLD-CARRER, MAY AND C. THEATHERY TABLE. GROUP I.—MINOR ALIERTY REGISTER VEHICASSINGS, for which to

		continue access one blan-	
Disease or Defect. (1)	Under the Anthonity's Sistems, (2)	Otherwise.	7,66,6
Shin- Raymen Sody Raymen Sody Solden Unperior Ottor data deman	*****	4-128	20-25
Wiese Ep. Defects, (External and other, but evoluting cases bulling in Group II.).	8	R	21
Miner for Defects	1115	110	202
Minodianensi (cg., minor injerim, braises, seres, childrane, etc.)	25	100	277
Total	346	212	828

GROUP IL. DEFESTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (redealer Miner Eps Defent tested as Minor Almandi - Stony Li.

Aged or Deman. Crisic that the provinces by the private period of the private period of the period o	Errors of Refuserion (nucleoling Separat) 625 NG Other Defect or Dis-	ease of the Eyes (retilishing those received in Group	Total 635 182
Otherwise.	ñ	-	3118
Treat.	100	1	\$25

The an annulus of stakens for whom spectrafor were prescribed (19), 541.

(4) Character, Alberton of the state of the stat

GROUP III .- TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE & THROAT.

Recoves	RECEIVED OPERATIVE TREATMENT	MEATHERT		
District the By private Authority of Postalization or at Scheme, in Clause Board and and an attention of the second or Broughts! Press the Authority Scheme (1)	By prints burishmen or burish, egent on the Author sy's Bolome (2)	3 E	Benind other forms of Trestment (4)	The state of the s

(i) Number of Calculur IV—DENTAL DEFECTAL.

(ii) Number of Calculurinoid Senior Tyberint to Only.

(iv) Involved by the Demission Agent of Senior Sen

GROUP W.-UNICLEARLINES AND VERBINOUS CONOTIONS,

(1) American with of for fine dark of right of the part of the State of Sta

