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CITY OF LIVERPOOL.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

FOR THE YEAR

1928

BY

A. A. MUSSEN, B.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health, and Medical Officer to the Education Authority.

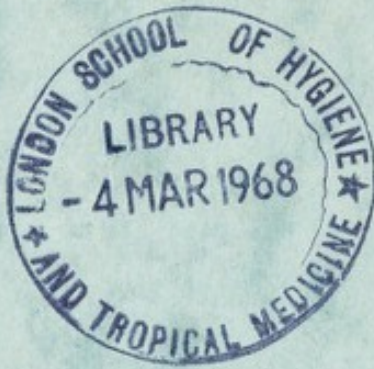
Received by the Education Committee, 27th May, 1929.

LIVERPOOL

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CITY OF LIVERPOOL.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER to the
Education Authority for the Year ended
31st December, 1928.

The Medical Officer begs to submit his report on the work of the School Medical Service for the year 1928. Introduction.

1. The work of the School Medical Department is a branch of the Municipal Service, the beneficial effects of which represent an undoubted gain to the community, by laying the foundation for the production of sound constitutions which are of fundamental importance for successful and happy citizenship. As has been pointed out in previous years, the elementary school children of to-day are taller, heavier, and healthier than the school children of 20 years ago. This improvement is largely due, as Sir George Newman has observed, to the medical care and supervision of the children both before and during school life, the treatment of defects, the removal of the causes of weakness and the treatment of dental decay which have resulted in fewer cases of inflamed tonsils and glands, less anaemia and tuberculosis and a decline in severe rickets. The provision of school meals, physical training, and improved sanitation have also contributed towards this general improvement. When it is borne in mind that in Liverpool approximately 140,000 school children are for nearly ten years of their lives under the surveillance of the Education Authority, the potentiality for materially influencing their physique during this period becomes apparent.

The aim of the School Medical Department is not only to secure treatment for ailing children and to make them fit to obtain proper benefit from their education, but further, to prevent disease, and to train the children in the laws of health so that they may become healthy and enlightened citizens.

The improvement already achieved is most encouraging, and progress will, it is hoped, continue as the parents become more enlightened, and as time goes on, the parents who as children were influenced or benefited by the School Medical Service and other health activities of the Education Authority will apply in their own homes the health principles learnt during their school life.

A Retrospect
of 20 years

2. It is not an easy matter to put into words or even to demonstrate evidence shewing definite improvement from one year to another, but on taking a longer period for comparative purposes the beneficial results become more striking. As the School Medical Service has now been in existence for some 20 years, it might be of interest to reprint some extracts from a report made at the request of the Liverpool Education Authority by Dr. Arkle in 1907 on the condition of the Liverpool school children. The report was based on the examination of the children in certain selected schools "which might be considered fair representatives of the various classes of children with which the Education Authority have to deal."

"Of course, many were very poorly clothed indeed, but I think the better way to describe them would be to say that they were unsuitably clad, and in some cases overclad.

"It seemed as if many of the children on obtaining a new garment put it on over the old ones, and, in fact, carried all their property on their backs. In such cases, when one arrived at the skin it was always found to be in a condition of unwholesome perspiration, although the weather was cold.

“ On the other hand, a great number of the children were
“ shockingly underclad.

“ One little girl had an ingenious costume which looked
“ quite smart until analysed. It consisted of a very thin
“ chemise, a footman’s old red waistcoat folded tightly round
“ her and fastened with a piece of string, and a blue overall,
“ with straps over the shoulders. It looked a very neat dress,
“ but was shamefully inadequate.

“ Many of the children who looked quite neat, on investiga-
“ tion were terribly underclad. One little fellow who looked
“ quite well-to-do did not want to take his coat off, as he
“ explained his shirt was in the wash. On investigation,
“ I found a piece of linen about half the size of a handkerchief
“ attached to his collar, and I fear that was all the shirt he had.
“ It was a bitterly cold day—but not one stitch of under-
“ clothing had he on. Such cases speak for themselves.

“ Another curious fact was that large numbers of the
“ children were absolutely stitched into their clothes. I do
“ not know whether this is from scarcity of buttons or from
“ fear of losing them, but whatever the cause may be, it is
“ strong evidence that the garments are seldom removed.

3. “ In the case of the eyes It is a very sad thing
“ to record that in ‘ B ’ (fair schools) and ‘ C ’ (poor schools)
“ only 1 per cent. of the children were provided with spectacles.
“ In ‘ A ’ (good schools) 4 per cent. had them. That is to say,
“ that in that school one in ten of the children requiring them
“ had spectacles; in the poorer schools only one in eighteen.

“ This is, I think, a very serious matter, as I am sure many
“ of the children could not possibly read ordinary print, or
“ even large writing on a blackboard, and how education is to
“ proceed on such terms I fail to see.

4. “ Starvation acting on a nervous temperament seems to
“ produce a sort of acute precocious cleverness. Over and

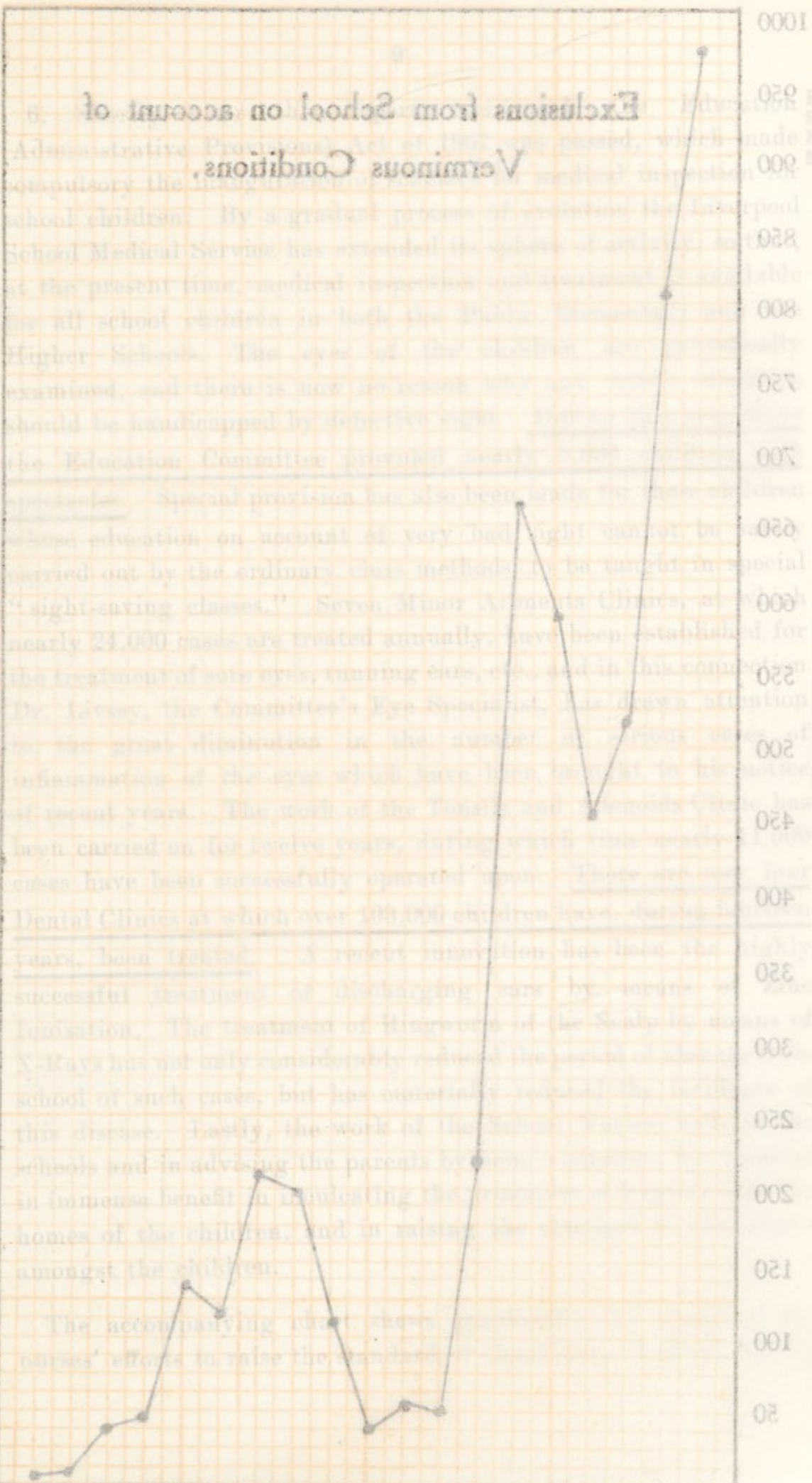
“over again, I noted such cases of children, without an ounce
 “of superfluous flesh upon them, with skins harsh and rough,
 “a pulse rapid and nerves ever on the strain, and yet with an
 “expression of the most lively intelligence. But it is the
 “eager intelligence of the hunting animal, with every faculty
 “strained to the uttermost so as to miss no opportunity
 “of obtaining food. I fear it is from this class that the ranks
 “of pilferers and sneak thieves come, and their cleverness is
 “not of any real intellectual value. On the other hand, with
 “children of a more lymphatic temperament, starvation seems
 “to produce creatures much more like automata. I do not
 “know how many children I examined among the poorer sort,
 “who were in a sort of dreamy condition and would only
 “respond to some very definite stimulus. They seemed to be
 “in a condition of semi-torpor—unable to concentrate their
 “attention on anything, and taking no notice of their
 “surroundings if left alone.

“I do not think I need say any more to show that the extent
 “of the degeneration revealed by this investigation has
 “reached a very alarming stage, and as this paper is written
 “with the sole purpose of bringing the facts of the case before
 “your notice, I do not feel it incumbent on me to enter into
 “the complicated question of what the remedy should be.

5. “In conclusion, I would ask ‘What is the use of educating
 “children whose bodies and minds are absolutely unable to
 “benefit by it?’

“In my opinion, the children must first be taught how to
 “live, and helped to get food to enable them to do it. Then,
 “when they have bodies fit to receive mental education, let
 “them have it; but the physical side must first be attended to,
 “or you might as well throw the money expended in educating
 “them into the sea.”

1888 1891 1894 1897 1900 1903 1906 1909 1912 1915 1918 1921 1924 1927 1930 1933 1936 1939 1942 1945 1948 1951 1954 1957 1960 1963 1966 1969 1972 1975 1978 1981 1984 1987 1990 1993 1996 1999 2002 2005 2008 2011 2014 2017 2020



Evolution of School Medical Service

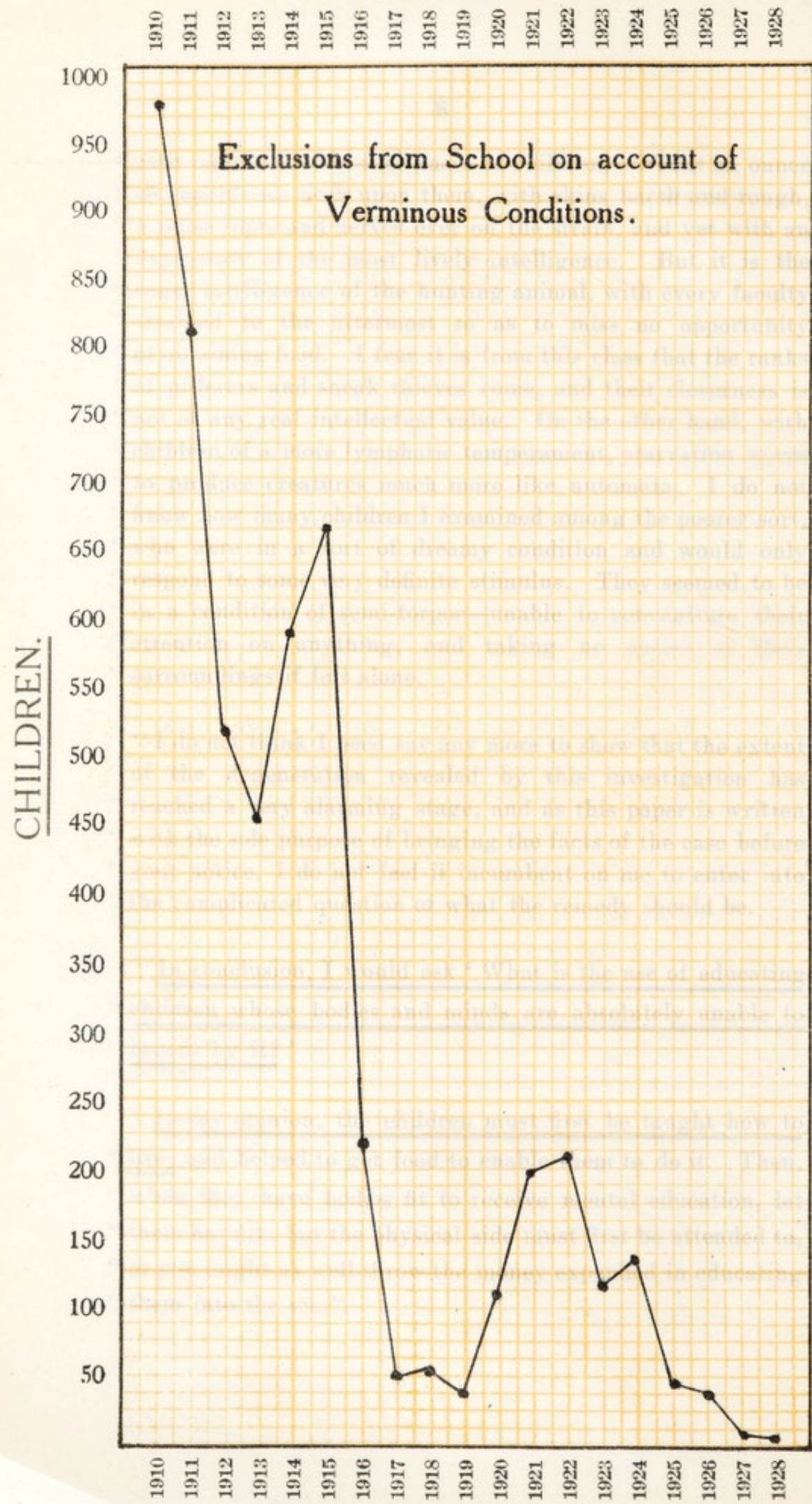
CHILDREN

Exclusions from School on account of Vermineous Conditions.

Administrative provisions have been made to prevent the spread of verminous conditions among school children. By a gradual process the School Medical Service has become an integral part of the present time medical inspection system. At the present time medical inspection is carried out in all schools in the city and in the higher schools. The work of the medical inspectors is not limited to the examination of children for verminous conditions but also includes the treatment of such conditions. Special provision has also been made for the treatment of such conditions in the schools. The ordinary methods of treatment are carried out by the ordinary class teachers in "sight-saving classes." Seven Minor Aural Clinics, at which nearly 24,000 cases are treated annually, have been established for the treatment of sore eyes, running ears, etc., and in this connection Dr. Dixey, the Committee's Eye Specialist, has done a great deal of work. The work of the Total Blind School has also been carried on for twelve years. In the treatment of such cases have been successfully operated upon. Dental Clinics at which over 20,000 children have been treated in the last few years. A recent innovation has been the successful treatment of discharging ears by means of Luminal. The treatment of ringworm of the scalp is a success. X-Rays have not only considerably reduced the number of children excluded from school on account of such conditions but has also done much to relieve this distress. Lastly, the work of the Eye Specialist in the schools has been of immense benefit in the treatment of ringworm of the scalp in the homes of the children, and in the treatment of such conditions among the children.

The recent innovations in the treatment of such conditions have been of immense benefit to the children and to the school.

YEARS.



6. Shortly after this report was made the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act of 1907 was passed, which made compulsory the inauguration of schemes for medical inspection for school children. By a gradual process of evolution the Liverpool School Medical Service has extended its sphere of activity, so that, at the present time, medical inspection and treatment is available for all school children in both the Public Elementary and the Higher Schools. The eyes of the children are periodically examined, and there is now no reason why any child's education should be handicapped by defective sight. During this year alone the Education Committee provided nearly 5,000 children with spectacles. Special provision has also been made for those children whose education on account of very bad sight cannot be safely carried out by the ordinary class methods, to be taught in special "sight-saving classes." Seven Minor Ailments Clinics, at which nearly 24,000 cases are treated annually, have been established for the treatment of sore eyes, running ears, etc., and in this connection Dr. Livsey, the Committee's Eye Specialist, has drawn attention to the great diminution in the number of serious cases of inflammation of the eyes which have been brought to his notice of recent years. The work of the Tonsils and Adenoids Clinic has been carried on for twelve years, during which time nearly 11,000 cases have been successfully operated upon. There are now four Dental Clinics at which over 103,000 children have, during fourteen years, been treated. A recent innovation has been the highly successful treatment of discharging ears by means of Zinc Ionisation. The treatment of Ringworm of the Scalp by means of X-Rays has not only considerably reduced the period of absence from school of such cases, but has materially reduced the incidence of this disease. Lastly, the work of the School Nurses, both in the schools and in advising the parents by home visitation, has resulted in immense benefit in inculcating the principles of hygiene into the homes of the children, and in raising the standard of cleanliness amongst the children.

The accompanying chart shews graphically the results of the nurses' efforts to raise the standard of cleanliness, it shews the big

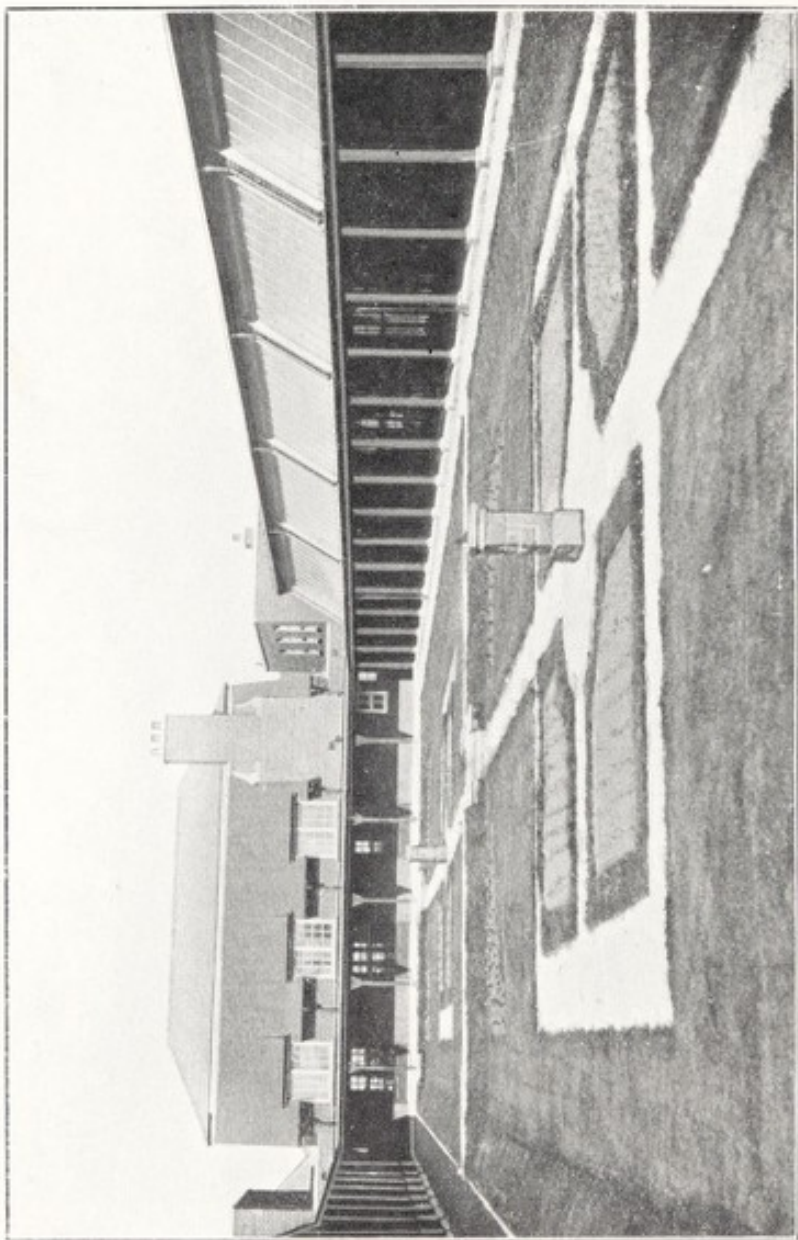
decline in the number of children it has been necessary to exclude from school on account of gross verminous conditions.

7. Those familiar with the gross cases of crippling which were formerly found in the Schools for Physically Defective Children cannot help being struck by the almost total absence of such cases at the present time. In those days totally incapacitated children could be seen in these schools, receiving their education whilst lying recumbent on stretchers; to-day not only are these cases almost unknown, but it is not always an easy matter to find sufficient crippled cases, of even slight degree, to keep these schools full.

8. A great deal of valuable work has been done in the amelioration of the malnourished, debilitated, and anaemic children, of which there were such a large number in the early years of medical inspection. The Child Welfare Association have for many years assisted the Department by providing extra nourishment, tonics, and convalescent treatment for annually increasing numbers of these children, and for the more severe cases the Education Committee themselves have provided residential open-air treatment at their own institution at Woolton Vale, and have reserved 30 beds at Torpenhow, and arrangements are already in hand for the opening of two Day Open-Air Schools in the east and south ends of the City.

9. The Education Committee, in the planning of their new schools, have given very careful thought to the important question of efficient ventilation, and two years ago built the "Florence Melly" Public Elementary School on open-air principles, and the accompanying photographs shew an exterior view of the classrooms and the quadrangle and an interior view of one of the classrooms. The building of another school on similar principles is under consideration.

10. Special mention should also be made of the extensive and beneficial work in improving the physique of the children carried out under the supervision of the Committee's Inspector of Physical Training, the report of which appears as Appendix "C."



QUADRANGLE OF "FLORENCE MELLY" PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.



CLASSROOM AT "FLORENCE MELLY" PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

11. The provision of meals for necessitous school children has also contributed towards their general improvement. When the Committee first made arrangements for free dinners in 1909 the meals were supplied by the proprietors of a number of "cocoa rooms" throughout the City, and by a social organisation having two Centres. These arrangements did not prove very satisfactory; the meals were not good value for even the small sum paid, and at times serious complaints were received as to the quality. Moreover, it was not always possible to provide a separate room for the children at the eating houses, and they had very often to take their meals in company with the ordinary customers, and with no proper supervision or training.

To-day conditions are very different. The raw materials are supplied by contractors under such arrangements as to ensure that the food is of good quality; the meals are, in the majority of instances, cooked in School Centres under the direct management of the Committee, according to a Dietary prepared by the Medical Officer, and are served at Centres supervised by Officials appointed by the Education Committee, members of which pay frequent visits to the Centres.

Apart from the improvement in the quality of the dinners, the present arrangements ensure that the children receive their meals under conditions which aim also at training them in table manners and discipline.

12. One of the Head Mistresses, who has had continuous experience in the same school for over twenty years, has kindly supplied the following record of her impressions of the conditions in her school before and after the introduction of School Medical Inspection:—

**Retrospect of
two Head
Teachers**

" In writing an account of life in a slum school twenty years ago, one must make clear that there has always been a large section of striving parents who kept their children clean and well fed; happily this minority has now become a majority.

“ In former years, teaching in a slum school was repulsive
 “ to many because of the dirt and its accompanying results
 “ which were encountered on all sides. Sore eyes, impetigo,
 “ vermin of every description, and apparatus which was not fit
 “ to touch after being handled by the children, were only a
 “ few of the difficulties encountered by the teacher. Any
 “ personal contact with most of the children was distinctly
 “ unsafe, and this had its corresponding effect on methods of
 “ teaching and on the reciprocal feeling between teachers and
 “ taught. The children’s clothes in winter varied from one
 “ garment only to numerous layers of cotton material
 “ which included all the clothes possessed at the moment;
 “ many were barefooted, and only those whose parents were
 “ sober and had regular employment were given sufficient food
 “ to eat. Many lived in cellars, and rickets, squint, adenoids
 “ and anaemia were obviously prevalent among these. The
 “ only remedial measures that could be taken were that
 “ generous School Managers supplied funds, out of these a
 “ visiting Queen Victoria Nurse dressed the wounds of the
 “ worst cases weekly, and teachers were enabled to provide
 “ clothing, boots, hot drinks, and cocoa-room tickets—these
 “ latter were a necessity, because if the parents were
 “ unemployed the family was without food. Then came the
 “ first medical inspection; the occasion was not welcomed by
 “ the majority of parents, and doctors and teachers exchanged
 “ mutual congratulations when any inspection period passed
 “ without outraged mothers strongly resenting advice given on
 “ health and cleanliness. Sanitary inspectresses followed up
 “ the worst cases in their homes—these officers also frequently
 “ visited the schools, teachers were given legal permission to
 “ inspect children in the interests of cleanliness and, after
 “ about eight years, the whole atmosphere perceptibly
 “ changed. This change was still more marked when the
 “ Corporation opened Clinics, staffed with nurses and visiting
 “ doctors, for the daily treatment of minor ailments and
 “ dental cases. There is now no need for any child, whose

“ school is within walking distance of these Clinics, to suffer
 “ from any of the disabilities detailed in this account.

13. “ The children of those described above are now attending
 “ this school. Perfection is not yet reached because, although
 “ the City is tackling these problems, unemployment, housing
 “ conditions and lack of accommodation for children under
 “ five years of age, are all drawbacks to the children’s health.
 “ Despite these drawbacks, the cleanliness of the majority of
 “ the children, the response of the parents to any request for
 “ improvement and the happy relationship between doctor,
 “ nurse, teacher, and parents speaks volumes for the work
 “ done during the past twenty years. A rota of twenty parents
 “ who distribute milk daily to the children, a daily average of
 “ forty handkerchiefs in a new admission class of fifty children
 “ and the fact that the school desks of the top section have
 “ had to be raised on two-inch blocks to accommodate the
 “ increased size of the present-day children, are indications
 “ which tend to show that health and cleanliness have
 “ progressed almost unbelievably during the last two decades.”

14. An Ex-Head Master has also supplied the following observations:—

“ The benefits derived from the Medical Inspection of school
 “ children are perhaps nowhere more apparent than in the
 “ schools in the slum quarter of our City. In the days before
 “ the doctor and the visiting nurses entered the schools,
 “ children often went through their school life with physical
 “ defects unattended to. Adenoids, sore and weak eyes,
 “ running ears, and bent knees were common. Of course, even
 “ in those days, there were many parents thoughtful for the
 “ physical welfare of their children, but the majority, in this
 “ quarter of the town, were either too poor or too careless to
 “ obtain medical advice, and as a consequence the children were
 “ neglected and grew up physically unfit to receive education
 “ or to play their part properly in life. Little home attention

“ was given to lesser ailments. Quite half our boys and a
 “ large proportion of our girls were barefooted, and broken
 “ pieces of glass and rusty nails often wounded their feet. The
 “ writer has often seen older boys carrying on their backs
 “ little chaps unable to walk because of festering sores on their
 “ feet. The teachers in these cases did their best. The sore
 “ feet were bathed, treated with ointment, and bound with lint.
 “ The necessaries for first aid, I may here mention, were not
 “ supplied as now by the Education Committee, but by the
 “ teachers themselves. Occasionally, we had a visit from one
 “ of the nurses of the Queen Victoria Nursing Association, but
 “ this attention to the children’s small ailments was an
 “ important part of a slum teacher’s work and was willingly
 “ performed. The establishment of the Minor Ailments
 “ Clinics has altered this for the better, and suffering little
 “ ones can now receive daily systematic treatment by skilled
 “ nurses.

15. “ Then, too, in those days poverty was often associated with
 “ dirt and vermin. The older teachers will vividly recall
 “ occasions when a boy has held up his hand to say “ Please,
 “ sir, there’s something crawling on Billy Jones’s coat.’ The
 “ only remedy then was for Jones to leave the room and go into
 “ the school-yard to clear his coat. Such cases are now almost
 “ a thing of the past. The regular visits of the school nurse,
 “ the periodical and thorough examination of every child as
 “ regards cleanliness, clothing and general care, combined
 “ with the visits to the homes, has effected a salutary change
 “ for the better.

16. “ During the years that medical inspection has obtained in
 “ our schools, the attitude of the parents has altered. At first,
 “ many of the parents viewed it with suspicion and were
 “ especially inclined to resent the nurse’s inspection for
 “ cleanliness. Of course, no mother likes to be told that the
 “ child is dirty, and a girl feels it very keenly when it is found



GROUP OF SCHOOL CHILDREN TAKEN DURING THE
EARLY DAYS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.



SIMILAR GROUP TAKEN RECENTLY AT THE SAME SCHOOL.

“ necessary to send her to the cleansing station. But generally
 “ speaking, the parents and the children themselves are now
 “ looking upon the system with favour. Fathers and mothers
 “ have been led to understand that a child’s physical fitness
 “ is its best asset in life, and even the children themselves
 “ know that it is better and pleasanter to be clean and healthy,
 “ and to have clean and healthy companions.

17. “ When the writer looks back on his twenty years’ work
 “ among the poorer children of our great City he sees much
 “ to give hope and encouragement. Many causes have
 “ combined. Education has given a better and wider outlook,
 “ and people are more fitted for the doing of their work and
 “ the enjoyment of their leisure. Sobriety has become the rule
 “ rather than the exception, and the children of our slums are
 “ better clothed and fed, and their lives are generally happier.
 “ But among the more potent causes which have contributed
 “ to the betterment of child life must be placed the excellent
 “ work of the doctors in the school and the untiring efforts of
 “ the school nurses.”

18. The accompanying photographs shew a group of children taken twenty years ago, and for the purposes of comparison another group taken recently at the same school shewing the great general improvement in the appearance and care of the children.

19. There has been a new and interesting development in the **Farm Training Hostel** work of the Juvenile Employment Committee during the year 1928, in the inauguration of a scheme for providing practical instruction in farming to boys who are desirous of migrating to the Dominions overseas. A Hostel has been erected at the Carr Hall Farm, Burscough, by arrangement with the Health Committee, to whom the farm belongs, and accommodation is provided for the reception and training of 40 boys at a time. The course of training lasts about three months, and during that time the boys are taught the elements of farming, proceeding each day to neighbouring farms where they are instructed and supervised in their work by the

farmers themselves. The evenings are devoted to instruction in woodwork, cobbling, clothes-mending, first aid, etc. Lectures are also arranged, and there are ample facilities for recreation and sport. The object of the scheme is to test boys as to their suitability for agricultural work and to make them fit for life in the Dominions. The School Medical Officers render the Juvenile Employment Committee every assistance in the interviewing of boys who apply for training under the scheme, and in advising upon the suitability of the applicants before they are submitted to the Dominion Governments' representatives for interview and medical examination. The Hostel was opened in September, 1928, and by the end of December, the first five boys who had completed their training had been sent to Canada, while other boys will be ready for migration early in the new year. There is every prospect that the scheme will prove successful, and that many boys who are unable to obtain satisfactory employment in this country will take advantage of the opportunity of training for a new career in either Canada or Australia.

Changes In Staff

20. The number of School Medical Officers in the Service remained the same as in the previous year. The Committee, however, approved of the appointment of an additional Medical Officer in view of the work having fallen into arrears, which appointment, however, was still awaiting the sanction of the Staffs (Special) Committee at the end of the year. There were two changes in the personnel, Dr. Gubbins and Dr. Woodeson being appointed to replace Dr. Mackenzie and Dr. Donnelly, who had resigned. No changes were made in the dental or nursing arrangements.

21. Sir George Newman, in his Annual Reports, gives a table shewing the estimated incidence of certain defects per 1,000 children in average attendance at public elementary schools throughout the country, and the following table shews the actual incidence amongst Liverpool school children compared with this estimated figure for the whole country.

Table 1.
Blind, Deaf, Defective, and Epileptic Children.
Incidence of Defect.

| Type. | Estimated Incidence per 1,000 children (B. of E.). | Incidence per 1,000 children in Liverpool December, 1928 |
|---|--|---|
| BLIND :— | | |
| Totally | 0·4 | 0·4 |
| Partially | 1·0 | 1·6 |
| DEAF :— | | |
| Totally | 0·9 | 1·1 |
| Partially | 0·3 | 0·9 |
| MENTALLY DEFECTIVE :— | | |
| Cases not notifiable | 8·6 | 8·6 |
| EPILEPTICS—Severe | 0·6 | 0·3 |
| PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE :— | | |
| <i>(a)</i> Active Tuberculosis— | | |
| Pulmonary and glandular (infectious) | 0·7 | 0·1 |
| Pulmonary and glandular (non-infectious) | 1·7 | 3·7 |
| Non-pulmonary | 1·5 | 1·6 |
| <i>(b)</i> Delicate | 15·5 | 9·1 |
| <i>(c)</i> Crippled | 10·0 | 5·3 |

Average attendance at Public Elementary Schools, December, 1928 ... 118,444

22. In Table III of the Statistics at the end of this Report, it will be noticed that there were 107 children suffering from deafness, which, though not sufficiently severe to warrant their admission to the School for the Deaf, was of sufficient degree to impose a distinct handicap on their education in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

**Partially Deaf
Children**

The education of such children is carried out under constant mental and auditory strain, which soon fatigues them and results in their not keeping up with the others in their classes. A short course in lip reading would be of great assistance to these children as, by such means, their defective hearing would be supplemented.

23. The scheme for the adaptation of the premises purchased in Garston, in 1925, for use as a Minor Ailments Clinic, Defective Vision Clinic, Dental Clinic, Cleansing Centre, and also as Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Clinics, was again deferred on the grounds of economy. It is expected that this scheme will be proceeded with in the coming year.

24. Under the arrangements made with the Health Committee in 1927, for the treatment of pre-school children suffering from squint or otorrhœa, whose parents are unable to afford private treatment, 86 cases of squint and 4 cases of otorrhœa were treated during the year under the Education Committee's scheme.

This is a most valuable and progressive step, for, as has been pointed out in previous Annual Reports, the School Medical Officers, when examining children after admission to school, frequently discovered cases of squint in which the sight in the affected eye had almost irreparably been lost through the delay in securing treatment.

25. During the year, the following seven new schools were opened, viz., St. Cuthbert's R.C., Pinehurst Avenue Council, Notre Dame R.C. Central, Ranworth Square Council, Monksdown Road Council, Leamington Road Council, and Broad Square Council. St. Swithin's R.C. and the Dog and Gun C.E. Schools were taken over from the Lancashire County Council. Only one school was closed, viz., Island Road Council.

The average number of children on the rolls for the year was 134,899 and the average attendance 120,132, or 89·1 per cent.

26. The School Medical Officers have during the year carried out at the schools and Inspection Clinics 120,027 examinations relating to approximately 84,000 school children, as shewn in detail below:—

Public Elementary Schools.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Routine examinations | 44,575 |
| Special examinations | 12,428 |
| Re-inspections | 48,536 |
| Total number of inspections | 105,539 |
| Number of individual children inspected ... | 76,462 |

Higher Schools.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Routine examinations | 6,457 |
| Special examinations | 437 |
| Re-inspections | 6,266 |
| Total number of inspections | 13,160 |
| Number of individual children inspected ... | 7,502 |

Special Schools.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Routine examinations | 535 |
| Special examinations | 80 |
| Re-inspections | 713 |
| Total number of inspections | 1,328 |

The Medical Officer is indebted to the Director of Education for information which he has kindly supplied with regard to certain sections of this Report relating in particular to the work in connection with the Special Schools, Provision of Meals, and Juvenile Employment.

The official statistical tables required by the Board will be found in the Appendix commencing on page 70.

NUTRITION, etc.

27. The steady improvement in nutrition and general health of the school children and the diminution and severity of certain diseases, particularly those due to neglect, along with the factors

conducting to these results, have been fully dealt with in previous Reports.

There are still, however, a large number of children suffering from malnutrition and debility.

Many of these debilitated children have been benefited considerably by the provision of extra nourishment, tonics, or treatment in convalescent homes, and 2,269 references were made to the Child Welfare Association during the year for their assistance in these directions. The great value of milk from the standpoint of nutrition is becoming more and more appreciated, and in several of the schools the teachers have made arrangements whereby children can obtain milk or malted milk during the morning sessions at cost price. One Head Teacher has kindly supplied information with regard to a scheme which she has introduced with success at her school. Every morning, during play-time, some 120 girls are given one-third of a pint of milk each, which is supplied in bottles, the stoppers of which are made of cardboard and capable of being perforated in the centre by the straws provided and through which the milk can be drunk, thus obviating the need of cups. The children pay for the week's supply of milk on the Monday mornings. The children have been weighed every month, and with four exceptions gained considerably in weight, five having gained between 7 and 9 lbs., and one as much as 12 lbs., in less than six months. In addition to this milk scheme several of the girls have been given cod liver oil and malt during the afternoon sessions. Some children, however, require more prolonged treatment in residential open-air schools, and the Committee have now available approximately 100 beds for such cases.

**Open-Air
Schools.**

28. During the year 56 children were admitted to the Residential Open-Air School "Torpenhow," at Frankby. Although the usual period of residence is six months, in the case of 11 children this period was extended to nine months, and in one instance to twelve months. Whilst in residence at the school as much time as possible is spent out of doors, the playing field adjoining being used for

recreation purposes. With the consent of the parents the boys and girls are enrolled soon after admission as Boy Scouts or Girl Guides, respectively, the instruction given at the meetings of these two organisations proving very helpful, and encouraging "esprit de corps" amongst the children, and it was found that two-thirds of the children subsequently joined their local guide or scout companies. With the object of impressing upon the children the importance of looking after their health on leaving the school, special lessons are given in personal and general hygiene, the reasons for living an open air life being emphasised. Small prizes are given to the children at intervals in order to stimulate interest in personal hygiene. On alternate mornings, before breakfast, the children have shower baths, which, although not always appreciated at first, are soon looked forward to with much pleasure. Each child is taught the correct use of the toothbrush. On discharge they are presented with enamelled badges with the object of reminding them of the rules of health which they have learnt during their stay at the school, and they are urged to continue to carry out these rules after their return home. After leaving, the children are periodically examined at the Education Office by one of the Medical Officers. As a result of these after-care examinations, it was found that some of the children had not fully maintained the improvement recorded on their discharge; in view of this fact the period of residence for six months, which at the opening of the school was provisionally regarded as the maximum, was extended in a larger number of instances than in the previous year.

Other cases of debility from both the Public Elementary and the Special Schools were admitted to the Committee's residential school at Woolton Vale.

29. Reference was made in previous Annual Reports to the desirability of providing Day Open-Air School accommodation, and during the year the Committee decided to adapt for this purpose two large residences belonging to the Committee, one, known as Eddisbury Lodge, being situated in the West Derby neighbour-

hood, and the other, Underlea, off Aigburth Road, at the south end of the City.

PROVISION OF MEALS.

30. Under Sections 82-85 of the Education Act, 1921, free dinners have been provided for necessitous school children on week-days during term time and school holidays. The meals are cooked and served at certain centres as shewn below.

COOKING CENTRES.

Addison Street Day Industrial School.
 Queensland Street Senior Special School.
 Whitefield Road Special School.
 Dingle Lane Special School.
 Walton Road (former) Day Industrial School.
 Northumberland Street (former) Day Industrial School.

DINING CENTRES.

Addison Street Day Industrial School.
 Queensland Street Senior Special School.
 Whitefield Road Special School.
 Dingle Lane Special School.
 Northumberland Street (former) Day Industrial School.
 Chalmers Hall, Westminster Road.
 St. Titus' Hall, Portland Street.
 St. Thomas's (old) School, Upper Frederick Street.
 "Caledonian" (old) School, Oldham Street.
 St. Aidan's Hall, Commercial Road.
 "Major Lester," Council School, Sherlock Street.
 Heyworth Street Council School.
 Stanley Congregational Church, Green Lane.

31. A new dining centre was opened on the 13th August, when the schools re-assembled after the midsummer vacation, at the Stanley Congregational Church, Green Lane, to replace a centre at one of the local caterers' establishments. The new premises, suitably equipped by the Committee, provide adequate accommodation for the increased number of necessitous school children in the Old Swan Area, and there is the additional advantage of the food being supplied according to the Committee's dietary scale. The Sub-Committee are contemplating the establishment of Dining Centres in the new housing areas.

There are also six local caterers in the outskirts who provide meals for small groups of children, who, owing to distance, cannot attend the Committee's main dining centre.

32. No charge is made to the parents, but meals are not granted if it is considered that the parents are in a position to provide meals at home. In cases found to be receiving Poor Law Relief, provided that such relief is not supplemental to Unemployment Insurance Benefit, the Guardians are notified, and if they report that the relief granted is adequate, meal coupons are refused.

33. Before any prolonged holiday, the Head Teachers are requested to submit lists of children who, in their opinion, would require meals during the vacation, and the Committee have arranged for dinners to be supplied to these children. During the vacations, the numbers were about 60 per cent. of the average during school terms.

There are 121 schools out of a total of 180 elementary schools in the City in which free meal coupons are being issued to necessitous school children.

The Dining Centres were open on 310 days during the year, and the total number of meals supplied was 574,745, the daily average number of children who received meals being 1,854 or 42 more than the average for 1927.

The weekly number of meals provided varied during the year; the lowest being 6,025 in August, the highest, 13,175 in December.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

34. The following Table shews the work carried out under the Dental Scheme during the year for the children attending the Public Elementary Schools, together with the corresponding figures for the previous two years.

| | 1926. | 1927. | 1928. |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Number of children examined in School | 64,598 | 65,111 | 64,092 |
| Number of children requiring treatment | 47,197 (73·07%) | 47,999 (73·7%) | 47,645 (74·3%) |
| Number of cases accepting treatment under the Dental Scheme | 14,647 (31%) | 15,474 (32%) | 14,994 (31·5%) |
| Number of cases treated | 14,730 | 13,786 | 15,217 |
| Number of Schools visited | 100 | 100 | 100 |

It will be observed that there is an increase of over 1,400 in the number of children treated, as compared with the previous year. This was possible owing to the fact that the whole-time staff of Officers has, for the first time, been available for the whole year, the replacement of five part-time Dentists by three whole-time Officers having taken place in 1927.

35. The same number of Public Elementary Schools, viz., 100, as in the previous two years, have been brought under treatment. The need for dental treatment in the Garston and Woolton Area, which was stressed in the last report, still remains urgent. Treatment is also urgently needed in the new housing area at Norris Green; moreover, many of the children attending the new schools in this area had been receiving regular treatment at their old schools, but are now deprived of the benefit of regular Clinic treatment. An addition to the Staff of Dental Officers is hoped for in 1929, and as soon as an additional Officer becomes available it is proposed to provide treatment for these schools.

36. The proportion of parents accepting treatment still remains at a very low figure, being less than three-fifths that of the acceptances for the whole country. This neglect on the part of the parents appears to be due, in the main, to two causes; firstly, the very widespread belief on the part of parents that a tooth that does not ache needs no treatment, and, secondly, there is, not infrequently, the difficulty experienced by many parents in some districts of providing the sixpence charged by the Committee for treatment.

37. It is not an uncommon thing for the Dentists to be informed that the reason for the delay in bringing a child for treatment, which has resulted in the loss of valuable teeth, has been due solely to inability to pay the small fee of sixpence charged by the Committee. The question as to whether steps should not be taken to provide free treatment on a larger scale than obtains at present is worth consideration by the Committee.

38. There is, unfortunately, still a widespread misconception of the objects for which School Dental Clinics were introduced. Their object is the preservation of teeth, and not their extraction for the relief of toothache. The School Dental Service was instituted primarily as a preventive measure in order to ensure, by a system of regular inspection and treatment, that children shall leave school with sound dentitions and healthy mouths. Toothache is by no means, as is far too commonly thought, the first manifestation that the teeth require attention: unfortunately in the majority of instances it indicates that preventive treatment has by this time become impossible, and that the only practical remedy is extraction of the teeth. A careful inspection of the teeth of the children in those schools for which treatment is at present available is carried out every year, and decay is, therefore, detected and treatment offered before irreparable damage has occurred.

39. The large number of permanent teeth which are extracted every year is an indication of the lack of success of the preventive dental scheme, owing to the failure of parents to present their children regularly for treatment. Although shewing a slight decline from the figures previously quoted in this connection, the number of extractions of permanent teeth represents the very high proportion of 37 teeth for every 100 children treated. This figure compares most unfavourably with that of 25 for every 100 children treated, the figure quoted for the country as a whole. In one Borough, which has had a complete dental scheme in operation for many years, and which has an unusually high proportion of acceptances, it was found necessary in 1927 to extract less than 10 permanent teeth for every 100 children treated.

**Object of the
Dental
Scheme**

**Excessive
Extraction
Rate**

40. Such propaganda among the parents and children as is possible with the present staff is being carried out with satisfactory results, but if the scheme is to achieve the objects for which it was intended, much more educational work is still necessary before parents as a whole can be got to appreciate that the treatment of children's teeth should be undertaken on the advice of the Dentist, consequent upon the regular dental inspection, and not solely when toothache compels the necessity of treatment.

41. The fact that refusal to take advantage of the dental treatment when it is offered is largely due to ignorance on the part of the parents as to the necessity for so doing, is well shewn by the experience of one school which has lately been brought into the Dental Scheme. In the Boys' Department a personal letter was sent to every parent concerned by the Head Teacher. This letter emphasized the fact that the Committee's Dental treatment is carried out by experienced Dental Surgeons and is entirely painless. In pointing out the evils that are caused by neglect of the teeth the letter concluded with this sentence, "Do not let it be said that I am more anxious for the welfare of your boy than you are yourself." The acceptances in this department were 87 per cent. of the number referred for treatment.

That the work carried out at these Clinics is appreciated is evidenced by the fact that a larger and increasing number of requests for treatment are being made by parents on behalf of children under the age for inclusion in the Dental Scheme, owing to their satisfaction with the results of the regular treatment of their older children.

One of the School Dental Officers is on duty at the office each day after school hours in order to see and give advice with regard to all casual applications for treatment.

UNCLEANLINESS.

42. At the routine examinations 16·3 per cent. of the girls and 5·1 per cent. of the boys were found by the Health Visitors to have verminous heads, whilst the bodies and clothing were infected in 0·62

per cent. of the boys and 0·31 per cent. of the girls. These figures shew a slight all-round improvement on those recorded for the previous year. During the twelve months under consideration the Health Visitors made altogether 187,353 examinations re cleanliness, and in 10,055 instances the children were found to be verminous or very dirty.

43. The usual procedure adopted in such cases is to send to the parent a printed notice drawing attention to the condition, and giving instructions as to the proper method of remedying the condition. If this intimation is not complied with, a further notice is sent drawing attention to the parents' legal obligation to cleanse their children, and in many instances visits are also paid to the homes, when, if there do not appear to be the requisite facilities for cleansing, the Health Visitors recommend the parents to take the children to the nearest of the three cleansing stations. In 629 instances, however, these steps proved ineffective, and it was found necessary to put Section 460 of the Liverpool Corporation Act, 1921, into operation, statutory notices being served in these cases. This Section, which is similar to but less cumbersome to work than Section 87 of the Education Act of 1921, requires the parents properly to cleanse their children within 24 hours after the receipt of the statutory notice.

Of the 629 children in question, the parents complied with this notice in 607 instances, the remaining 22 children being compulsorily cleansed by the staff.

44. Legal proceedings were taken under the Section against the parents in respect of 17 of the children who had been compulsorily cleansed, with the following result :—

| | |
|--|----------|
| Fines varying from 10s. to 2s. 6d. ... | 6 cases. |
| Bound over | 3 „ |
| Discharged with a caution | 7 „ |
| Withdrawn (after adjournment) ... | 1 case. |

45. The three cleansing stations were well utilised throughout the year, 11,620 attendances having been made at Beacon Street, 3,890 at Mansfield Street, and 3,585 at Smithdown Lane; whilst during the

winter months, by arrangement with the Baths Committee, 13,523 attendances were made by school children at the various public slipper and spray baths. Of the 19,095 attendances at the cleansing stations, 4,786 were on account of verminous conditions.

DISEASES OF THE EAR.

Discharging Ears.

46. At the routine examinations, 1.68 per cent. of the children were found to be suffering from inflammation of the middle ear (otitis media). From this it is estimated that there are approximately 2,280 school children in the city suffering from this affection. This condition is responsible for a large number of the attendances at the Minor Ailments Clinics, some 400 or 500 cases being in constant attendance.

47. The electrical treatment for suppurative otitis media by means of zinc ionisation has been continued by Dr. F. P. M. Clarke, one of the Assistant School Medical Officers, and a report on the highly successful treatment of his cases appears at the end of this section under the heading of "Zinc Ionisation."

The following table shews in detail the classification of the cases dealt with at the Aural Clinic and the nature of the work undertaken:—

Table 2.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Number of children examined | ... | ... | ... | 598 |
| Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media:— | | | | |
| Active: One ear | ... | ... | 349 | } 467 |
| „ Both ears | ... | ... | 118 | |
| Quiescent | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Deafness | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| Other ear conditions | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Nasal conditions | ... | ... | ... | 14 |

Treatment.

| | Individual Children. |
|--|-------------------------|
| Zinc ionisation (489 ears) | 392 |
| Referred to Minor Ailments Clinic | 102 |
| Referred for Home treatment | 24 |
| Referred to Hospital | 45 |
| Treated by Nasal diastolisation | 13* |
| Treated by Politzer treatment | 7 |
| Granulations removed | 14 |
| Wax, debris, etc., removed | 24 |
| Polypi removed | 3 |
| Referred for Tonsils and Adenoids removal | 14 |
| No treatment advised | 34 |

* Attended in some cases on 12 or more occasions for treatment.

Zinc Ionisation.

48. The Zinc Ionisation method for the treatment of chronic otorrhœa, commenced at the old North Corporation School at the end of 1925, has been continued. The treatment is now carried out on four sessions a week. During 1926 and 1927 it was possible also to treat a certain number of otorrhœa cases at the North Dispensary during the Aural sessions, regularly held once a week, but, unfortunately, owing to the very large number of urgent tonsils and adenoids cases on the waiting list this Clinic had to be discontinued to allow for additional tonsils and adenoids sessions.

49. From experience of the results obtained by zinc ionisation in the treatment of suitable cases over the last three years and the consistently high percentage of "cures" obtained, it can now be definitely stated that this new method of treatment is no longer in the experimental stage, but is a definite advance on the older routine methods. The large number of cases of chronic "running ears"—many of several years' duration—previously treated by regular "syringing and drops," being rapidly "cured" by one or two applications of zinc ionisation, and in the vast majority the

cure being permanent, can leave no doubt as to the great value of electrolytic medication over the routine (antiseptic) methods in the treatment of sepsis of the middle ear. By the successful application of zinc ionisation, the treatment of chronic suppurative otitis media is being stripped of much of its former hopelessness, and is being placed on a sound scientific and successful basis.

50. During the year, 489 new cases have been treated. Of these, 410 = 84 per cent., have been "cured."

It is important to state here, in explanation of this very satisfactory percentage of successful results, that the plan adopted from the outset of eliminating unsuitable cases, has been continued. This is important, firstly, to prevent wasting time and energy on cases which cannot benefit by the treatment, and secondly, to enable the maximum number of cases that can be "cured" to be treated in the time available.

51. The following types of cases are unsuitable or unlikely to benefit by zinc ionisation:—

- (1) Extensive disease of the mastoid bone;
- (2) Old post-operative cases of mastoiditis where there is present much granulation tissue;
- (3) Cases of cholesteatomata;
- (4) Cases of bone destruction, as evidenced by large masses of granulations and polypi;
- (5) Marked stenosis of the auditory canal.

The early diagnosis of these cases, referred to the Clinic for ionisation, is important to prevent waste of time of the patient and Clinic.

52. It is well to emphasise here that another of the great advantages of zinc ionisation is its help in diagnosis, the effect of the zinc coagulation being to reduce the turgescence or chronic thickening often present in the tissues and to enable the causative factor of the lesion to be clearly seen. When there is any doubt as to the nature of the condition present, one or two applications of ionisation will rapidly clear up the diagnosis.

53. Another important point in the successful treatment of many cases of chronic otorrhœa by zinc ionisation is the recognition of the presence of simple " attic sepsis " along with tympanic sepsis. It has frequently been found that after two or three applications of ionisation the discharge persists. When the attic cavity has then been washed out and ionised directly, the discharge has ceased.

54. During 1928, 24 cases of running ears which had failed to respond to ionisation treatment were referred for mastoid operation. Twelve of these cases were operated upon by Mr. Courtenay Yorke at the Stanley Hospital, and were subsequently treated by zinc ionisation within a week after the operation and had from four to eight applications of ionisation as the sole after-treatment. Eleven out of the twelve were perfectly dry within six weeks, and one only had a slight intermittent discharge and attended occasionally for further zinc ionisation.

This is a great advance on the usual after-treatment of mastoids, many of which continue to discharge, more or less, for years.

From the number of cases of chronic otorrhœa examined it is estimated that about 20 per cent. of all cases require the radical mastoid operation owing to the presence of diseased bone, without which operation they simply drift on indefinitely.

It is safe to assume that if more facilities were available for such operative treatment in the necessary cases, the combined value of operation and zinc ionisation would give every case of otorrhœa an almost certain chance of successful cure.

55. The most frequent complication of chronic otorrhœa in children is rhinitis. It is more common amongst the poorer and younger children. This is too often overlooked, and if left untreated destroys the chance of success. The careful use of diastolisation in these cases has been found of considerable value.

During the year the cases discharged as cured have been followed up as far as possible at the periodical school inspections, and the

number of cases of recurrence of the discharge have been remarkably few.

Table 3.

Return of "Discharging Ears" treated by Zinc Ionisation
(Friel's Classification).

| Causes of Suppuration. | Total. | Cured. | Im- proved. | Left School or lost sight of | Referred for other treatment. | Still under Treatment on 31.12.28 |
|--|------------|------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| CHRONIC SUPPURATIVE OTITIS MEDIA. | | | | | | |
| I. Tympanic conditions solely :— | | | | | | |
| (a) Tympanic Sepsis | 260 | 247 | — | 8 | — | 7 |
| (b) Tym. Sep. + Granulations | 62 | 51 | 4 | 2 | — | 5 |
| (c) do. + Polypi | 12 | 7 | 2 | — | 1 | 2 |
| (d) do. + Caries | 16 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | — |
| (e) do. + Cholesteatoma | 4 | — | — | 1 | 3 | — |
| II. Tympanic conditions combined with :— | | | | | | |
| (a) Tonsils and Adenoids | 21 | 16 | — | 3 | 2 | — |
| (b) Nasal Conditions | 60 | 48 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| III. Tympanic conditions combined with :— | | | | | | |
| (a) Attic Disease | 10 | 7 | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| (b) Mastoid Disease:— | | | | | | |
| (1) Previous Operation | 12 | 12 | — | — | — | — |
| (2) No Operation | 12 | — | — | — | 12 | — |
| IV. Tympanic conditions combined with :— | | | | | | |
| (a) External Otitis | 7 | 6 | — | 1 | — | — |
| (b) Stricture of Meatus | 9 | 4 | — | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| V. External Otitis | | | | | | |
| | 4 | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS | 489 | 410 | 12 | 22 | 24 | 21 |

Notes on Some Special Cases.

1. E.F., aged 14. Described at Hospital as "a very bad, chronic case," and advised to have a radical mastoid operation. Left ear discharging since infancy. Attending the Minor Ailments Clinic or Hospital off and on since admission to school. Absent or excluded from school for over half of her school life.

Diagnosis: Chronic Tympanic Sepsis + Attic Sepsis.
Received one application of zinc ionisation. The ear has

been perfectly "dry" since (12 months), with remarkable improvement in hearing.

2. F.C., aged 15. Profuse foul discharge both ears since three years old. Sent to Special Deaf School on account of her hearing. Attended several Hospitals and had "drops," but the discharge continued. Small granulations were present. Both ears received two applications each (R. Attic), after the second of which they dried and have remained dry since (10 months). The hearing also improved.
3. D.B., aged 8. Profuse discharge from right ear since infancy. Had been out of school several times on account of the foul smelling discharge. Had tonsils removed—no improvement. Received one application of zinc ionisation, since which there has been no further discharge. There has also been a remarkable improvement in hearing. The ear has now been dry for 10 months without recurrence.

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

56. The number of children found at the routine examinations to require treatment for these defects was 845 (i.e., 1·8 per cent.), a slightly higher number than was noted during the four previous years. In addition, 606 children requiring treatment for these defects were seen as special cases.

In 437 instances, children who were found with moderately enlarged tonsils and adenoids were referred to Mr. Yorke, the Committee's Surgeon, for his opinion, and he recommended operation in 59·2 per cent. of these cases.

57. In the Annual Report for 1923, it was mentioned that Mr. Courtenay Yorke, the Committee's Surgeon, considered that great care and discrimination should be exercised in the selection of cases for operation, since many of the symptoms usually associated with enlarged tonsils and adenoids are not infrequently found to be due to other causes, in particular, chronic nasal catarrh. This unhealthy

**Chronic Nasal
Catarrh.**

condition of the mucous membrane of the nose is common amongst the children of the poor, and is associated with lowered vitality resulting from inadequate food and clothing and from living in overcrowded and badly ventilated homes.

58. Chronic nasal catarrh is often unaccompanied by adenoids or hypertrophy of the tonsils, but even if some slight overgrowth of these lymphatic tissues be present, the enlargement is probably secondary to the nasal catarrh, and operation, under such circumstances, would be of no value. Experience at the Clinic shews that mouth breathing and deafness are quite as frequently due to chronic nasal catarrh unaccompanied by adenoids as to the presence of adenoids.

59. Before an operation at the Clinic for enlarged tonsils or adenoids is decided upon, the parents are interviewed by the Surgeon and a careful investigation is made into the symptoms complained of and the general health of the child. The *routine* haphazard scraping of the naso-pharynx after the removal of tonsils is very strongly deprecated at the Clinic, both on account of the immediate danger of middle ear suppuration and the more remote danger of chronic naso-pharyngitis from impaired function of the mucous membrane.

60. The Clinic was opened on 103 occasions, and, although only 12 beds were available, an average of 11·7 cases were treated per session. The total number of elementary school cases treated was 1,170. The operations were as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------------|
| Tonsils only | ... | ... | ... | ... | 727 |
| Adenoids only | ... | ... | ... | ... | 102 |
| Tonsils and Adenoids | ... | ... | ... | ... | 341 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | Total | ... |
| | | | | | ... |
| | | | | | <hr/> <hr/> |
| | | | | | 1,170 |

61. The anæsthetic used in every case was nitrous oxide gas, which has been employed exclusively since the inception of the Clinic twelve years ago, with complete satisfaction.

62. In about 8·5 per cent. of the cases hæmorrhage occurred after operation, and it was found necessary to apply the tonsil clamp, which

was effective in every instance, though sometimes it was necessary to leave it on for several hours, and occasionally to re-apply it. These cases were subsequently followed up at the homes, 376 visits being paid during the year for this purpose.

In seven cases in which the tonsils had been removed, hæmorrhage occurred some days after discharge from the Clinic, two of these cases being admitted to hospital, one treated at home by the family doctor, and four kept under observation. In addition, five children were retained for one further night at the Clinic on account of poor general condition.

STAMMERING.

63. At the routine medical examinations 212 children suffering from this defect were discovered, in two-thirds of the cases the defect being of moderate or severe degree; in addition to this number, 96 children were also presented as special cases for examination by the doctors.

64. The incidence of cases of stammerers discovered at the routine examination was:—Entrants 0·18 per cent., Intermediates 0·50 per cent., Leavers 0·86 per cent.

65. The classes for stammerers, opened in 1927, are held at the old North Corporation School, Bevington Bush, the total number on the roll being 80, each class being limited to 10 in number, and the children are required to attend for one hour on two occasions per week. Since the opening, 191 children have been under treatment; 73 of these have been discharged as cured, 22 others who had shewn marked improvement had, unfortunately, to leave on attaining the school-leaving age, 24 others had to be discharged either for irregular attendance or on account of the parents not wishing for further treatment.

66. Before admission to the class, the children are examined by one of the School Medical Officers, and the parents are advised as to the remedy of any physical defects present, and again before discharge from the class they are re-examined by the Medical Officer, on whose recommendation they are permitted to leave the class. The duration

of treatment necessary varies considerably, as it depends upon numerous factors, such as the child's intelligence and interest, parental co-operation, etc., but generally speaking, treatment is advisable for a period of about six months.

67. It is hard to believe that any parents would refuse the facilities offered by the Committee for the cure of their stammering children, yet such refusals are not infrequently encountered. In some instances the parents consented to allow their children to attend merely "To please the doctor."

68. On admission to the class, the parents are given printed advice informing them how they can co-operate by home treatment, and the children are given instructions which involve half-an-hour's daily practice at home, but in a large number of instances these instructions are not carried out.

69. The general treatment at the classes consists of relaxation and breathing exercises, reading, reciting, describing objects, and acting short plays, certain words of which have to be made up by the children as they act; this exercise is particularly useful for developing spontaneous speech, as children who have learnt to go through their class exercises without hesitation frequently still find difficulty in carrying on any ordinary conversation without stammering. Recently handwork has been introduced into the curriculum primarily for the teaching of co-ordination of movement and for developing in the children that confidence in which they are generally lacking.

The teacher of the class reports that in the case of certain children in the classes who suffered from defective eyesight, the stammer was undoubtedly worse when they did not wear their glasses.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

70. The number of children with defective vision, including squint, found at the routine examinations of the intermediates and leavers was 5,273 (19.0 per cent.). 48 per cent. of these cases were already under observation for the defect, the majority having been supplied with

glasses. The routine testing of the vision is not carried out in the case of the entrants, but 744 of them were found to have defective vision, attention having been drawn to the defect in 83 per cent. of these cases by the presence of squint.

In addition to the routine cases 4,553 were seen as special cases, and of this number 3,465 (76.0 per cent.) were already known to the department, but were examined regarding the suitability of their glasses, or because they were not wearing their glasses for various reasons.

The number of new cases treated under the Committee's scheme was 3,211, as compared with 3,111 in 1927 and 2,674 in 1926, whilst 160 children were treated privately or at the Hospitals. The number re-examined at the Clinics was 2,330.

71. At the re-inspections of the schools, 11,651 children, who had been provided with glasses, were seen, and of these 3,986, or 34 per cent., were found not to be wearing them, which is a slight increase in the percentage recorded in the previous three years. In the case of 19 schools the proportion of the children not wearing their glasses was 50 per cent. or over. In a certain proportion of the cases the non-wearing of the glasses is due to the fear of being made fun of by other scholars, some children being much more susceptible to ridicule than others. This cause would undoubtedly be lessened in importance if all teachers would occasionally give their classes opportune advice in this matter. The fact that so many children do not regularly wear the glasses provided implies that these defective-sighted children are not deriving the maximum benefit from the education provided, and that the Committee are not obtaining full value for the money expended on this scheme.

Glasses not worn.

72. Dr. Livsey, the Committee's Oculist, reports that the three Defective Vision Clinics at Blackstock Street, Old Swan, and Garston, have continued their valuable work during the past year smoothly and efficiently, and the value of their work is now increasingly recognised.

Many parents express gratitude for the care and attention shewn to their children at these Clinics. The change from the old attitude of prejudice and opposition is most satisfactory and the parents co-operate in the work more fully than formerly. Future examinations are asked for, and regrets often expressed that the expiry of school age places the child beyond the care of the Education Authority. The Clinics are conducted with every regard to the convenience of the parents as to the time and number of attendances, the amended arrangements mentioned in the last Report have conduced much to this end and also to the reduction of the period of absence from school. It is now, as far as possible, arranged that the children come for their glasses after school hours.

73. An endeavour is made to arrange for a final examination of both the Elementary and Secondary School children just before leaving school, so that the children may have the best possible visual equipment when starting work. The parents are particularly grateful for this consideration, and suggestions are given them as to the care of their children's eyes for the future.

74. There have been no cases of Trachoma during the year, and very few cases of serious inflammation or ulceration of the cornea. The beneficial effect of the Minor Ailments Clinics in treating the simpler conditions which would lead to serious eye diseases is increasingly evident. This wise provision has done much to prevent serious damage to sight in many cases with the saving of much pain and discomfort and the loss of much valuable time at school.

**Pre-School
Children**

75. The Health Committee's scheme for the treatment of Squint in children of pre-school age is now in operation and has been made use of in a number of cases. There are, however, many more children requiring such treatment. This matter is of great importance as the early provision of the necessary lenses in such cases is likely to prevent the loss of useful sight in the squinting eye; and, at present, in many cases such treatment is in ignorance deliberately deferred until school age is reached, by which time the squint is often incurable and, from non-use of the eye, sight has been lost which can never be regained.

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES.

76. Under this heading are included blepharitis, conjunctivitis, keratitis, and corneal ulcers. There were 559 cases (1.2 per cent.) discovered at the routine examinations, one-half of which were suffering from blepharitis. In addition 265 cases were also seen as special cases. Many of these defects, particularly blepharitis, are chronic when first discovered; a large number having commenced during pre-school life, most frequently as a sequela of an attack of measles.

TUBERCULOSIS.

77. At the routine inspections, 2 definite and 4 doubtful cases of phthisis were discovered, and, in addition, 77 cases of tuberculous glands and 136 cases of other forms of tuberculosis, a total of 219 cases, or 0.49 per cent. of the routine cases.

There were also examined at the Inspection Clinics, or as special cases at the schools, 78 definite or suspected pulmonary cases and 130 other forms of tuberculosis.

78. The School Medical and Tuberculosis Departments are in constant inter-communication with reference to cases or suspected cases of tuberculosis, the latter department securing for the definite cases whatever treatment may be necessary, whilst the School Medical Department undertakes the necessary treatment for such defects as enlarged tonsils and adenoids, or defective teeth, when advised by the Tuberculosis Officers. The number of references to the Tuberculosis Department was 233, whilst the Tuberculosis Department supplied information with reference to 2,696 school children who had been reported from various sources as possible cases of tuberculosis, but the majority of these, however, proved to be non-tuberculous. Of the 2,696 references received, 1,486 were new cases, of which 1,044 were non-tuberculous.

79. At the end of the year the total number of children of school age known to the department to be suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis was 295, whilst the non-pulmonary cases numbered

**Number of
Cases.**

240. Of the 295 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 115 were in institutions, chiefly Fazakerley and Broadgreen Sanatoria, where special open-air classes were arranged for those children whose state of health permitted.

Fazakerley
Sanatorium
School.

80. Dr. Rundle, the Medical Superintendent of the Fazakerley Sanatorium, reports that the average daily number of children receiving instruction in the school attached to the Sanatorium for the year 1928 was 62, comprised as follows:—

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Pulmonary cases with negative sputum ... | ... | 44 |
| Pulmonary cases with positive sputum ... | ... | 16 |
| Non-pulmonary cases ... | ... | 2 |

The routine treatment of these cases has not differed materially from that indicated in previous reports, with the exception that routine examination by a nose, throat and ear surgeon, with operation where necessary, has been established. In addition, the services of a visiting dental surgeon have been made generally available.

81. The Head Teacher makes the following report:

“ The number of scholars who have received lessons (in both
 “ wards and schoolrooms) is 89. Thirty-seven have been
 “ discharged and one deceased, leaving 51 scholars at present
 “ on the roll. Instruction is given in the open air whenever
 “ possible and is closely correlated with the child’s natural
 “ interests and activities. Nature study finds an important
 “ place in the school curriculum, and each scholar cultivates
 “ his, or her, portion of the school garden. Organised games
 “ are played out of doors, except in inclement weather. Two
 “ educational visits have been paid to the Walker Art Gallery
 “ and the Museum in Liverpool during the year. Reading,
 “ writing, spelling and arithmetic are taught largely through
 “ the handiwork, and in conjunction with the reading of the
 “ daily newspaper. It is pleasing to record that a woman
 “ patient of 25 years who could not read, and wished to learn,
 “ was able to enjoy reading a simple book, and write a letter
 “ by the time she was discharged. In addition to cookery,
 “ sewing, leathercraft, and raffia-work, the senior scholars
 “ have commenced cane-work. This latter craft has been
 “ introduced to many of the women patients in the Sanatorium,

“ so that they may pleasantly occupy much of their leisure time
 “ in making useful articles, e.g., bordering of trays, waste-
 “ paper baskets, etc.

“ Two performances of the Operetta ‘ Snow-White and the
 “ Seven Dwarfs ’ were given early in December by the school
 “ children, for the entertainment of the other patients and the
 “ staff of the Sanatorium.”

82. Dr. Macintyre, the Medical Superintendent of Broadgreen **Broadgreen
Sanatorium
School.**
 Sanatorium, reports as follows:—

“ The Sanatorium School provides for the child of school age
 “ an excellent means of applying the principles of occupational
 “ therapy, which is now an established feature of Sanatorium
 “ treatment in general. There can be no doubt as to its
 “ efficacy in the case of the child. The mental occupation
 “ reacts most favourably on the physical condition of the child,
 “ and has a considerable bearing on the results of treatment.

“ Educationally, too, the Sanatorium School is of decided
 “ service. Many children, who were very backward on
 “ admission to the school, have shown themselves capable of
 “ remarkable progress, and some of the older pupils have done
 “ well in obtaining satisfactory posts after discharge from
 “ Sanatorium.

“ The tendency has been to increase the proportion of out-
 “ door education, and Nature study and gardening are now
 “ more prominent features. As to the latter, the cultivation of
 “ individual plots of ground has proved the most satisfactory
 “ method of maintaining the interest of the child. During the
 “ year the new attendances have numbered 33: the average on
 “ the school roll amounted to 47, and the average attendance
 “ to 38.”

MINOR AILMENTS.

83. During the year 23,744 cases were treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics. The number treated annually has steadily increased since 1915, when the first Clinics were opened. The increasing number of cases is, in all probability, due to the fact that fuller use is being made of the facilities provided, and not to any actual increase in the number of minor ailments.

There can be no question but that these Clinics, by providing regular and skilled treatment, prevent many cases from becoming more serious. Moreover, they undoubtedly secure in many instances, an earlier return to school in the case of absentees.

The cases treated at the Clinics comprised impetigo and septic sores, minor injuries, etc., these ailments accounting for more than half the cases, and the remainder consisted of certain skin conditions, discharging ears, and external eye diseases.

Numbers
attending
Clinics.

84. The average daily attendance at each of the Clinics is shewn at the foot of the accompanying table, but the numbers attending fluctuated very considerably from time to time, the maximum attendances being in some instances more than double the average daily attendance for the year; the following were the highest maximum attendances :—

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-----|---------------------|------|
| North Corporation Clinic | ... | 465 | (average attendance | 205) |
| St. Dunstan's Clinic | | 266 | (,, ,, | 130) |
| St. Gabriel's Clinic | | 419 | (,, ,, | 227) |
| Erskine Street Clinic | | 458 | (,, ,, | 212) |

When these variations in attendance are taken into consideration it will be appreciated how difficult a matter it is to arrange that the children should be treated immediately on their arrival at the Clinic, though every effort is made to minimise any delay by carefully arranging the time-table for the attendances of the children from the different schools.

The attendances on Saturdays were very small, being only about one-tenth of those on school days.

Altogether 306,136 attendances were made during the year by 23,744 children, the average number of attendances per child being 12.9.

The following Table shews the number of defects treated and the average daily attendance at the various Clinics :—

Table 4.
 Shewing the number of defects treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics and the average daily attendance at each Clinic.

| DEFECTS TREATED. | NAME OF CLINIC. | | | | | | | TOTALS. |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| | St. Gabriel's. | Erskine Street. | North Corporation. | Westminster Road. | St. Dunstan's. | Old Swan. | Garston. | |
| SKIN DEFECTS— | | | | | | | | |
| Ringworm of the Body | 41 | 76 | 55 | 64 | 19 | 19 | 4 | 278 |
| Impetigo... | 631 | 621 | 379 | 492 | 1,251 | 101 | 150 | 3,625 |
| Other Defects | 213 | 153 | 445 | 494 | 114 | 66 | 6 | 1,491 |
| EAR CONDITIONS— | | | | | | | | |
| Wax | 59 | 55 | 102 | 42 | 10 | 19 | 16 | 303 |
| Otorrhoea | 265 | 253 | 302 | 179 | 153 | 106 | 106 | 1,364 |
| Other Defects | 49 | 71 | 84 | 50 | 61 | 28 | 6 | 349 |
| EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES— | | | | | | | | |
| 677 | 677 | 676 | 1,117 | 700 | 325 | 99 | 148 | 3,742 |
| MISCELLANEOUS DEFECTS— (Sores, Minor Injuries, etc.) | 2,156 | 3,007 | 2,895 | 1,272 | 1,549 | 815 | 898 | 12,592 |
| TOTALS | 4,091 | 4,912 | 5,379 | 3,293 | 3,482 | 1,253 | 1,334 | 23,744 |
| Average daily attendance ... | 226.9 | 212.2 | 205.8 | 133.8 | 130.5 | 85.4 | 62.2 | 1,025.4 |
| Average daily attendance excluding Saturdays ... | 233.4 | 246.8 | 241.5 | 157.5 | 153.5 | 98.5 | 72.4 | 1,200.5 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AMONGST SCHOOL CHILDREN.

85. The usual Infectious Diseases were slightly more prevalent during the year, 9,876 cases of children of school age being reported as against 8,630, 11,940, 10,832 and 8,740 for the years 1924 to 1927 respectively. There was a very considerable increase in the number of cases of Mumps over that of the previous year, an outbreak occurring in the early summer. Whooping Cough was also prevalent in the early months of the year, being the termination of an outbreak which commenced towards the end of 1927. Measles was less prevalent than in 1927, 2,927 cases having been reported as compared with 3,801 during the previous year. There were 11 cases of Encephalitis Lethargica amongst children between the ages of 5 and 15. Two of these cases proved fatal.

School Closure

86. Special action had to be taken on account of infectious diseases during the year as follows:—Infants' Departments were closed in 8 cases for Measles, 4 for Whooping Cough, 3 for Measles and Whooping Cough, whilst in two instances it was found necessary to close one or more classes only. One small school was closed on account of the simultaneous outbreak of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

87. On several occasions the exclusion of all children who had not previously suffered from the disease was found practicable. This procedure is not always feasible, as it would in most instances reduce the attendance below that which would render it worth while to keep the school open. In the case of outbreaks of two diseases this method is not likely to be so successful. The recent alteration of the rules of the Board of Education has, however, permitted more flexibility in the methods which can be taken to suppress epidemic diseases.

The following tables shew the number of cases of the common infectious diseases, with the ages of the children affected, and the monthly distribution of the cases:—

Table 5.
SCHOOL CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.
Age Distribution.

| Disease. | Under 5 | Under 6 | Under 7 | Total Under 7 | Under 8 | Under 9 | Under 10 | Under 11 | Under 12 | Under 13 | Under 14 | Over 14 | Total 7 and over | GRAND TOTAL. |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|------------------|--------------|
| Diphtheria ... | 28 | 156 | 136 | 320 | 154 | 123 | 57 | 63 | 66 | 54 | 57 | 12 | 586 | 906 |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 25 | 165 | 216 | 406 | 177 | 141 | 85 | 61 | 53 | 68 | 58 | 21 | 664 | 1,070 |
| Whooping Cough | 93 | 538 | 381 | 1,012 | 122 | 49 | 16 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 213 | 1,225 |
| Chicken Pox ... | 55 | 470 | 438 | 963 | 254 | 120 | 46 | 27 | 35 | 21 | 11 | 6 | 520 | 1,483 |
| Mumps ... | 61 | 542 | 717 | 1,320 | 425 | 161 | 69 | 49 | 56 | 61 | 46 | 18 | 885 | 2,205 |
| Measles ... | 121 | 1,075 | 808 | 2,004 | 337 | 179 | 78 | 50 | 54 | 43 | 43 | 139 | 923 | 2,927 |
| | 383 | 2,946 | 2,696 | 6,025 | 1,469 | 773 | 351 | 260 | 269 | 253 | 216 | 200 | 3,791 | 9,816 |

Table 6.
SCHOOL CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.
Monthly Distribution.

| Disease. | Jan. | Feb. | March. | April. | May. | June. | July. | August. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Totals. |
|--------------------|------|------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|------|-------|------|---------|
| Diphtheria ... | 101 | 78 | 73 | 69 | 72 | 82 | 55 | 55 | 85 | 73 | 90 | 73 | 906 |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 89 | 69 | 88 | 83 | 98 | 82 | 84 | 74 | 118 | 86 | 117 | 82 | 1,070 |
| Whooping Cough ... | 248 | 218 | 214 | 110 | 131 | 55 | 10 | 37 | 38 | 30 | 84 | 50 | 1,225 |
| Chicken Pox ... | 109 | 79 | 84 | 105 | 202 | 222 | 70 | 44 | 82 | 146 | 174 | 166 | 1,483 |
| Mumps ... | 51 | 25 | 142 | 187 | 319 | 426 | 77 | 56 | 148 | 236 | 273 | 265 | 2,205 |
| Measles ... | 73 | 142 | 281 | 243 | 426 | 569 | 295 | 51 | 116 | 165 | 267 | 299 | 2,927 |
| | 671 | 611 | 882 | 797 | 1,248 | 1,436 | 591 | 317 | 587 | 736 | 1,005 | 935 | 9,816 |

NOTIFICATION OF DEFECTS AND FOLLOWING UP.

88. During 1928 the following percentages of parents attended the routine examinations, in the case of the Entrants 77.6 per cent., in the case of the Intermediates 34.7 per cent., but the percentage of parents attending the medical examination of the group of Leavers was only 10.3. Should the parents not be present at the time of the examination, and it be considered particularly desirable to discuss the health of their children with them, special efforts are made to secure their attendance on a subsequent occasion.

The scheme for the notification to parents of any defects found at the examination of their children, and the subsequent following up of such notification, remains the same as that described in previous Annual Reports.

The accompanying Table 7 shews the number of notices given or sent to parents concerning the various defects for which treatment was considered necessary, the numbers for 1927 being given for comparison.

Table 8 gives the results of the following up by the different agencies undertaking the work.

Table 7.

Notification to Parents re Defects.

| Defects. | First Notices. | | Second Notices. | | Third and subsequent Notices. | | Totals. | |
|--|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 1927 | 1928 | 1927 | 1928 | 1927 | 1928 | 1927 | 1928 |
| Defective Vision :— | | | | | | | | |
| A.—Untreated cases | 2,850 | 3,654 | 318 | 431 | 46 | 31 | 3,214 | 4,116 |
| B.—Previously treated cases : | | | | | | | | |
| (i) Glasses lost, broken, or unsuitable..... | 3,478 | 3,569 | 22 | 47 | 1 | 4 | 3,501 | 3,620 |
| (ii) Glasses not being worn ... | 1,117 | 1,171 | 143 | 205 | 30 | 42 | 1,290 | 1,418 |
| Eye conditions | 66 | 99 | 4 | 2 | — | — | 70 | 101 |
| Defective Hearing | 11 | 17 | — | 1 | — | — | 11 | 18 |
| Otorrhœa | 47 | 63 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 48 | 65 |
| Other Ear conditions | 26 | 42 | 3 | 1 | — | 1 | 29 | 44 |
| Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids ... | 1,612 | 2,042 | 141 | 200 | 17 | 18 | 1,770 | 2,260 |
| Mouth Breathing | 507 | 747 | 70 | 57 | 11 | 12 | 588 | 816 |
| Defective Teeth :— | | | | | | | | |
| A.—Referred by School Medical Officers | 1,053 | 1,572 | 221 | 210 | 99 | 56 | 1,373 | 1,838 |
| B.—Referred by School Dentists | 47,999 | 47,645 | — | — | — | — | 47,999 | 47,645 |
| Anæmia and Malnutrition | 271 | 278 | 4 | 6 | — | — | 275 | 284 |
| Skin conditions | 102 | 110 | 3 | 3 | — | — | 105 | 113 |
| Chest | 214 | 261 | 7 | 6 | — | — | 221 | 267 |
| Deformities | 93 | 103 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 95 | 104 |
| Other defects | 650 | 832 | 35 | 34 | 2 | 4 | 687 | 870 |
| Totals | 60,096 | 62,205 | 974 | 1,206 | 206 | 168 | 61,276 | 63,579 |

Table 8.
Results of Following Up.

| Following-up Agencies. | Carried over from previous year. | Referred during 1928. | Total. | Treated at School Clinics or elsewhere. | Treatment refused or evaded. | Left School, etc. | Total reported upon. | Cases still under observation at end of year. |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|---|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| SCHOOL ATTENDANCE STAFF— | | | | | | | | |
| Vision | 1,412 | 6,415 | 7,827 | 4,960 | 1,248 | 200 | 6,408 | 1,419 |
| Dental: School Dentists' cases | 11,490 | 47,645 | 59,135 | 17,259 | 27,665 | 1,084 | 47,108 | 12,027 |
| Tonsils and Adenoids ... | 377 | 2,333 | 2,710 | 1,571 | 747 | 30 | 2,348 | 362 |
| Ringworm of Scalp ... (<i>re</i> X-Ray treatment) | 23 | 230 | 253 | 147 | 101 | — | 248 | 5 |
| HEALTH VISITORS' STAFF— | | | | | | | | |
| Medical defects | 234 | 847 | 1,081 | 251 | 509 | 45 | 805 | 276 |
| General Neglect | 725 | 2,581 | 3,306 | 2,945 | — | — | 2,945 | 361 |
| Verminous | 3,068 | 9,312 | 12,380 | 11,001 | — | — | 11,001 | 1,379 |
| CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION— | | | | | | | | |
| Medical defects | 304 | 2,269 | 2,573 | 1,917 | 161 | 4 | 2,082 | 491 |
| OTHER AGENCIES— | | | | | | | | |
| Medical defects | 14 | 56 | 70 | 51 | 5 | — | 56 | 14 |
| Verminous and Neglect ... | — | 10 | 10 | 10 | — | — | 10 | — |

89. In addition to the official following up Agencies the Child Welfare Association has continued to render very valuable assistance in the direction of securing convalescent treatment, surgical treatment, or appliances, and providing special tonics or extra nourishment for children requiring such treatment: in all, 2,269 cases were referred to the Association, this being the largest number ever referred during a year.

INSPECTION CLINICS.

90. In addition to the work undertaken by the School Medical Officers at the schools and at the treatment Clinics, the services of the doctors were utilised in the examination of absentees, children requiring certificates for employment, and certain special cases at the request of either the parents or the teachers.

These examinations are conducted mainly on Saturday mornings and during school holidays at "Inspection Clinics" which, for the convenience of parents, are held at 14 centres distributed over the City. The total number of cases examined at these centres during the year was 10,131, of which 6,431 examinations, which is nearly 1,400 more than the previous year, were made at the Central Inspection Clinic at the Education Office.

Absentees.

91. Arrangements have for some years past been in existence with the School Attendance and Care Department, whereby all children absent from school for any prolonged period are examined by the School Medical Officers, except such cases as are known to be under regular medical treatment by private practitioners or at institutions, unless, as is sometimes the case, the parents make special request for their children to be examined by the school doctors.

The mere fact that over 1,000 children were re-admitted to school as a direct result and that 2,500 were found not to be fit to attend school shews the value of the examinations.

92. On the one hand, parents value the opportunity which is afforded to them of presenting their children to the School Medical Officer and are not slow to express their appreciation, while on the other hand it does afford the Committee information in the absence of which legal proceedings might have been taken in respect of the absence of children from school.

The following Table shews the defects from which the children, who were examined with regard to their fitness to attend school, were suffering, along with the total number of examinations made.

Table 9.
Examinations of Absentees.

| DEFECT. | Children re-admitted to school. | *No. of examinations of children not re-admitted to school. | Total Examinations. |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Ringworm of Scalp | 225 | 604 | 829 |
| Scabies | 201 | 195 | 396 |
| Other skin conditions | 69 | 80 | 149 |
| Eye diseases | 39 | 97 | 136 |
| Deafness | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| Ear diseases | 9 | 17 | 26 |
| Phthisis and (suspected) Phthisis | 17 | 107 | 124 |
| Other chest conditions | 80 | 171 | 251 |
| Tuberculosis other than Phthisis | 42 | 80 | 122 |
| Injuries and other Crippling Defects | 49 | 108 | 157 |
| Heart | 72 | 260 | 332 |
| Rheumatism | 55 | 197 | 252 |
| Anæmia and Debility | 155 | 349 | 504 |
| Nervous conditions | 64 | 196 | 260 |
| Other defects | 35 | 108 | 143 |
| No defect found | 6 | — | 6 |
| TOTALS | 1,120 | 2,580 | 3,700 |

* The figures include several examinations of certain of the children, approximately two per child.

RINGWORM.

93. The number of cases of Ringworm of the Scalp amongst school children reported to the Medical Officer during the year was 264, of which number, after investigation by the School Medical Officers, 30 were found not to be ringworm. There were thus 234 actual cases of the disease during the year, as compared with 268 in 1927, 296 in 1926, and 426, 411 and 486 in the preceding three years. The reported cases are examined as soon as possible at various centres in the City by certain of the School Medical Officers who have had special experience in this work, the cases being re-examined at frequent intervals in order that they may be re-admitted to school as soon as a cure has been effected.

X-Ray Clinic. 94. The X-Ray treatment of the disease has been continued at North Corporation Treatment Centre, the Clinic being opened on 52 occasions and 148 new cases treated. Dr. Hawks, who was appointed in succession to the late Dr. Oram, commenced duty at the Clinic in February.

95. The number of cases outstanding at the end of the year was 103, compared with 288, 261, 252, 217, 179, 135 and 111 for the years 1921-27 respectively. These figures afford additional evidence that the disease is gradually becoming less prevalent, and there can be no doubt but that treatment by means of X-Rays has contributed considerably towards this reduction by materially shortening the period of time during which the children might convey the infection to others.

The following table shews in percentages the duration of the cases outstanding at the end of the year, the figures for the three preceding years being also given for the purpose of comparison.

Table 10.

| Duration. | 1925. | 1926. | 1927. | 1928. |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Under 3 months | 24.4 | 32.5 | 31.7 | 21.9 |
| 3 to 6 months | 27.4 | 30.6 | 35.6 | 31.3 |
| 6 to 9 months | 23.8 | 16.2 | 11.5 | 17.7 |
| 9 to 12 months | 11.3 | 7.2 | 8.7 | 11.4 |
| 12 to 18 months | 4.8 | 6.3 | 7.7 | 9.4 |
| Over 18 months | 8.3 | 7.2 | 4.8 | 8.3 |
| | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

VACCINATION.

96. The following table shews the proportion of vaccinated and un-vaccinated children in the Public Elementary Schools and the relative degree of immunity of those vaccinated as evidenced by the number of marks present.

The observations were made at the routine examinations of the entrants, intermediates, and leavers. The total percentage of un-vaccinated children is 18.7, compared with 18.5 in the Higher Schools.

Table 11.

| Code Group. | Number examined. | Vaccinated. | | | | | Not Vaccinated |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------|----------------|
| | | One mark. | Two marks. | Three marks. | Four marks. | Total. | |
| Entrants | 17,158 | 18.5% | 10.8% | 5.2% | 44.5% | 79.0% | 21.0% |
| Intermediates | 14,413 | 20.4% | 10.0% | 5.1% | 44.8% | 80.3% | 19.7% |
| Leavers | 11,375 | 19.3% | 10.1% | 4.9% | 50.4% | 84.7% | 15.3% |
| Total | 42,946 | 19.3% | 10.3% | 5.0% | 46.6% | 81.3% | 18.7% |

SCABIES.

97. The number of children reported as suffering from this disease for the year was 258, as compared with 161 in 1927, 176 in 1926, 252 in 1925, 449 in 1923, and 898 in 1921. It was only found necessary during the year to make use of the special facilities for treatment at Beacon Street Cleansing Station for 53 of the cases.

EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL.

98. The following table shews the number of children excluded from school by the Medical Officers in the course of their inspections, or at the various treatment Clinics, and the defects for which they were excluded. The numbers for the three preceding years are also given for comparison. It will be observed that during the last two years there has been a considerable increase in the number of exclusions on account of Eye diseases, due to several rather extensive outbreaks of Conjunctivitis. With regard to the numbers of children who have had to be excluded from school, on account of gross verminous conditions, it is gratifying to report that there has, of recent years, been a marked reduction.

Table 12.

| Defect. | 1925 | 1926 | 1927 | 1928 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Eye diseases | 272 | 242 | 600 | 774 |
| Scabies | 143 | 88 | 76 | 97 |
| Ringworm of body | 107 | 100 | 30 | 12 |
| Ringworm of scalp | 248 | 175 | 157 | 113 |
| Other skin conditions | 182 | 213 | 169 | 176 |
| Infectious diseases | 208 | 296 | 97 | 181 |
| Pediculosis | 59 | 39 | 9 | 8 |
| Chest conditions (non-tuberculous)... | 31 | 26 | 15 | 10 |
| Tuberculosis (all forms) | 12 | 9 | 13 | 7 |
| Otorrhoea | 8 | 12 | 9 | 11 |
| Miscellaneous | 267 | 298 | 271 | 271 |
| TOTALS | 1,732 | 1,498 | 1,446 | 1,660 |

SCHOOL PREMISES.

99. The School Medical Officers, on the completion of their annual routine examinations at the various schools, make a report on the condition of the premises with regard to such items as the efficiency of the heating, lighting, ventilation, etc. When considered necessary, references with regard to the defects found are made to the appropriate quarters.

Certain improvements have been carried out in some of the schools throughout the year. These improvements may be summarised as follows :—

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Reconstructed and modernised | ... | ... | ... | 3 schools. |
| Sub-division of classrooms by screens | ... | ... | ... | 5 „ |
| Re-floored | ... | ... | ... | 3 „ |
| Improvement of heating arrangements | ... | ... | ... | 6 „ |
| „ artificial lighting | ... | ... | ... | 5 „ |

100. The District Sanitary Inspectors visit all the Public Elementary Schools every fortnight for the purpose of examining the sanitary arrangements and the water supply. During the year, 104 defects were discovered, and notices relating to these defects were sent to the Director of Education, Corporation Surveyor, or the Managers of the schools.

BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE, AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

101. Full provision exists for the education of all blind children who are taught either as boarders or day scholars, as indicated in the accompanying table :—

| School. | Boarders. | Day Scholars. |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| Wavertree School for the Blind | 11 | 11 |
| Catholic Blind Asylum, Brunswick Road | 15 | — |
| Sunshine House, Southport | 1 | — |
| Taught privately | — | 1 |
| Not attending school at present, but will be taught privately | — | 1 |

Sight-saving
Classes.

102. The three Sight-saving Classes in connection with the Birchfield Road, St. James's Council, and Christ Church C.E. Elementary Schools have carried on their useful work smoothly and efficiently during the year. The average number on the rolls of these classes was 118, the percentage average attendance being 83.1.

No separate provision has, unfortunately, yet been made in respect of Roman Catholic children, of whom there were 29 at the end of the year, 11 being particularly urgent cases. Such children are seriously handicapped in an ordinary school, and can only be allowed to attend there with certain restrictions, an arrangement which is but a poor substitute for education in the Defective Vision Classes.

103. The arrangement whereby children living at a distance and attending the St. James's Class are conveyed to and from the school in the Special Schools motor 'bus continues, and is a great convenience both in securing the assent of the parents to the admission of the children to the Class and their regular attendance.

Much useful handwork is carried out at these Classes, some of the articles being really workmanlike and readily saleable.

Dr. Livsey, the Committee's Oculist, visits the Classes twice a year, and also sees each child at least once a year at the Clinic.

104. Objection on the part of parents to their children entering these classes is now less frequently met with, and they are more readily convinced of their value when the special adaptation of the classes to the needs of seriously defective sight is explained to them. There is, however, more difficulty in convincing them that such children should remain at the classes until they are 16 years of age, in consequence of their education being retarded owing to the handicap of defective sight. This is, however, insisted upon, except in special circumstances—domestic or financial—if the oculist recommends leaving school prior to the age of 16, but only conditionally on there being no risk to the child's sight. The after-care and supervising of these cases and the advice as to

suitable occupations, and the procuring of such if possible, continues as hitherto.

105. With regard to the education of the deaf, the Committee have one Day School with 180 scholars on roll, 129 of these being Liverpool children, of whom 16 are boarded by the Committee in the Institution for the Deaf close to the Day School. Fifty-one children from other areas, who receive their education at the Day School, are resident in the Institution. The Committee pay for the board and education of certain Roman Catholic deaf children at Boston Spa; at the end of the year there were 8 Liverpool children boarded there.

Schools for
the Deaf.

106. There were, at the end of the year, five Day Special Schools for physically and mentally defective children, four of these being double centres and one for mentally defective children only, whilst there was also one Residential Country School at Woolton Vale for delicate children.

107. The Committee have for some time felt the desirability of establishing a school where the mentally defective boys of 13-16 years of age might be given, by men teachers, a more suitable and practical training than has been hitherto possible in the mixed schools.

108. The closing of Queensland Day Industrial School in July gave the Committee the opportunity of considering the utilisation of these premises for such a school, and they submitted a scheme to the Board of Education for the accommodation of 150 boys in this school, and, the Board having given their approval, arrangements were made for the opening of the school in January, 1929. A staff, consisting of Head Master and eight assistant teachers, including three craft teachers, were appointed. The craft work in such a school is most important, as it is hoped thereby to give the boys a better chance of employment on leaving school. It is proposed to teach woodwork, leading on to cabinet making, light metal work, shoemaking and repairing. Special attention will be

Queensland
Street Senior
Special
School.

paid to physical training by means of organised games and swimming, whilst the ordinary class work will be continued and correlated with the craft work. One of the chief aims of such a school is character training involving co-operation with others, both in work and games, but however successful such training may appear to be within the limits of school life, mentally defective children continue to need care when they leave school. Indeed, an essential adjunct of all Special School work is an efficient After-care Scheme, particularly with regard to the procuring of employment for those who have left. To meet this need, therefore, it is anticipated that a special officer will be appointed under the Juvenile Employment Committee.

109. Section 2 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, as amended by the Act of 1927, will entail the notification to the Mental Deficiency Authority of a large number of cases requiring merely supervision. This will perhaps necessitate the revision of the arrangement of the work of the Committee established in connection with each of the Day Special Schools, and the Education Committee is at present reviewing the arrangements for the after-care of the scholars.

110. The Committee also have made arrangements to adapt two large houses in the suburbs, Eddisbury Lodge at West Derby, and Underlea at Aigburth, as Day Open-Air Schools to provide accommodation for about 160 to 180 delicate children in each school. It is probable that the period of stay in these schools will be at least one year. Whilst the ordinary school subjects will be taught there will be scope for experiment in method, and interest can be focussed on out-door life, in nature study, gardening, games, and manual activities associated with such life.

The accompanying return shews the results of examinations made by the Certifying Officers for Mentally and Physically Defective Children during the year.

Table 13.

| | Referred as Physically Defective. | Referred as Mentally Defective. |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Passed for M.D. Schools—Day | — | 176 |
| " " " " Residential | — | 3 |
| Passed for P.D. Schools—Day | 155 | 10 |
| " " " " Residential | 78 | 25 |
| To remain at ordinary schools | 39 | 108 |
| Postponed for further trial in ordinary school or for treatment | 21 | 159 |
| Unsuitable for any school, M.D. | — | 36 |
| " " " " P.D. | 6 | 2 |
| Miscellaneous (treatment, etc.) | 9 | 14 |
| Total number of children examined | 308 | 533 |

Cases notified to the Lancashire Asylums Board during the year.

| | On First Examination. | After Probation in Special Schools. | Total |
|--|--------------------------|---|-------|
| Imbeciles | 29 | 25 | 54 |
| Idiots | 5 | — | 5 |
| Moral Defectives | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Feeble-minded... .. | 2 | — | 2 |
| Notified for supervision (at 16 years) ... | 2 | 36 | 38 |
| TOTAL | 39 | 62 | 101 |

111. In addition to the examination of new cases for the purpose of certification, the children attending the schools for the mentally defective and physically defective were examined as to their suitability for continuance in attendance, as required by the Act of 1899, the number of such examinations being 2,983.

The following table shews (a) the accommodation, number on rolls, and the average attendance in the various grades of Special

Schools provided by the Committee; and (b) the number of admissions and withdrawals during the year:—

(a) **Table 14.**

| Schools. | Accommoda- tion. | No. on Rolls Dec., 1928. | Average Attendance. Dec., 1928. |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mentally Defective (day) | 608 | 760 | 660·5 |
| Physically Defective (day) | 383 | 469 | 383·4 |
| Physically Defective (residential) ... | 66 | 72 | 72·0 |
| Partially Blind | 115 | 121 | 99·0 |
| Deaf | 200 | 180 | 157·6 |

(b)

| | M.D. | P.D. | Deaf. | Partially Blind. |
|---|------|------|-------|---------------------|
| ADMISSIONS AND RE-ADMISSIONS ... | 190 | 313 | 20 | 28 |
| WITHDRAWALS— | | | | |
| Certificates cancelled | 19 | 94 | — | — |
| Attained 16 years | 37 | 55 | 23 | 4 |
| Excused attendance... .. | 32 | 12 | 2 | 9 |
| Left City | 11 | 8 | 3 | — |
| Died | 1 | 2 | 2 | — |
| Transferred to other schools ... | 32 | 89 | 2 | 3 |
| Excluded (T.B., etc.) and in Hospital | 20 | 69 | — | 1 |
| Notified to Mental Deficiency Authority— | | | | |
| Under 16 years | 25 | — | — | — |
| Over 16 years | 36 | — | — | — |
| | 213 | 329 | 32 | 17 |

112. Dr. Fordyce, the Certifying Officer for the mentally defectives, states that in regard to these schools the training of character and of habits is the most important function of the school and the fundamental factor upon which success is to be built. Much of such training is almost unconsciously carried out by the teacher,

who may fail to realise the good work actually done and be disappointed in the degree of scholastic advance. Training in muscular co-ordination—manual work—is second in importance, and by different means in different cases may progress from co-ordinated action of the grosser muscles and joints to the finest neuro-muscular activities. But it is difficult to dissipate the halo over academic scholastic subjects, even in the minds of some capable teachers, and such an outlook leads to disappointment and unnecessary worry. The limit is the innate capacity of the child, not the teaching ability of the teacher. The best teacher cannot make a subnormal brain normal. If a child commences work at a special school about the age of 9 years, and is then 3 years retarded scholastically, experience shews that 6 years retardation at 16, on leaving school, is, generally speaking, a satisfactory result.

113. The dental inspection and treatment of the children in the Industrial and Special Schools has been undertaken by the whole-time Dental Staff of the School Medical Sub-Committee since August, 1927, and the following table shews the work carried out by them during 1928:—

Table 15.

| | Industrial Schools. | Special Schools. | Total. |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| No. of sessions devoted to inspection | 7 | 11 | 18 |
| No. of sessions devoted to treatment | 30 | 128 | 158 |
| Total No. of sessions | 37 | 139 | 176 |
| No. of children inspected | 658 | 1,349 | 2,007 |
| No. of children requiring treatment | 466 | 1,002 | 1,468 |
| No. of children treated | (70·8%) 225 | (74·2%) 990 | (72·6%) 1,215 |
| No. of attendances made for treatment | 293 | 1,276 | 1,569 |
| No. of teeth extracted | 330 | 1,520 | 1,850 |
| No. of teeth filled | 135 | 707 | 842 |
| No. of other operations | 15 | 49 | 64 |
| No. of administrations of general anæsthetic ... | 163 | 739 | 902 |

114. The policy of a yearly inspection of the children, which has been found successful in the Public Elementary Schools, has now also been adopted in the Industrial and Special Schools. In addition, however, quarterly visits, in accordance with the requirements of the Home Office, have been paid to the Industrial Schools. At these quarterly visits it has been the practice to examine mainly the new entrants, in order to ensure the teeth of these children being put into such a condition that they can be subsequently maintained in a healthy state by annual inspection and treatment.

Cases that are reported at other times by the Head Teachers or the Medical Officers, as requiring urgent dental treatment, both in the Industrial and Special Schools, are treated at the nearest School Clinic.

115. In the last Report attention was called to the fact that the condition of the teeth of the children in the Industrial and Special Schools was slightly worse than that of the children in the Public Elementary Schools. It is very gratifying to be able to report that, as a result of one year's work, the standard has been raised to a little above that of the Public Elementary Schools. Whilst the proportion of children requiring treatment shews a small improvement as a result of the previous year's treatment, having fallen from 79·2 per cent. to 70·8 per cent. in the Industrial Schools, and from 76·7 per cent. to 74·2 per cent. in the Special Schools, the actual improvement in the condition of the children's teeth is much greater than can be shewn by these figures. The amount of treatment that was found to be necessary in each case was considerably less than that required in the previous year.

116. This improvement has been made possible by the large number of acceptances that have been received, particularly in the Special Schools, where acceptances were received for 72·7 per cent. of the children found to require treatment.

One of the factors which contributes to the popularity of dental treatment in Industrial and Special Schools is that the treatment is carried out on the school premises, only urgent cases, to obviate delay, being summoned to the Dental Clinics.

117. The Country School for Physically Defective Children at **Woolton Vale**. Woolton Vale, where accommodation is provided for 66 children (31 boys and 35 girls), continues to be conducted on the same lines as previously reported. During the year 108 were admitted and 105 discharged.

118. In addition to the Special Schools, the Committee maintain 30 beds for pre-tuberculous children at the Torpenhow Open-Air School near Frankby, three beds at the West Kirby Convalescent Home, and six beds at the Liverpool School of Recovery (mainly heart cases), and they have secured the option of places at the Maghull Home for Epileptics. During the course of the year, eight cases have been in residence at West Kirby, and twelve at the School of Recovery, whilst two cases have been maintained at the Home for Epileptics. Other residential accommodation.

119. From Table III, in Appendix A, under the heading of **Epileptics**, it will be seen that the number of such cases known to the Department was 88, of which number 24 suffering from severe epilepsy and 8 from milder forms were at no school or institution.

HIGHER SCHOOLS.

120. The inspection of the pupils in the Higher Schools, which was commenced in 1920, has now reached its full development, and all the pupils attending 18 of these schools are regularly inspected. The schools include two Girls' and two Boys' Voluntary Schools, in which the Managers have requested the Authority to arrange for the medical inspection.

121. During 1928, the numbers of examinations made were as follows:—6,457 routines, 6,266 re-inspections, and 437 specials. The proportion of pupils requiring treatment found at the routine examinations was 19·7 per cent., defective eyesight, dental defects and minor deformities being the most common defects found.

122. The incidence of enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids, viz., 5·4 per cent., compares favourably with that for Elementary School children, which was 8·3 per cent., and of those considered to require operative treatment the incidence was only one-third of that amongst the children in the Elementary Schools.

In contrast to the children in the Elementary Schools a much higher proportion of the pupils have healthy mouths, due in many cases, it being found, to the fact that the children pay regular visits to their dentists.

123. After the parents have been notified of any defects requiring treatment the Head Teachers keep in close touch with them in order, when necessary, to urge treatment, and to explain to them the best manner in which this can be obtained. The majority of the parents carry out the suggestions of the Medical Officers.

124. The Clinics provided for the Elementary School children are available for the Higher School pupils whose parents cannot afford to obtain treatment privately, and in the case of defective vision arrangements have been made with certain Oculists to see pupils at a reduced fee if the parents cannot afford the usual fee. A large proportion of the parents, however, obtain the treatment recommended by the School Medical Officers from their own private practitioners.

125. The heights and weights of the routine cases at each school have been recorded by the gymnastic instructor, where there is such an official, and in the other cases by the School Medical Officers, and the following table shews the results in inches and pounds. The Higher School pupils are taller and heavier than children of similar ages in the Elementary Schools.

Table 16.

| Age. | Boys. | | | Girls. | | |
|------|------------------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|
| | Number examined. | Height. | Weight. | Number examined. | Height. | Weight. |
| 8 | 32 | 50.4 | 55.9 | 27 | 49.6 | 56.0 |
| 9 | 42 | 52.1 | 62.2 | 26 | 51.6 | 61.3 |
| 10 | 50 | 53.7 | 67.2 | 51 | 53.5 | 67.0 |
| 11 | 176 | 55.7 | 72.9 | 107 | 55.6 | 73.6 |
| 12 | 559 | 56.5 | 76.2 | 306 | 58.3 | 82.0 |
| 13 | 634 | 58.8 | 85.0 | 364 | 59.8 | 93.7 |
| 14 | 722 | 60.9 | 93.6 | 306 | 61.7 | 104.6 |
| 15 | 640 | 63.4 | 105.7 | 297 | 62.6 | 111.4 |

A statement of the defects found will be found in Table II of Appendix B at the end of this Report.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

126. The Bye-laws dealing with employment of children, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1924, are still in operation.

Table 17 gives a return of the number of school children employed, and the nature of the work undertaken.

Table 17.

Employment of School Children out of School Hours.

| TRADE. | No. of cases on Register 31.12.27. | No. of new cases added to Register during the year. | | | No. of cases with-drawn from Register during the year. | | | No. of cases remaining on the Register, 31.12.28 | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|------------|--------------|--|-----------|--------------|--|------------|--------------|
| | | Boys. | Girls. | TOTAL | Boys. | Girls. | TOTAL | Boys. | Girls. | TOTAL |
| Bakers and Confectioners... | 49 | 55 | 4 | 59 | 46 | 4 | 50 | 55 | 3 | 58 |
| Butchers | 67 | 70 | — | 70 | 63 | — | 63 | 74 | — | 74 |
| Bootmakers and Repairers | 16 | 21 | 1 | 22 | 17 | 1 | 18 | 20 | — | 20 |
| Chemists | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 5 | — | 5 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Chandlers | 75 | 93 | 1 | 94 | 94 | 1 | 95 | 73 | 1 | 74 |
| Chipped Potato Vendors ... | 4 | 3 | — | 3 | 4 | — | 4 | 3 | — | 3 |
| Coal Merchants | 3 | 8 | — | 8 | 5 | — | 5 | 6 | — | 6 |
| Drapers, etc. | 3 | 13 | 2 | 15 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Dealers—General | 8 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 13 |
| Dealers—Firewood | 5 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Domestic Helpers | 2 | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | — | 1 | 1 |
| Fish and Poultry Dealers... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Grocers | 50 | 50 | 1 | 51 | 49 | 4 | 53 | 48 | — | 48 |
| Greengrocers | 165 | 221 | 1 | 222 | 191 | 1 | 192 | 193 | 2 | 195 |
| Ironmongers | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Milk Dealers | 438 | 390 | 40 | 430 | 428 | 32 | 460 | 361 | 47 | 408 |
| Newsagents | 646 | 747 | 45 | 792 | 723 | 38 | 761 | 636 | 41 | 677 |
| Various | 32 | 30 | — | 30 | 33 | 2 | 35 | 27 | — | 27 |
| TOTALS | *1,568 | 1,722 | 102 | 1,824 | 1,674 | 89 | 1,763 | 1,529 | 100 | 1,629 |

*1,481 boys and 87 girls

127. From this table it will be seen that the main sources of employment are the delivery of milk and newspapers. As these employments, in the majority of cases, necessitate work before the commencement of school, the children undertaking such work have to be examined by the School Medical Officers, and certified as physically fit before a certificate is granted. For this purpose there were examined 1,079 children, and all but 4 were found to be fit. All children, whether working before the close of school hours or after, require to have employment cards, which are issued by the Education Committee, and these children are examined by the School Medical Officers at every visit to the schools. The employment, which, under the Bye-laws, is limited to two hours on school days and five hours on Saturdays and school holidays, seldom has any adverse effect upon their health.

128. With the object of seeing that the Bye-laws are complied with, two special officers, appointed by the Education Committee, are engaged in patrolling the streets between the hours of 7 a.m and 9 a.m., and 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. daily, and on Saturdays and Sundays. The Attendance Officers also keep under observation the shops and the employed children in their districts, whilst the Police and Health Visitors co-operate in this work.

During the year, 759 employers were warned for infringement of the provisions of the Bye-laws, and in 28 cases it was necessary to prosecute. In 24 cases fines were inflicted, and the remaining 4 cases were discharged with a caution.

129. A certain number of children of school age are employed in connection with theatrical performances, many of these children going on tour. These children require a licence from the Local Education Authority before they can be employed, and they must be examined every three months by the School Medical Officer of the area in which they happen to be.

During the year, 76 licences were issued by the Education Authority, and 125 examinations of the children made by the School Medical Officers; practically all the children were healthy.

The total number of children who appeared at the local theatres or picturedromes was 76, as against 62 in the preceding twelve months. All such children are visited by a special officer, who sees that the home conditions are suitable, ascertains that the licence is in order, and also pays visits to the theatres to see that the rules and orders of the Board of Education are complied with. Members of the Committee visited certain theatres during the year and saw the conditions under which they worked.

130. Despite the continued depression in trade and industry in Liverpool, it is gratifying to report that employment for juveniles between 14 and 18 years of age has continued to shew improvement during the year 1928. In previous reports reference has been made to the difficulty of transferring boys and girls from school to employment without loss of time. That difficulty still persists, and unfortunately there are large numbers of juveniles who are forced to spend some months of idleness before they eventually secure work. A very large proportion of these, on leaving school, make personal application at the Authority's Juvenile Employment Bureau, where they are registered for employment and advised as to the possibility of openings occurring in occupations for which they appear suitable. During the twelve months ended 31st July, 1928, 9,856 boys and girls (as against 9,135 for the previous twelve months) registered at the Bureau directly on leaving the public elementary and other schools, and the total number of young persons between 14 and 18 years of age who applied for work was 18,788, being an increase of 1,919 upon the number registering in the previous year.

Juvenile
Employment
Bureau.

131. The number of juveniles for whom openings were found through the Juvenile Employment Bureau during the year totalled 7,060, as compared with 5,792 during the preceding twelve months. It is, in some cases, difficult to keep boys and girls in periodic attendance at the Bureau whilst waiting for employment, but every effort is made to persuade them to do so, and always to keep themselves smart and presentable in appearance. Many of them, however, after a time ceased to attend the Bureau but returned later to renew their

application; others were found to have accepted temporary employment in the neighbourhood of their homes pending better employment being secured for them by the Bureau; in these cases their names were retained in the register.

132. An analysis of the figures denoting the "placings" by the Bureau shews that of the 3,283 boys for whom posts were found, 19 per cent. went to clerical and commercial occupations, 7 per cent. to trades and businesses, 22 per cent. into factories, warehouses, workshops and other industrial undertakings, while 52 per cent. became shop boys, messengers, and other miscellaneous workers, of whom about 30 per cent. would appear to have a good prospect of permanent employment open to them.

133. With regard to the 3,777 girls who were placed through the Bureau, 10 per cent. went to needle trades, and 14 per cent. to other trades, 21 per cent. accepted domestic service, 16 per cent. became shop assistants, 8 per cent. entered clerical employment, while the remaining 31 per cent. went chiefly to factories, cafés, or started as messengers in connection with workrooms and shops.

134. The Local Education Authority, through the Juvenile Employment Bureau, also administer the Unemployment Insurance Acts so far as juveniles between the ages of 16 and 18 years are concerned. The number of claims to benefit (both "fresh" and "renewal" claims) received during the year ended 31st July, 1928, from young persons who had been working in insurable employment was 5,395 (boys 3,553, girls 1,842), or an average per week of 104 claims; and the total amount of unemployment benefit paid to young persons during the period was £4,675 4s. 9d., being an average sum of £89 18s. 2d. per week. The average number of juveniles receiving benefit each week was 356 (266 boys and 90 girls), and the total number of individual payments made during the year was no less than 18,511.

135. The Authority have continued to carry on four Junior Educational Centres (two for boys, one for girls, and one for both boys and girls of good education), at which insured juveniles (i.e., over 16 years of age) are required to attend on five half-days per week as one of the

conditions of receiving unemployment benefit. A fair number of uninsured juveniles (mainly under 16 years of age) who are out of work attend voluntarily, and there are also a number of boys and girls from families in receipt of parish relief who are referred to the Centres by the Poor Law Guardians. The instruction at these Centres is of an informal character, and comprises various kinds of handwork (e.g., simple wood and metal work), English subjects, ambulance work, physical exercises and recreation, for the boys; and household work (e.g., cookery and laundry), needlework, hygiene, music, drill and recreation for the girls. The special centre for boys and girls of good education is intended for those who are preparing for commercial posts, and instruction is given in shorthand, typewriting, book-keeping, mathematics, and English. These Centres are doing an incalculable amount of good in keeping young persons fit and alert during unemployment, and preventing them from losing the knowledge and experience they have acquired in industry. A considerable number of vacancies notified to the Bureau are filled by applicants in attendance at the Centres.

136. It should be mentioned, in regard to the suitability for employment of applicants dealt with at the Bureau, that all the medical records and notes of the School Medical Officers are available for the use of the Juvenile Employment Department, and are freely used, and, where necessary, special examinations are made by the Medical Officers at the request of that department.

A. A. MUSSEN,

*Medical Officer to the
Education Authority.*

APPENDIX A.**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.****TABLE I.**

RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

A.—Routine Medical Inspections.

NUMBER OF CODE GROUP INSPECTIONS:—

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Entrants | 17,390 |
| Intermediates | 14,678 |
| Leavers | 12,426 |
| TOTAL | 44,494 |

NUMBER OF OTHER ROUTINE INSPECTIONS:—

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Public Elementary Schools | 81 |
| Special Schools | 535 |

B.—Other Inspections.

i. PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Number of Special Inspections | *12,428 |
| Number of Re-inspections | 48,536 |
| TOTAL | 60,964 |

ii. SPECIAL SCHOOLS:—

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Number of Special Inspections | 80 |
| Number of Re-inspections | 713 |
| TOTAL | 793 |

* Not including children treated at Minor Ailments Clinics.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.
TABLE II.

A.—Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the Year ended
31st December, 1928.

| DEFECT OR DISEASE. | ROUTINE INSPECTIONS. | | SPECIAL INSPECTIONS. | |
|---|------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| | Number of Defects. | | Number of Defects. | |
| | Requiring Treatment. | Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment. | Requiring Treatment. | Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment. |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| MALNUTRITION | 163 | 193 | 22 | 11 |
| UNOLEANLINESS | See Table IV, Group V. | | | |
| SKIN— | | | | |
| Ringworm— | | | | |
| Scalp | 10 | — | 224 | — |
| *Body | 10 | — | 7 | — |
| Scabies | 7 | — | 251 | — |
| *Impetigo | 69 | — | 71 | — |
| *Other Diseases (Non-Tuberculous)... | 212 | 131 | 104 | 43 |
| EYE— | | | | |
| *Blepharitis | 137 | 123 | 61 | 24 |
| *Conjunctivitis | 97 | 35 | 67 | 21 |
| *Keratitis | 9 | — | 15 | — |
| *Corneal Ulcer... .. | 26 | — | 15 | — |
| Corneal Opacities | — | 3 | — | 1 |
| Defective Vision (excluding Squint) | 2,270 | 1,919 | 2,781 | 343 |
| Squint... .. | 929 | 900 | 1,314 | 116 |
| Other Conditions | 24 | 105 | 40 | 21 |
| EAR— | | | | |
| Defective Hearing | 58 | 159 | 45 | 51 |
| Otitis Media | 293 | 455 | 81 | 69 |
| Other Ear Diseases | 99 | 36 | 26 | 12 |
| NOSE AND THROAT— | | | | |
| Enlarged Tonsils only | 556 | 2,444 | 280 | 250 |
| Adenoids only | 107 | 118 | 110 | 24 |
| Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids | 182 | 152 | 216 | 36 |
| Other Conditions | 456 | 339 | 115 | 60 |
| ENLARGED CERVICAL GLANDS (Non-Tuberculous) | 31 | 706 | 21 | 93 |
| DEFECTIVE SPEECH | 75 | 279 | 42 | 98 |
| ‡TEETH (Dental Diseases) | 1,543 | 1,448 | 228 | 180 |

* Exclusive of children treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics.

‡ Cases examined by the School Medical Officers.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

TABLE II.—Continued.

| DEFECT OR DISEASE. | ROUTINE INSPECTIONS. | | SPECIAL INSPECTIONS. | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| | Number of Defects. | | Number of Defects. | |
| | Requiring Treatment. | Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment. | Requiring Treatment. | Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment. |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| HEART AND CIRCULATION— | | | | |
| Heart Disease— | | | | |
| Organic | 2 | 210 | 7 | 72 |
| Functional | — | 1,141 | 6 | 154 |
| Anaemia | 356 | 394 | 164 | 53 |
| LUNGS— | | | | |
| Bronchitis | 388 | 1,066 | 125 | 177 |
| Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases ... | 48 | 370 | 28 | 75 |
| §TUBERCULOSIS— | | | | |
| Pulmonary— | | | | |
| Definite | 1 | 1 | 19 | 20 |
| Suspected | 3 | 1 | 39 | — |
| Non-Pulmonary— | | | | |
| Glands | 13 | 64 | 22 | 33 |
| Spine | — | 12 | 2 | 3 |
| Hip | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 |
| Other Bones and Joints | 1 | 15 | 4 | 2 |
| Skin | 3 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| Other Forms | 8 | 78 | 25 | 29 |
| NERVOUS SYSTEM— | | | | |
| Epilepsy | 15 | 43 | 20 | 7 |
| Chorea... .. | 56 | — | 87 | — |
| Other Conditions | 56 | 162 | 32 | 37 |
| DEFORMITIES— | | | | |
| Rickets | 40 | 164 | 26 | 21 |
| Spinal Curvature | 21 | 33 | 3 | 6 |
| Other Forms | 65 | 133 | 17 | 8 |
| DEBILITY | 734 | 664 | 490 | 107 |
| OTHER DEFECTS AND DISEASES ... | 599 | 1,395 | 404 | 434 |

§ Under the heading "Tuberculosis" most of the cases in columns (3) and (5) are cases in which the disease is quiescent but is not yet considered cured.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

TABLE II.—Continued.

B.—Number of Individual Children found at Routine Medical Inspection
to require treatment (Excluding Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases).

| Group. (1) | NUMBER OF CHILDREN | | Percentage of children requiring treatment. (4) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| | Inspected. (2) | Requiring treatment. (3) | |
| CODE GROUPS : | | | |
| Entrants | 17,390 | 2,970 | 17·1 |
| Intermediates | 14,678 | 3,048 | 20·8 |
| Leavers | 12,426 | 2,132 | 17·2 |
| TOTAL (Code Groups) | 44,494 | 8,150 | 18·3 |
| Other routine inspections | 81 | 5 | 6·2 |

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

TABLE III.

Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area
at the end of 1928.

| | | | Boys. | Girls. | Total. |
|--|---|--|-------|--------|--------|
| BLIND (including partially blind). | (i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally blind. | Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind | 21 | 17 | 38 |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools ... | — | — | — |
| | | At other Institutions | — | — | — |
| | | At no School or Institution | 2 | 1 | 3† |
| | (ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially blind. | Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind | 59 | 62 | 121 |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools ... | 35 | 34 | 69 |
| | | At other Institutions | — | 2 | 2 |
| | | At no School or Institution | — | 2 | 2 |
| DEAF (including deaf and dumb and partially deaf). | (i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb. | Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf | 76 | 53 | 129 |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools ... | — | — | — |
| | | At other Institutions | — | — | — |
| | | At no School or Institution | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| | (ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially deaf. | Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf | — | — | — |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools ... | 57 | 50 | 107 |
| | | At other Institutions | — | — | — |
| | | At no School or Institution | — | 1 | 1 |
| MENTALLY DEFECTIVE | Feeble-minded (cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority.) | Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children | 428 | 348 | 776 |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools ... | 84 | 72 | 156* |
| | | At other Institutions | 21 | 11 | 32* |
| | | At no School or Institution | 30 | 23 | 53* |
| EPILEPTICS. | Suffering from severe epilepsy | Attending Certified Special Schools for Epileptics | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| | | In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools ... | — | — | — |
| | | At no School or Institution | 15 | 9 | 24 |
| | Suffering from epilepsy which is not severe. | Attending Day Special Schools | 10 | 11 | 21 |
| | | Attending Public Elementary Schools ... | 14 | 11 | 25 |
| | | At no School or Institution | 5 | 3 | 8 |

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.
TABLE III.—Continued.

| | | | Boys. | Girls. | Total. |
|---|---|---|-------|--------|--------|
| PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE. | Infectious pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis. | At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| | | At other Institutions | — | — | — |
| | | At no School or Institution | — | 3 | 3 |
| | Non-infectious but active pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis. | At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board | { 44 | 57 | 101 |
| | | | { (1) | (—) | (1) |
| | | At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools... | 1 | — | 1 |
| | | At Certified Day Special Schools | — | — | — |
| | | At Public Elementary Schools | 68 | 62 | 130 |
| | At other Institutions | { 34 | 54 | 88 | |
| | | { (25) | (38) | (63) | |
| At no School or Institution | { 54 | 67 | 121 | | |
| | { (1) | (—) | (1) | | |
| Delicate Children (e.g. pre- or latent tuberculosis, malnutrition, debility, anaemia, etc.) | At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools ... | { 31 | 48 | 79 | |
| | | { (1) | (3) | (4) | |
| | At Certified Day Special Schools | 47 | 48 | 95 | |
| | At Public Elementary Schools | 459 | 338 | 797 | |
| | At other Institutions | { 25 | 17 | 42 | |
| At no School or Institution | { (9) | (6) | (15) | | |
| | { 37 | 32 | 69 | | |
| | { (1) | (—) | (1) | | |
| Active non-pulmonary tuberculosis. | At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board... | { 49 | 33 | 82 | |
| | | { (1) | (4) | (5) | |
| | At Certified Day Special Schools | 3 | 2 | 5 | |
| | At Public Elementary Schools | 13 | 10 | 23 | |
| | At other Institutions | { 21 | 22 | 43 | |
| At no School or Institution | { (21) | (18) | (39) | | |
| | { 21 | 20 | 41 | | |
| | { (—) | (1) | (1) | | |
| Crippled Children (other than those with active tuberculous diseases), e.g., children suffering from paralysis, etc., and including those with severe heart disease. | At Certified Hospital Schools | { 11 | 24 | 35 | |
| | | { (4) | (11) | (15) | |
| | At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools ... | 3 | 2 | 5 | |
| | At Certified Day Cripple Schools | 200 | 155 | 355 | |
| | At Public Elementary Schools | 23 | 9 | 32 | |
| | At other Institutions | { 19 | 27 | 46 | |
| | At no School or Institution | { (8) | (16) | (24) | |
| { 40 | | 66 | 106 | | |
| | { (5) | (3) | (8) | | |

† One child is already and one will shortly be receiving Private Tuition.

* A number of these cases have not yet been examined by the Certifying Medical Officer.

The numbers shewn within brackets refer to cases diagnosed by the Staffs of certain Institutions but not seen subsequently by the Authority's Medical Staff. These numbers are included in the totals.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

TABLE IV.

Return of Defects treated during the Year ended 31st December, 1928.

TREATMENT TABLE

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Group V)

| Disease or Defect. (1) | *Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year. | | |
|--|--|-------------------|---------------|
| | Under the Authority's Scheme. (2) | Otherwise. (3) | TOTAL. (4) |
| SKIN— | | | |
| Ringworm—Scalp | 138 | 214 | 352 |
| Ringworm—Body | 278 | 7 | 285 |
| Scabies | 53 | 243 | 296 |
| Impetigo... .. | 3,625 | 65 | 3,690 |
| Other Skin disease | 1,491 | 158 | 1,649 |
| MINOR EYE DEFECTS— (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II)... .. | 3,742 | 194 | 3,936 |
| MINOR EAR DEFECTS | 2,151 | 104 | 2,255 |
| MISCELLANEOUS— (e.g. minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.) | 12,592 | 124 | 12,716 |
| TOTAL | 24,070 | 1,109 | 25,179 |

* The numbers in Group I of this Table refer almost wholly to children treated at the Committee's Clinics. No reliable information is obtainable as to the number of cases treated elsewhere.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments, Group I).

| Defect or Disease. (1) | NUMBER OF DEFECTS DEALT WITH. | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | Under the Authority's Scheme. (2) | Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at hospital, apart from Authority's Scheme. (3) | Other- wise. (4) | TOTAL. (5) |
| ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including Squint) | | | | |
| New Cases | 3,211 | 147 | 13 | 3,371 |
| Re-examinations | 2,330 | 16 | 2 | 2,348 |
| TOTAL | 5,541 | 163 | 15 | 5,719 |
| Other Defect or Disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) | 33 | 6 | — | 39 |
| TOTAL | 5,574 | 169 | 15 | 5,758 |

Total number of Children for whom Spectacles were prescribed :

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| (a) Under Authority's Scheme | 5,001 |
| (b) Otherwise | 172 |

Total number of Children who obtained or received spectacles :

| | |
|---|-------|
| (a) Under the Authority's Scheme | 4,972 |
| (b) Otherwise | 172 |

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat

| | NUMBER OF DEFECTS. | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|--------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | RECEIVED OPERATIVE TREATMENT. | | | Received other forms of treatment. | Total number treated. |
| | Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital. | By private practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. | TOTAL. | | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | |
| Tonsils and Adenoids ... | 1,170 | 95 | 1,265 | 77 | 1,342 |
| Mouth Breathing ... | — | — | — | 319 | 319 |
| TOTAL ... | 1,170 | 95 | 1,265 | 396 | 1,661 |

Group IV.—Dental Defects.

(1) Number of Children

(a) Inspected :—

| | | Aged | | | |
|------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----------|---------------|
| Routine Age Groups ... | { | 5 ... | — | TOTAL ... | 62,725 |
| | { | 6 ... | 8,453 | | |
| | { | 7 ... | 9,421 | | |
| | { | 8 ... | 9,983 | | |
| | { | 9 ... | 6,935 | | |
| | { | 10 ... | 6,577 | | |
| | { | 11 ... | 6,567 | | |
| | { | 12 ... | 6,904 | | |
| | { | 13 ... | 7,156 | | |
| | { | 14 ... | 829 | | |
| Specials ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,367 |
| GRAND TOTAL ... | | | | ... | 64,092 |

(b) Found to require treatment ... 47,645

(c) Actually treated ... 15,217

(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination 6,764

(2) Half-days devoted to { Inspection ... 393 }
 { Treatment ... 1643 } TOTAL ... 2,036

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|-----|-------|--------|
| (3) Attendances made by children for treatment | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25,292 |
| (4) Fillings | { Permanent Teeth ... 7,619 } { Temporary Teeth ... 1 } | ... | ... | TOTAL | 7,620 |
| (5) Extractions | | { Permanent Teeth 5,739 } { Temporary Teeth 27,031 } | ... | ... | TOTAL |
| (6) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions | ... | | ... | ... | 14,834 |
| (7) Other operations | { Permanent Teeth ... 720 } { Temporary Teeth ... 1 } | ... | ... | TOTAL | 721 |

Group V.—Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| (1) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45.1 |
| (2) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 187,353 |
| (3) Number of individual children found unclean | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10,055 |
| (4) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority, viz. :— | | | | | | |
| Under Statutory Notices | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 629 |
| * Voluntarily | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13,440 |
| (5) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :— | | | | | | |
| (a) Under the Education Act, 1921 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |
| (b) Under School Attendance Byelaws | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |
| (c) Under Liverpool Corporation Act, 1921 : | | | | | | |
| Informations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Convictions .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Discharged with caution | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Withdrawn | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

* In addition to this number, 5,655 other children attended the Cleansing Stations on their own initiative for Spray or Slipper baths.

APPENDIX B.

HIGHER SCHOOLS.

TABLE I.—RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

A.—Routine Medical Inspections.

| Age. | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | Grand Total. |
|--------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|--------------|
| Boys | 56 | 68 | 76 | 233 | 778 | 837 | 927 | 831 | 304 | 141 | 4,251 |
| Girls | 32 | 48 | 75 | 132 | 386 | 446 | 370 | 357 | 212 | 148 | 2,206 |
| Total | 88 | 116 | 151 | 365 | 1,164 | 1,283 | 1,297 | 1,188 | 516 | 289 | 6,457 |

B.—Other Inspections.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Number of Special Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 437 |
| Number of Re-inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6,266 |
| TOTAL | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6,703 |

HIGHER SCHOOLS.

TABLE II.—A.

Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the Year
ended 31st December, 1928.

| DEFECT OR DISEASE. | ROUTINE INSPECTIONS. | | SPECIAL INSPECTIONS. | |
|---|----------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| | Number of Defects. | | Number of Defects. | |
| | Requiring Treatment | Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment | Requiring Treatment. | Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment. |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| MALNUTRITION | 5 | 43 | 1 | 4 |
| SKIN— | | | | |
| Ringworm— | | | | |
| Scalp | — | — | — | — |
| Body | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Scabies | — | — | — | — |
| Impetigo | 2 | — | — | — |
| Other Diseases (Non-Tuberculous) .. | 29 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| EYE— | | | | |
| Blepharitis | 6 | 12 | 1 | — |
| Conjunctivitis | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Keratitis | — | — | — | — |
| Corneal Ulcers | — | — | — | — |
| Corneal Opacities | — | — | — | — |
| Defective Vision (excluding Squint) | 493 | 1,254 | 222 | 47 |
| Squint | 16 | 54 | 11 | 2 |
| Other Conditions | 4 | 9 | 5 | — |
| EAR— | | | | |
| Defective Hearing | 23 | 72 | 3 | 7 |
| Otitis Media | 21 | 79 | 2 | 7 |
| Other Ear Diseases | 24 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| NOSE AND THROAT— | | | | |
| Enlarged Tonsils only | 30 | 301 | 7 | 19 |
| Adenoids only | 5 | 11 | — | 3 |
| Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids ... | 6 | 7 | — | 1 |
| Other Conditions | 36 | 67 | 8 | 11 |
| ENLARGED CERVICAL GLANDS (Non-Tuberculous) | 1 | 75 | — | 8 |
| DEFECTIVE SPEECH | 1 | 58 | 3 | 12 |

HIGHER SCHOOLS.
TABLE II.—Continued.

| DEFECT OR DISEASE. (1) | ROUTINE INSPECTIONS. | | SPECIAL INSPECTIONS. | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| | Number of Defects. | | Number of Defects. | |
| | Requiring Treatment. (2) | Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment. (3) | Requiring Treatment. (4) | Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring Treatment. (5) |
| TEETH— | | | | |
| Dental Diseases | 358 | 91 | 27 | 9 |
| HEART AND CIRCULATION— | | | | |
| Heart Disease— | | | | |
| Organic | — | 36 | — | 2 |
| Functional | 5 | 262 | — | 29 |
| Anaemia | 43 | 117 | 5 | 15 |
| LUNGS— | | | | |
| Bronchitis | 9 | 84 | — | 11 |
| Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases ... | — | 1 | — | — |
| *TUBERCULOSIS— | | | | |
| Pulmonary— | | | | |
| Definite | — | 2 | — | — |
| Suspected | — | — | — | — |
| Non-Pulmonary— | | | | |
| Glands | — | 5 | — | — |
| Spine | 1 | 3 | — | — |
| Hip | — | 1 | — | — |
| Other Bones and Joints ... | — | 1 | — | — |
| Skin | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Other Forms | — | 2 | — | — |
| NERVOUS SYSTEM— | | | | |
| Epilepsy | — | — | — | — |
| Chorea... .. | 8 | — | 2 | — |
| Other Conditions | 1 | 16 | — | 3 |
| DEFORMITIES— | | | | |
| Rickets | — | 2 | — | — |
| Spinal Curvature | 29 | 46 | 1 | 8 |
| Other Forms | 66 | 109 | 2 | 15 |
| Flat Feet | 163 | 190 | 14 | 13 |
| OTHER DEFECTS AND DISEASES ... | 92 | 375 | 17 | 49 |

* Under the heading of Tuberculosis most of the cases in column (3) are cases in which the disease is quiescent but not yet considered cured.

HIGHER SCHOOLS.

B.—Number of Individual Children Found at Routine Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Uncleanliness).

| Group. (1) | NUMBER OF CHILDREN. | | Percentage of children requiring treatment. (4) |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | Inspected. (2) | Requiring treatment. (3) | |
| CODE GROUPS : | | | |
| Total | 6,457 | 1,272 | 19·7 |

TABLE IV.

Return of Defects treated during the Year ended 31st December, 1928.

TREATMENT TABLE.

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness).

| Disease or Defect. (1) | Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year. | | |
|--|--|-------------------|---------------|
| | Under the Authority's Scheme. (2) | Otherwise. (3) | TOTAL. (4) |
| SKIN— | | | |
| Ringworm—Scalp | — | — | — |
| Ringworm—Body | — | — | — |
| Scabies | — | — | — |
| Impetigo... .. | — | 4 | 4 |
| Other Skin Diseases | — | 22 | 22 |
| MINOR EYE DEFECTS (External and others, but excluding cases falling in Group II) | — | 26 | 26 |
| MINOR EAR DEFECTS | 3 | 45 | 48 |
| MISCELLANEOUS (e.g. minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.) | — | 24 | 24 |
| TOTAL | 3 | 121 | 124 |

HIGHER SCHOOLS.

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

| DISEASE OR DEFECT | | NUMBER OF DEFECTS DEALT WITH | | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------|-------|
| | | Under the Authority's Scheme | Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme | Other-wise | Total |
| (1) | | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| Errors of Refraction (including Squint). | New Cases | 99 | 112 | 65 | 276 |
| | Re-examination Cases | 161 | 36 | 20 | 217 |
| Other Defect or Disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)..... | | — | 3 | — | 3 |
| TOTAL | | 260 | 151 | 85 | 496 |

Total Number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed :—

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Under the Authority's Scheme | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 233 |
| (b) Otherwise | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 233 |

Total Number of children who obtained or received spectacles :—

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Under the Authority's Scheme | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 233 |
| (b) Otherwise | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 233 |

HIGHER SCHOOLS.

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

| | RECEIVED OPERATIVE TREATMENT | | | Received other Forms of Treatment | Total number treated |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital (1) | By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme (2) | Total (3) | | |
| Enlarged tonsils and adenoids..... | 11 | 19 | 30 | 3 | 33 |
| Mouth Breathing | — | — | — | 50 | 50 |
| TOTAL | 11 | 19 | 30 | 53 | 83 |

APPENDIX C.

LIVERPOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

 REPORT BY THE INSPECTOR OF PHYSICAL
 TRAINING FOR THE YEAR 1928.

The interest and enthusiasm of teachers for the physical welfare of the school population of Liverpool has been maintained throughout the year. Brighter teaching methods are generally adopted and the routine lessons in physical exercise are no longer considered by teachers and scholars to be dull and monotonous. In fact the lessons in playgrounds and school halls are looked upon in the majority of schools as preparation for organised games and competitions in public parks and playing fields.

In order to give a comprehensive report for the year 1928 on the progress of physical training activities in the elementary schools of Liverpool, both during school hours and after school hours, brief reports in six sections are summarised as follows:—

- A. Playing Fields. Organised Games. Games Equipment.
- B. Summer Holiday Games Supervision in Public Parks, 1928.
- C. Elementary School Holiday Camps. Summer, 1928.
- D. Swimming Instruction. Public Plunge and Spray Baths. School Plunges and Spray Baths.
- E. Evening Play Centres, Winter Months.
- F. Voluntary Work of the Teachers' Sports Committees OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS.

A. Organised Games. Playing Fields.
Games Equipment.

Five playing fields, each of about 8 acres, have been acquired by the Education Committee for elementary scholars, distributed on the outskirts of the City as follows:—

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Aigburth Area ... | Jericho Farm Playing Field ... | 8 acres ...in use since 1926. |
| Wavertree Area... | Sandown Park Playing Field ... | 8 acres ...in use since Nov. 1928 |
| Kuotty Ash Area | Thomas Lane Playing Field ... | 5½ acres ...in use since 1922. |
| Clubmoor Area ... | Townsend Lane Playing Field | 8½ acres ...in course of preparation |
| Fazakerley Area | Long Lane Playing Field ... | 8 acres ...in use since 1921. |

The Committee are at present seeking to acquire additional sites in the Allerton and Norris Green Areas.

Over 30 playing spaces in Public Parks, varying in size from half an acre to twenty acres, are used for organised games, with the approval of the Parks and Gardens Committee. These Park playing spaces may, by the decision of the City Council, be extended, restricted, or withdrawn. The Committee's playing fields are used by elementary scholars solely. Public Parks are of course open for the use of the whole community, but certain portions are reserved for the use of children under 14 years of age.

Of the 282 school departments at which scholars over the age of 11 years attend, 194 send parties to playing fields for organised games during school hours. Some of these departments, however, use the facilities to a very limited extent. If a playing field or park is easily accessible from a school, all departments, including infants, pay visits. Boys and girls are equally encouraged, except during the winter months; then, if grounds are damp only boys pay visits. A period of one hour each week for organised games is considered desirable for senior scholars.

Equipment is stored in the dressing rooms at the Committee's playing fields, and in storage huts in six parks, as follows:—

- 4 to 8 sets of portable football posts (spiked).
- 1 or 2 sets of net ball posts.
- 1 set of jumping standards.
- 12 baseball posts (spiked).
- 36 flag posts (spiked), etc.

This equipment is made and maintained by the boys at various Manual Instruction Centres. The boys also make football and net ball posts, etc., for use in the playgrounds of individual schools. About £1,200 was expended in 1928 on games material and apparatus, including balls, bats, wickets, ropes, etc.

Time tables of playing periods during school hours are compiled on behalf of the Education Committee by the Organiser of Physical Training, after collaboration with Head Teachers. All organised games and competitions out of school hours are controlled by Sports Committees of Teachers in connection with the National Union of Teachers, and the National Association of Schoolmasters. Inter-school matches are only allowed during school hours on special occasions. After school hours the games are almost entirely competitive matches (inter-school, inter-house, etc.).

The Education Committee have recognised for several years the general desirability of taking children from the schools in the congested areas into the playing fields for organised games, and between £600 and £650 was expended in 1928 on tram fares for this purpose. Eighty-four school departments are included in this Free Transport Scheme.

B. Games Supervision in Public Parks during Summer Holidays, 1928.

Since the summer of 1920 the Elementary Schools Management Sub-Committee has carried out a scheme which assures some definite help in organising the games of the poorer children who visit the Public Parks during the school holidays. For the five weeks of the Elementary Schools holiday in the present year the scheme was as follows:—

Six Parks were chosen:—Sefton Park, Princes Park, Garston Recreation Ground, Stanley Park, Sheil Park, and Wavertree Playground. In each of the Parks the Committee has maintained for a number of years a lock-up storage hut. Each hut was supplied with the following apparatus:—Net ball posts and balls, cricket bats and balls, rounder and baseball outfits, ropes for tug-of-war and skipping, jumping standards, and boxing gloves.

A paid staff of three teachers (two men and one woman) was appointed to be on duty each week day, except Saturdays and Bank Holidays, in each Park, from 1 to 5 p.m. Two Head Teachers Mr. J. P. Callaghan, of St. Sylvester's R.C. School, and Captain R. W. Jones, of the Harrington Council School, shared the duties of Chief Organiser. The payment of the staff was at the rate of 10s. per occasion.

The attendance of children varied in the different Parks, and according to the weather. A register of attendances was kept, and the average numbers of boys and girls actually playing under supervision were estimated as follows:—

| Daily Attendance :— | | | | | Boys. | Girls. |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|------------|
| Princes Park ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 860 | 210 |
| Stanley Park | ... | ... | ... | ... | 290 | 90 |
| Sheil Park ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 275 | 75 |
| Wavertree Playground | ... | ... | ... | ... | 180 | 45 |
| Garston Recreation Ground | ... | ... | ... | ... | 164 | 160 |
| Sefton Park ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 295 | 120 |
| | | | | | <u>2,064</u> | <u>704</u> |
| | | | | | 2,768 children. | |

Although this scheme caters only for a small percentage of the huge number of Liverpool school children who lack opportunities to spend their holidays by the seaside, or in the country air, it is pleasing to know that between 2,000 and 3,000 of these scholars were encouraged and helped to take part in healthy recreation.

The Park-keepers and other officials of the Parks and Gardens Committee welcome the presence of teachers in the Parks, and report that the organisation of games helps to reduce the amount of wilful damage done to shrubs and plants in the period of school holidays.

Cricket for boys and rounders for girls were the games played most frequently, and a series of inter-park matches in these games created added interest. The chief weekly event in each Park was the Sports Meeting, and the prize fund of 5s. weekly for each Park supplied by the Elementary Schools Management Sub-Committee was augmented

by Supervisors and interested spectators. No serious accidents occurred, and the Supervisors again report that the honesty of the children in returning bats and balls to the storage huts from distant playing pitches was commendable.

C. Elementary School Holiday Camps, 1928.

CONDITIONS REGULATING INCLUSION FOR GRANTS-IN-AID,
AS APPROVED BY THE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE.

1. That grants be paid only in respect of Camps organised by schools in the poorest neighbourhoods, and of children from such schools selected on the grounds of poverty.
2. That the E.S.M. Sub-Committee approve the Camp as suitably situated, as open to inspection, and reasonably accessible for that purpose.
3. That the total grant-in-aid of all Camps falls within the limits recognised by the Board of Education for grant purposes in the particular year.

PREVIOUS EXPENDITURE ON GRANTS-IN-AID OF SCHOOL CAMPS.

| Year. | Total Grant from the L.E.A. | | | No. of School Camps. | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|-----|-----------|----------------------|-----|----|
| 1920 | ... | ... | £348 10 0 | ... | ... | 22 |
| 1921 | ... | ... | 201 0 0 | ... | ... | 10 |
| 1922 | ... | ... | 71 0 0 | ... | ... | 4 |
| 1923 | ... | ... | 192 0 0 | ... | ... | 10 |
| 1924 | ... | ... | 483 10 0 | ... | ... | 24 |
| 1925 | ... | ... | 588 0 0 | ... | ... | 27 |
| 1926 | ... | ... | 697 10 0 | ... | ... | 31 |
| 1927 | ... | ... | 1000 0 0 | ... | ... | 42 |

Grants-in-aid, during the years above enumerated, were paid at the rate of 10s. per week for each child, and £1 per week for each leader.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS, 1928.

In preparing the scheme for the Summer Holiday, 1928, all Elementary Schools in Liverpool were circularised inviting applications for inclusion, and 50 schools sent in applications which were favourably

considered and approved by the Elementary Schools Management Sub-Committee in May, 1928. Owing to the increase in the number of schools entering the scheme, it was found impossible to allocate the sum of £1 per leader and 10s. per child per week, which had been granted in previous years. It was decided to reduce the basis of grant by 25 per cent., i.e., that grants for leaders should be 15s. instead of £1, and for children 7s. 6d. instead of 10s. per week. Expenditure this year :—

| Year. | Grant from the L.E.A. | No. of School Camps. |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1928 | £1027 0 0 | 50 |

This expenditure by the Education Committee is included in the total of L.E.A. expenditure, which is subject to a 20 per cent. grant from the Board of Education.

Arrangements were made for each School Camp to be visited by a representative of the E.S.M. Sub-Committee.

Teachers and Organisers appreciated the kindly interest of Councillor F. B. Brown, Chairman of the Education Committee, Rev. S. Frampton, Miss Bowes, Mr. Howard J. Feeny, and Councillors Paul, Williams, Barry, and O'Mahony, in recording visits of inspection.

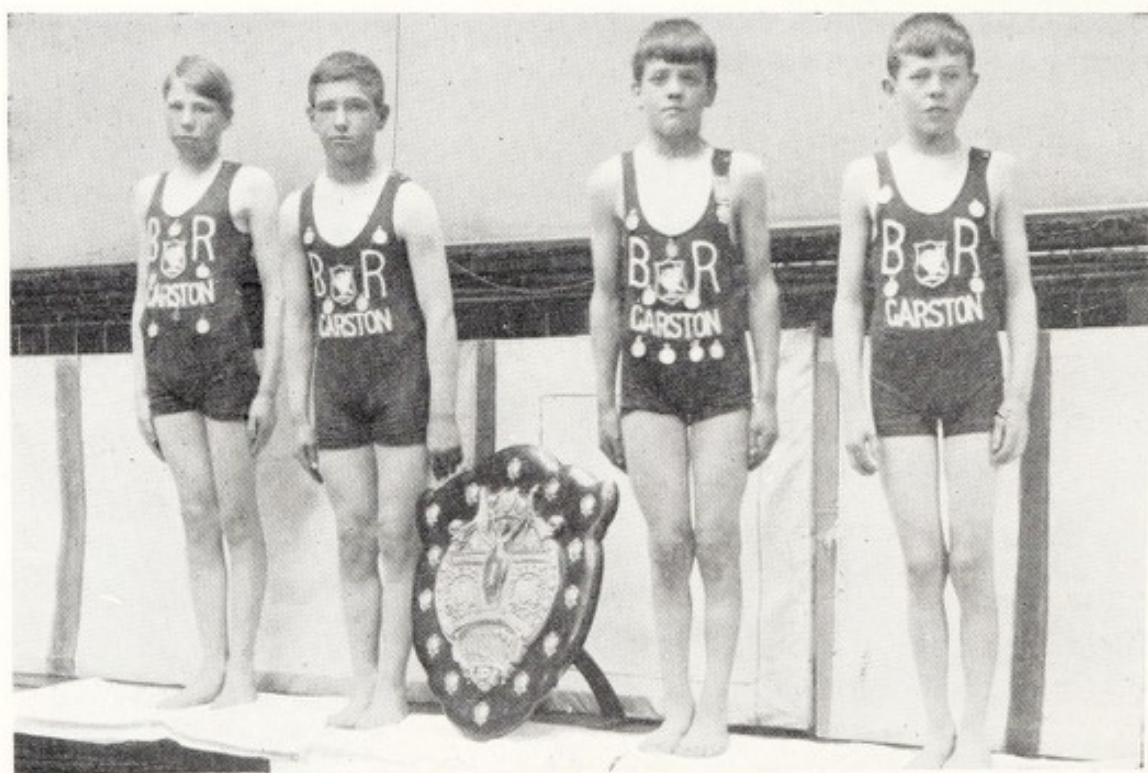
The Camps were generally reported upon as being well organised; the sanitary arrangements sufficient; the food good, and the various activities health giving.

These grants-in-aid stimulate teachers to organise camping parties of poor children. The organiser of a Camp has to give up a portion of holiday for the purpose, and to make arrangements for the carrying out of all duties connected with the transport, feeding, sleeping, recreation, and general care of the youthful campers.

It is anticipated that for the Summer Holiday of 1929 more leaders will be forthcoming, more schools included, and more children accommodated, if the Elementary Schools Management Sub-Committee decide to continue granting aid for this work.



LIVERPOOL SCHOOLBOYS AT CAMP, DURING 1928.



THE WINNING TEAM.

"The English Schools Team Swimming Championship has been won by Liverpool teams eight years out of the last nine, Banks Road Council School, Garston, having been the winners on seven of these occasions."

D. Swimming Instruction. Public Plunge and Spray Baths. School Plunges and Spray Baths.

All instruction in swimming is done by class teachers and no paid specialists or coaches are employed. Details of the excellent results obtained during the year 1928 will appear later in this report.

The total attendance at the Corporation Public Swimming Baths and the School Swimming Baths for the year 1928 shows an increase over any previous year. The increase is more noticeable in the returns dealing with girls, although the boys' figures record steady progression.

| Summary of Attendances :— | 1928 | | 1927 | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| | Boys. | Girls. | Boys. | Girls. |
| PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS | | | | |
| Summer months | 265,580 | 130,101 | 261,778 | 110,819 |
| Winter months | 69,821 | 14,544 | 57,975 | 10,077 |
| SCHOOL SWIMMING BATHS | | | | |
| Summer months | 49,595 | 42,489 | 52,838 | 48,701 |
| | 384,996 | 187,134 | 372,591 | 169,597 |
| | } 572,130 attendances | | } 542,188 attendance | |

Increase :—29,942 attendances in 1928.

The eleven Corporation Public Swimming Baths and the fourteen School Swimming Baths are used by all schools within easy walking distance, and in most cases the time tables are completely full. The provision of more Swimming Baths is seriously needed. This need is felt chiefly in the new housing areas, where thousands of children are in new schools which are far too distant from existing Public Swimming Baths to allow any swimming instruction to be attempted; and none of the new schools have school baths. A great number of the children in this area have experienced the pleasure of swimming instruction in their former schools, and the children and the teachers regret the lack of facilities for bathing in their new environment. This is a problem which, it is hoped, will receive the immediate attention of the Baths Committee and the Education Committee.

Public Baths Attendances, 1928.

| Name of Bath. | ATTENDANCES | | ATTENDANCES | | ATTENDANCES | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---|--------|---|--------|
| | SWIMMING PLUNGES | | SWIMMING PLUNGES | | SLIPPER AND SPRAY BATHS. | |
| | Summer Months, 1927. Summer. | | Winter Months, 1928. Winter. Jan.Feb.Mar.Nov.Dec. | | Winter Months, 1928. Winter. Jan.Feb.Mar.Nov.Dec. | |
| | Boys. | Girls. | Boys. | Girls. | Boys. | Girls. |
| Cornwallis Street | 16,553 | 11,430 | — | — | 848 | 871 |
| Margaret Street | 51,349 | 15,740 | 23,956 | 2,277 | 625 | 613 |
| Westminster Rd. | 36,969 | 18,128 | 14,938 | 5,692 | 769 | 1,161 |
| Lister Drive | 19,156 | 11,990 | — | — | — | — |
| Picton Road | 16,784 | 5,333 | — | — | 461 | 176 |
| Speke Road | 23,050 | 13,665 | 12,894 | 3,140 | — | — |
| Queen's Drive ... | 18,741 | 11,268 | — | — | — | — |
| Steble Street | 37,463 | 17,173 | 16,955 | 3,055 | 1,085 | 1,318 |
| Lodge Lane | 22,433 | 14,048 | 1,078 | 380 | 891 | 818 |
| Burroughs Gdns. | 21,557 | 10,349 | — | — | 991 | 1,054 |
| Woolton | 1,525 | 977 | — | — | 114 | 64 |
| Netherfield Road | — | — | — | — | — | 518 |
| Minshull Street ... | — | — | — | — | 483 | 663 |
| Beacon Street ... | — | — | — | — | 2,923 | 672 |
| TOTALS in 1928 | 265,580 | 130,101 | 69,821 | 14,544 | 9,190 | 7,928 |
| | 395,681 | | 84,365 | | 17,118 | |

SWIMMERS.

A return by head teachers shows that in October, 1928, of the children in attendance at school, 6,339 boys and 3,577 girls could swim at least 25 yards (9,916). The figures for 1927 were: 6,249 boys and 2,992 girls could swim at least 25 yards (9,241). The large increase in the number of girl swimmers reflects great credit on the teachers directly responsible.

Attendances, School Plunge Baths, 1928.

| Name of School Bath. | Size of Bath. | No. of weeks Bath was in use in 1928. | Total No. of Scholars' Attendances at Bath. | | No. of Swimmers, October, 1928 (able to swim at least 25 yds.) | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------|--|--------|
| | | | Boys. | Girls. | Boys. | Girls. |
| Anfield Road | 51 ft. × 24 ft. | 18 | 5,044 | 4,044 | 85 | 84 |
| Beaufort Street | 34 ft. × 16 ft. | 23 | 7,097 | 5,405 | 132 | 85 |
| Birchfield Road ... | 58 ft. × 20 ft. | 22 | 8,098 | 7,023 | 117 | 127 |
| Boaler Street | 45 ft. × 20 ft. | 19 | 4,830 | 3,240 | 52 | 62 |
| Brae Street..... | 24 ft. × 14 ft. | 13 | 630 | 1,298 | 53 | 64 |
| Daisy Street | 19 ft. × 15½ ft. | 20 | 1,463 | 764 | 63 | 36 |
| Granton Road | 40 ft. × 15 ft. | 10 | 1,234 | 1,200 | 57 | 37 |
| Harrington | 24 ft. × 13½ ft. | 19 | 1,480 | 3,724 | (Venice Street) 45 | 12 |
| Heyworth Street ... | 30 ft. × 18 ft. | 23 | 4,452 | 3,073 | 102 | 59 |
| Lawrence Road ... | 54 ft. × 24 ft. | 18 | 7,447 | 6,778 | 132 | 114 |
| Longmoor Lane..... | 50 ft. × 20 ft. | 20 | 5,400 | 3,600 | 40 | 17 |
| *Rathbone | 21½ ft. × 15½ ft. | 2 | 160 | — | 28 | 21 |
| St. Michael's Hamlet | 22½ ft. × 17½ ft. | 17 | 2,260 | 2,340 | 35 | 30 |
| *Sefton Park | 40 ft. × 20 ft. | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | | 49,595 | 42,489 | | |
| | | | 92,084 | | | |

* These Baths were under repair.

The following schools were also accommodated at School Baths:— All Saints R.C., Holy Trinity C.E., Walton; Butler Street, Sheil Road, St. Mary's C.E., Edge Hill; Webster Road, Earle Road, Rice Lane, Barlow's Lane, St. John's C.E., Walton; S. Charles R.C., Sudley Road.

Four Council Schools have spray baths on the school premises, which have been used during school hours to a limited extent only, viz.:— Everton Terrace, Harrison Jones, S. James and S. Augustine.

E. Evening Play Centres, Winter Months.

Thirteen Play Centres have been regularly conducted in school premises, on Tuesday and Thursday evening, from 5-30 to 7-30 p.m., during the months of January, February, March, October, November, and December.

Ten centres admit both boys and girls, one is for boys only, and two are maintained exclusively for girls. The boys and girls attend in about equal numbers, and each centre attracts large numbers from the congested areas in the immediate vicinity.

The regional distribution of the Play Centres, as at present organised, is considered to be the best possible distribution in order to provide recreation and entertainment for children in the districts where the need is most essential. The allocation is as follows:—

| DISTRICT. | Name of School in which Play Centre is held. |
|------------------------|--|
| Scotland Road Area ... | Addison Street, Penrhyn Street, and St. Sylvester's. |
| Garston Area | Banks Road. |
| Central Area | Holy Cross, St. James' Council. |
| South Docks Area ... | Harrington Council. |
| Edge Hill Area | Harrison Jones Council. |
| Netherfield Area ... | Netherfield Road Council. |
| Islington Area | St. Augustine's Boys, St. Augustine's Girls. |
| Toxteth Area | Wellington Road Council, St. Paul's C.E. |

A considerable re-organisation of the staffs was made at the commencement of the Session, in accordance with the Sub-Committee's selection, and five centres:—Wellington Road, St. Paul's C.E., Holy Cross, Penrhyn Street, and Netherfield Road, have been conducted by newly appointed Superintendents. These changes of staffs have resulted in the introduction of fresh schemes of entertainment and amusement for the children, and are considered a distinct advantage in developing Play Centre work.

Through the courtesy of Miss Marsh, students from the Liverpool Physical Training College have rendered assistance at eight centres, and their help is appreciated by the children and welcomed by the members of the staffs.

The Supervisors have paid surprise visits to all the Centres, and report that all Centres are controlled effectively; that the teachers appointed are thoroughly interested in their work, and that *over 6,000 poor children* are entertained for two hours on each evening of opening.

Visits by members of the Evening Play Centres' Sub-Committee during periods of normal routine are welcomed by the children and all workers connected with the scheme.

The amount estimated and expended by the Sub-Committee on Play Centres annually is £2,500. Thus it will be seen that each Play Centre is conducted at a cost of approximately £200 for the session. *An extension of the scheme* would necessitate the opening of additional Centres, for which more money would be required. There is no doubt that, if more Centres were organised, thousands of very poor children would benefit, but the need for economy has kept the estimated expenditure within the limit of £2,500 during the past six years.

F. Voluntary Work of the Teachers' Sports Committees **"Out of School Hours."**

The Liverpool Branch of the N.U.T. controls the organisation of the games and competitions "out of school hours," open to all girls in the Elementary Schools, and the Liverpool Association of Schoolmasters controls the activities open to all boys. In addition a parallel organisation is conducted by the Catholic Schools Association for children attending Roman Catholic Schools.

The annual reports of the Sports Committees of these Associations give a very fine record of the extensive work done by the teachers in the interests of the physical education and development of the children of the City.

Extracts from these Reports are here appended:—

GIRLS.

By Miss A. M. Molloy (Hon. Secretary, Sports Committee, N.U.T., Liverpool Branch):—

“The Sports Committee has much pleasure in presenting a report of a very successful year’s work carried out by all its supporters with vigour and enthusiasm. Its opportunities have been further increased, and its interests widened by joining the Lancashire Elementary Schools Athletic Association, and participating in the County Sports Festival.

“In Swimming extraordinary progress has been made, and the exceptional numbers dealt with have taxed to the utmost the accommodation provided.”

NET BALL.

“In the Senior Net Ball League Competition, 32 schools entered, and in the Junior 22.”

THE HOCKEY LEAGUE.

“The little group of nine schools which form this league, still plays with the same enthusiasm. As the Competition is open to girls up to 15 years of age, it is hoped there will be more support next season from Senior Schools and Central Classes.”

ROUNDERS.

“There are now very few Schools which do not play Rounders as a School game. Many of those which do not enter the Leagues, nevertheless play friendly matches with League teams.

“The number of Schools in the Senior Leagues was 54.

“The number of Schools in the Junior Leagues was 42.

“This represented a considerable increase on the previous season’s entries for both competitions.”

ATHLETIC FESTIVALS.

(a) LANCASHIRE COUNTY.

“It was unfortunate that the Lancashire County Sports, arranged to take place at Nelson on May 26th, preceded the Liverpool Schools’ Sports.

“The points for these successes, added to those gained by the boys, brought to Liverpool the honour of holding the Championship Shield offered for the highest aggregate of points obtained by boys and girls. It is felt that the experience of participating in these County Sports will be all to the good in raising standards of attainment and increasing skill in new directions. The future inclusion in the local sports of the long jump and the hurdle race is desirable, in order that girls may take part in all the events in the County Sports next season.”

(b) LIVERPOOL.

“Thanks to the excellent preparations and the indefatigable help of the judges and stewards the trial of over 2,000 competitors was dealt with most expeditiously, leaving about 700 to take part in the finals.

“The usual Country Dances by about 300 children, and the National Dances performed in picturesque costume, gave much pleasure.”

SWIMMING.

“The usual Back Stroke and Free Style Squadron Leagues Competitions have been arranged with the following:—

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| “Seniors Back Stroke and Free Style | ... | ... | 40 teams. |
| “Juniors Back Stroke | ... | ... | 35 teams. |

“This shows an increase of three in the Seniors, and 7 in the Juniors, who are evidently, judging by their enthusiasm, enjoying the training in team work.”

CERTIFICATES.

“The number of Swimming Certificates awarded this year has reached the remarkable total of 4,126. These were distributed as follows:—

| “Third. | Second. | Back Stroke. | First. | Total. |
|---------|---------|--------------|--------|--------|
| 1,653 | 1,233 | 202 | 338 | 4,126 |

“Not only have individual Schools gained larger numbers of Certificates, but the number of Schools entering children for tests has this season risen from 114 to 131. The total increase in the number of Certificates is 1,053. Of these 291 were awarded to beginners for 50 yards Breast Stroke.

“Interest in Life Saving Tests is being more generally fostered. This year ten Schools have presented candidates, and a total of 192 Certificates was awarded.

| “Elementary. | Proficiency. | Bronze Medallion. |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 100 | 84 | 8 |

“Those girls who gained the Bronze Medallion are to be congratulated on having passed a thorough and exacting test, showing considerable efficiency on the part of schoolgirls.”

DERBYSHIRE MEMORIAL COMPETITION.

“A large number of girls entered for this Competition, but only five girls from Garston succeeded in qualifying in the test—50 yards Breast Stroke in 46 seconds.”

SWIMMING SCHOLARSHIPS.

“There is very keen competition for the free contracts offered by the Baths Committee to girls leaving school. The Encouragement of Swimming Committee arranges the tests in speed and style, by which the selection is made. These awards are much coveted, and are a valuable means of encouraging promising young swimmers to become more proficient. This year, twenty-five were gained by schoolgirls.”

GALAS.

“Last year it was found that some galas were uncomfortably crowded, and consequently difficult to organise and control. It was, therefore, decided to hold seven instead of the usual six, the seventh being an extra one at Westminster Road. All were so well attended and supported that the increased number was fully justified.”

BOYS AND GIRLS.

By Mr. J. P. Callaghan (President, Liverpool and District Catholic Schools Association) :—

“ Almost every branch of Athletics and Sport has been catered for, and it is “ encouraging to record a growing interest in the Association’s activities as shown “ in the increasing number of entries for the various Competitions.

“ Of 50 schools eligible to compete in the Athletic Festival, 45 actually took part. “ This means that, either directly or indirectly, some 30,000 children are concerned “ in the work of the Association.”

ANNUAL ATHLETIC FESTIVAL.

“ More than 2,000 boys and girls from 45 schools took part in the Preliminary “ Heats.”

FOOTBALL.

“ The season shows a record number of entries—37 schools providing “ keen competition for honours in the 1st, 2nd, and Junior Divisions of the League. “ In the ‘ Daily Dispatch ’ Competition the local shield was won by St. Edward’s “ Orphanage, who, after a keen struggle which necessitated ‘ extra time,’ triumphed “ over St. Sylvester’s by 3 goals to 2. The Winners then went on to defeat the “ champion schools of Salford, Leigh, and Leeds.”

“ In the ‘ Catholic Schools Cup Final ’ on the Liverpool F.C. Ground, St. Edward’s “ once again defeated St. Sylvester’s by 2-0.”

NET BALL.

“ The game is increasing in popularity. Twelve teams entered and very keen “ competition resulted.”

CRICKET.

“ We are pleased to note an increasing interest in our national summer game. “ Three separate Leagues were required this year.”

BASEBALL.

“ Also shows an increase in popularity.”

SWIMMING.

“ The entries in this Competition were again disappointing. This is difficult “ to understand, considering the facilities now offered at the various Baths.”

BOXING.

“ The ‘ Boxing Tournament ’ attracted a record number of entries. Four “ evenings were required for elimination before the Finalists were chosen.”

BOYS.

By Captain J. R. Beckett, M.C. (Hon. Secretary, Sports Committee, N.A.S., Liverpool Branch) :—

“ Your Sports Committee is once again privileged to report the continuing
 “ success of the Association’s efforts and activities on behalf of the physical welfare
 “ and athletics of the schoolboys of Liverpool. While every branch of the Sports
 “ Committee’s organisation remains vigorous and efficient, fresh records have been
 “ set up in football and cricket, and conspicuous success has marked Liverpool’s
 “ entry on new ground in connection with track athletics.”

FOOTBALL.

“ For the Leagues’ Competition there were 140 teams entered from 89 schools,
 “ while 53 teams were entered in the season’s Knock-out Competition. This was
 “ an increase of three teams on the preceding season.

“ In the Lancashire County Championship the Liverpool boys reached the Final
 “ Round for the fourth year in succession.”

CRICKET.

“ Attention is specially directed to the remarkable advance in popularity of the
 “ Cricket Competitions. In 1924 there were 80 teams entered, 101 in 1925, 115 in
 “ 1926, and an increase of four teams in the following year. Last season there was
 “ a new record of 130 competing teams.”

BASEBALL.

“ Forty-seven teams took part in the Baseball Leagues, an increase of one over
 “ the preceding year. As in cricket the various inter-school games were contended
 “ with the keenest rivalry and fine sportsmanship.”

ATHLETIC FESTIVAL.

“ Long-continued and arduous efforts on the part of the Athletic Festival
 “ Committee were well rewarded by the brilliant success which attended the May-
 “ Day Athletic Sports. There was a record entry of 2,500 competitors. One could
 “ hardly look on that wonderful assembly of young athletes and mark their physical
 “ fitness and fine sportsmanship without feeling that this was a work well worth
 “ doing, and here done well.”

LANCASHIRE COUNTY SPORTS.

“ In the inter-town contests Liverpool representatives achieved a series of
 “ brilliant successes, securing an aggregate of 33 points out of a possible 38, the
 “ Sir Lees Knowles Cup for Boys’ events, and the Alderman Aitken Shield for Boys’
 “ and Girls’ events.”

SWIMMING.

“ Interest in the Swimming Leagues’ competitions has been well maintained
 “ in both Divisions.

“By winning the Northern Counties’ Schoolboy Team Swimming Championship, Banks Road once again qualified for the Final of the English Schools’ competition, contested at Leicester, Shillington Street (London) secured the Barker Shield by the narrowest of margins over Banks Road.

“The usual ten district Swimming Galas were organised, and were all well supported.”

“With the object of encouraging versatility among our schoolboy swimmers your Sports Committee has introduced a new award, called the ‘Proficiency’ Certificate, intended to mark a high standard of attainment in each of the three accepted swimming styles, viz., free-style, breast-stroke, and back-stroke. For this first year of award 94 boys succeeded in passing the severe tests imposed, 172 boys gained speed awards, 1,264 qualified for distance certificates, and 2,118 passed for beginners’ certificates; a total of 3,648, a decrease of about 350 on the previous year, but more than accounted for by the fact of the discontinuance of the back-stroke certificate awards.

“A notable increase of interest in the awards for proficiency in life-saving is to be recorded. In the examinations of the Royal Life-Saving Society, 291 elementary certificates, 174 proficiency certificates, and 29 bronze medallions, were gained: a total of 494 awards as against 237 in the previous year.

“Your Sports Committee is annually charged with the control and administration of the many sided organisation of the sports and games of our boys, but it is to the host of colleagues who give so abundantly of their leisure in training their scholars to take a worthy part in the hurly-burly of inter-school games, and in inculcating the highest ideals of good sportsmanship on the playing-fields, that chief credit is due for the year’s successes in 1928. It is good to know that our young colleagues are prepared to shoulder the work with unabated vigour and enthusiasm each succeeding year.”

The Inspector of Physical Training, in presenting this Report to the Elementary Schools Management Sub-Committee, wishes to emphasise the extent and great value of this willing work of the teachers of Liverpool for the physical welfare of the children out of school hours. It is recommended that letters of appreciation be sent to the Teachers’ Associations responsible, viz., the National Union of Teachers, the National Association of Schoolmasters, and the Catholic Teachers’ Association.

ALFRED E. HARRIS,

Inspector of Physical Training.

March 9th, 1929.