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Cumberland County Council.

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

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# REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer,

F. H. MORISON, M.D., D.P.H., &c.,

ON THE

Medical Inspection of School  
Children.

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 1917.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee of the  
Cumberland County Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Tenth Annual Report for the year 1917. As directed by the Board of Education, this Report is of a short and very simple nature, indicating only the character and volume of the work done, and the results of treatment recommended. Under normal circumstances it would have been useful and instructive to review the work done and the progress made in ten years, but both the work and the progress have been seriously handicapped by the war.

Routine Medical Inspection has again had to be abandoned, and the "Ailing Child" basis adopted, owing to the continued absence of the entire Medical Staff on war service, and inability to obtain any medical assistance. At the time of writing this Report, however, Medical Inspection on routine lines has just been started by Dr. James Clarke, and I hope this will now be carried on regularly, but not of course on the same scale as formerly. I fear there will be difficulty in getting treatment for the children, owing to so many Medical Practitioners being away.

#### NUMBERS EXAMINED.

During the year under review 3,352 special cases have been visited and attended to by the nurses, and your School Medical Officer has examined 618 children, and indicated to the parents the treatment that should be carried out.

#### SCHOOL CLOSURES.

Owing to the prevalence of infectious diseases a large number of Schools have had to be closed for:—

Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
German Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Mumps	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Chickenpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Ringworm	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
							<hr/>
				Total	..	..	167
							<hr/>

In all 167 Schools were closed for various periods for infectious diseases.

The epidemic of Measles was, I think, the most severe experienced in the County for many years. During the year 2,258 cases were notified, but I think we can safely say that for every case notified there were at least two other cases not notified, so that probably there were at least in round numbers 6,000 cases of Measles.

Epidemics such as this we have just passed through will recur every two or three years, in spite of anything that can be done, until the public learn to realise the true nature of Measles, and what a serious disease of childhood it is.

Measles and Whooping Cough are two of the most serious diseases from which children can suffer, and yet one frequently hears of mothers exposing their children to the infection, so that "they may all get it over together," and this same opinion has been expressed in public by those who ought to know better.

During the past year 153 children under fifteen years of age died from infectious diseases, Measles was responsible for 58, Whooping Cough for 51, Enteric for 2, Scarlet Fever for 3, and Diphtheria for 39, but even this does not represent accurately all the havoc caused by Measles. There were also 213 deaths of children under fifteen years of age due to respiratory diseases, the majority of which I have no doubt were secondary to Measles. Is it worth our while trying to protect children from Measles when it would seem that they must take it sooner or later? I can only repeat what I have so often said before, that the longer a child is kept free from the disease the less likely is it to take it, and the older it is when it does get it, the less likely is the disease to be fatal. Is there any proof of this? My figures for 1917 show that there were 62 deaths registered as due to Measles, of these 56 were children under five years of age.

#### *RINGWORM.*

Ringworm has been unduly prevalent during the year, 372 cases having been notified. Most of these cases were successfully treated by the School Nurses. It was necessary to close one School on account of this, as 92 cases were found to be present.

#### *EXAMINATION OF PROSPECTIVE PUPIL TEACHERS.*

During the year under review I have examined 73 cases, 61 girls and 12 boys for the teaching profession, 2 girls were rejected on medical grounds, 16 girls and 2 boys were provisionally accepted, 11 girls and 1 boy on condition that they were efficiently vaccinated, and 5 girls and 1 boy on condition that they obtained suitable glasses. Two boys were deferred for further examination.

## TREATMENT.

Owing to the depletion of the Medical Staff the only adequate treatment apart from that obtained from Medical Practitioners, and that of minor ailments by Nurses, is the treatment of children suffering from Tuberculosis in the Sanatorium. This has been taken full advantage of. During the year 33 new cases have been in the Sanatorium for varying periods, some for three, some for six, and some even for nine months or longer. In addition 27 children sent to the Sanatorium in 1916, who were not well enough to leave continued their treatment during 1917. The following tables are given as required by the Board of Education.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

F. H. MORISON,

*School Medical Officer*

TABLE I.—(BOARD OF EDUCATION).—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED 1st JANUARY, 1917, to 31st DECEMBER, 1917.

GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE."\*

	(1)	<i>Intermediate Group (other than 8 years).</i>	(2)	<i>Special Cases.</i>	(3)	<i>Re-Examinations (i.e., No. of Child- ren Re-Examined.</i>	(4)
Boys .. ..	..	—	..	1442	..	286	
Girls .. ..	..	—	..	1910	..	332	
Totals .. ..	..	—	..	3352	..	618	

\* In areas where routine inspections have been suspended and the "ailing children" basis adopted, the number of children inspected should be entered in Column 3.

TABLE II.—(BOARD OF EDUCATION).—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1917.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.		
	No. referred for treatment.	No. requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	No. referred for treatment.	No. requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Skin	Malnutrition .. ..	—	—	4	—
	Uncleanliness .. ..	—	—	—	88
	Head .. ..	—	—	25	87
	Body .. ..	—	—	8	1
	Ringworm, Head .. ..	—	—	279	—
	Body .. ..	—	—	93	—
	Scabies .. ..	—	—	78	—
	Impetigo .. ..	—	—	92	—
Other Disease .. ..	—	—	27	—	
Eye	Defective Vision and Squint .. ..	—	—	—	—
	External Eye Disease .. ..	—	—	91*	12
Ear	Defective Hearing .. ..	—	—	10	—
	Ear Disease .. ..	—	—	3	—
Teeth	Dental Disease .. ..	—	—	—	—
Nose & Throat	Enlarged Tonsils .. ..	—	—	110	—
	Adenoids .. ..	—	—	25	—
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids .. ..	—	—	11	—
	Defective Speech .. ..	—	—	—	—
Heart & Circulation.	Heart Disease—	—	—	—	—
	Organic .. ..	—	—	7	—
	Functional .. ..	—	—	—	—
	Anæmia .. ..	—	—	14	—
Lungs	Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Definite .. ..	—	—	33	—
	Suspected .. ..	—	—	95	—
	Chronic Bronchitis .. ..	—	—	27	—
	Other Disease .. ..	—	—	—	—
Nervous System	Epilepsy .. ..	—	—	3	—
	Chorea .. ..	—	—	8	—
	Other Disease .. ..	—	—	—	—
	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—
	Glands .. ..	—	—	20	—
	Bones and Joints .. ..	—	—	4	—
	Other Forms .. ..	—	—	12	—
	Rickets .. ..	—	—	—	—
	Deformities .. ..	—	—	—	—
	Other Defects or Diseases .. ..	—	—	227	—

\* Signifies Ophthalmia.

TABLE IV.—(BOARD OF EDUCATION).—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1917.

Condition.	No. of defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available	No. of defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Percentage of defects treated.
	From Previous Year.	New	Total			Remedied	Improved	Unchanged		
Clothing..	—	7	7	—	7	—	—	—	—	100
Footgear ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleanliness of Head ..	25	87	112	—	105	75	—	7	7	93
Cleanliness of Body ..	8	1	91	—	9	—	1	—	—	100
Nutrition ..	—	4	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	100
Nose and Throat ..	81	63	144	—	106	37	—	38	38	73
External Eye Disease ..	—	12	12	—	12	8	—	—	—	100
Ear Disease ..	3	4	7	—	7	—	3	—	—	100
Teeth ..	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart and Circulation ..	18	1	19	—	14	—	3	6	6	73
Lungs ..	26	60	86	27	59	—	9	—	—	68
Nervous System ..	11	—	11	—	8	2	—	—	—	72
Skin ..	12	15	27	7	20	15	—	—	—	74
Rickets ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deformities ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary ..	36	—	36	36	—	—	—	—	—	—
Speech ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mental Condition ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vision and Squint ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hearing ..	6	10	16	—	3	—	—	3	3	18
Miscellaneous ..	227	91	318	60	184	112	—	74	74	57
Total ..	453	357	810	132	538	249	232	57	138	66