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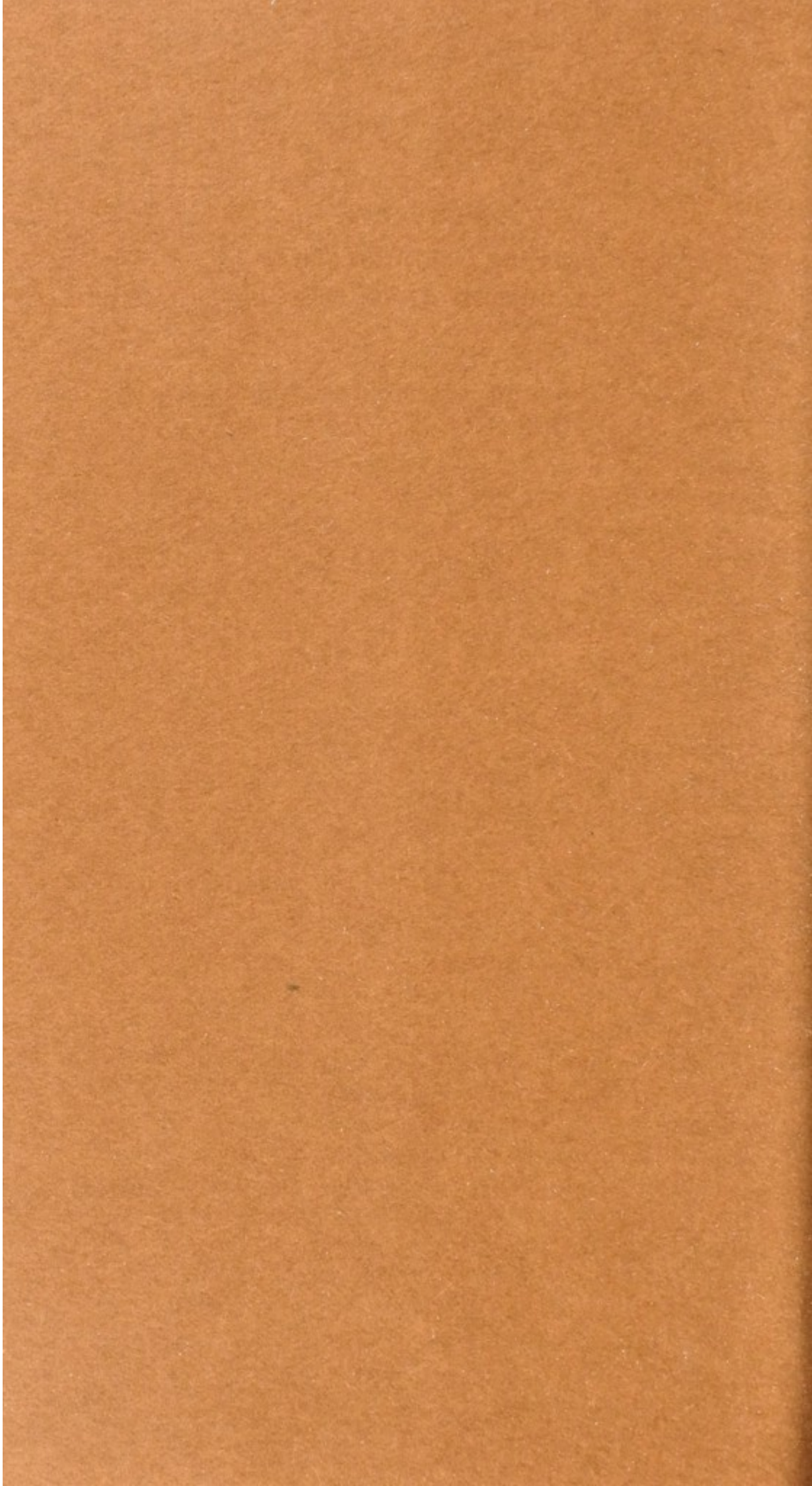
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ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COUNCIL,  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

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Forty-seventh  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Principal  
School Medical Officer

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Report for the Year 1954,  
BY  
W. S. WALLACE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



# ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COUNCIL.

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## REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1954.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the forty-seventh Annual Report on the work of the School Health Service for the year 1954.

Throughout the year the medical staff remained unchanged but there were several changes in the dental staff. In April, Mr. W. Maden, B.D.S., commenced duties in the Newport Area replacing Mr. R. Kelly, L.D.S., who resigned as from 1-12-53. Mr. R. Allen, L.D.S., resigned in August and was replaced in December by Mr. A. E. Hurford, B.D.S. Luckily we were able to arrange for the services of a young Ventnor Dentist, Mr. Kenny, who did duty until the arrival in December of Mr. A. E. Hurford.

Mrs. Delap, L.C.S.T., was appointed as Speech Therapist in February, but for domestic reasons resigned in May, and we were without the services of a speech therapist until September, when Miss N. Bailey, L.C.S.T., took over.

On the whole the health of the children during the year was good and until December there was no excessive absenteeism. In November, however, a mild form of so-called influenza showed itself and by the middle of the month there was quite an epidemic affecting mainly the Newport, Cowes, East Cowes and West Wight areas. Cases of mumps kept occurring throughout the year in small numbers but in November and December there was an increase in the numbers notified by head teachers.

Shortly before the end of the term four cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in Newchurch School and because of the large numbers of children who were absent with signs of feverish colds and because of the imminence of Christmas with all its parties it was thought advisable to close the school, to advise against large gatherings of children during the festive season and to suspend immunisation against diphtheria for a period.

No changes were made during the year in the arrangements for medical inspection and treatment of school children. Co-operation with general practitioners was excellent and our arrangements with the Hospital Authority for consultations and for hospital treatment where necessary continued to work well. I must express here my appreciation of the courtesy and help I receive at all times from both the consultant staff of the hospitals and the general practitioners in the Island.

Finally, I should like to thank once again all members of the Committee for their support and encouragement throughout the year and to the teachers and my own staff my thanks are also due for their assistance in making the School Health Service run smoothly.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM S. WALLACE.

County Hall,  
Newport, I.W.

February, 1955.

## SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

1954.

**SCHOOLS AND NUMBERS ON REGISTERS.**

At the end of the year the number of maintained schools was 63, viz., 52 Primary with 8,196 children on the registers, eight Secondary Modern with 3,728 children, one County Secondary Technical School with 306 children and two County Secondary Grammar Schools with 893 children. The total number of children on the registers in all schools at the end of the year was therefore 13,123.

**STAFF.**

Principal School Medical Officer	William S. Wallace, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
School Medical Officer ...	John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M.R. C. S., L. R. C. P., D.P.H.
” ”	Anne Simpson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
” ”	D. Warren Browne, M. R. C. S., L. R. C. P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
” ”	Peter Maxwell Browne, M. R. C. S., L. R. C. P., D.P.H.
Principal Dental Officer	Gerald Simons, L.D.S.
Dental Officer ... ..	James C. Lawson, L.D.S.
” ”	Robert Allen, L.D.S. (Resigned 31-8-54).
” ”	Willie Maden, B.D.S. (Appointed 1-4-54).
” ”	Alister E. Hurford, B.D.S. (Appointed 1-12-54).

Dental Officer	...	...	John E. Kenny, L.D.S. (Appointed 13-9-54— Temporary Appointment) (Resigned 30-11-54)
Remedial Gymnast	...		Miss D. Hitchins, C.S.P., F.A.P.T.
Speech Therapist	...		Mrs. C. Delap, L.C.S.T. (Appointed 1-2-54). (Resigned 31-5-54).
„	„		Miss N. Bailey, L.C.S.T. (Appointed 1-9-54).
Psychiatrist	...	...	Charles Davies-Jones, M.B., Ch.B.
„			H. T. J. Hynes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part-time by arrangement with the Hospital Management Committee.)
Psychiatric Social Worker (Part-time)			Miss M. C. Godfrey, B.A.
School Nurses (Whole-time)			Miss D. Goodwin, S.R.N.
„	„		Miss E. Fishwick, S.R.N.
„	„		Miss W. S. Card, S.R.N.
„	„	(Part-time)	Fourteen District Nurses, employed by the County Council, are part-time School Nurses.
Chief Clerk to the Depart- ment			Miss H. Rickard.

## MILK IN SCHOOLS.

The following table shows the number of pupils taking milk on a normal school day in October, 1954 :-

<i>Schools.</i>	<i>No. in Attendance.</i>	<i>No. taking Milk.</i>	<i>Percentage taking Milk.</i>
Primary ...	7665	6751	88.1 (87.3)
Secondary Modern ...	4712	2269	48.2 (51.8)
Secondary Grammar and Technical ...			
Total ...	12377	9020	72.9 (76.8)

Under the terms of Ministry of Education Circular 278, the local education authority became responsible, with effect from 1st October, 1954, for the administration of the Milk-in-Schools Scheme hitherto dealt with by the Ministry of Food.

Accordingly, tenders for contracts were invited, with the result that apart from one school only, supplies of pasteurised and tuberculin tested milk were secured.

## SCHOOL MEALS.

The greatest achievement during the year in the Meals Service, which is relevant to this report, is concerned with the prevention of food poisoning. Arising from correspondence with the Ministry of Education and Circular 272 relating to this important question, transport arrangements were reviewed, involving re-routing and the part-time user of vans in two areas, so that no meals need leave central kitchens before 11 a.m. This, together with the fact that members of the kitchen staff were asked to take it in turn to start work at **6 a.m.**, enabled meat to be prepared and cooked on the same day as consumed so avoiding any chance of food poisoning by reheating of meat previously cooked.



As in previous years, much has been done to improve conditions at various centres as follows :—

- Carisbrooke County Junior School—Provision of servery/washingup room.
- Newport C.E. Girls' and Infants' School Provision of servery/washing-up room.
- Nelson Road Dining Centre—Improvements to servery and flooring and formation of staff dining room.
- Newport Secondary Grammar School Canteen—Improvements to washing-up facilities.
- Ventnor R.C. Junior School—Provision of a combined assembly hall and dining room and servery/washing-up room in co-operation with the School Managers.
- Newchurch County Junior School—Extension to form assembly/dining hall and servery.

At the St. John's House premises of Ryde C.E. Secondary Modern School, the need for dining in two sittings has been obviated as an additional room was made available for this purpose ; also a more convenient room for washing-up.

The redecoration of kitchen premises, which has great bearing on hygienic conditions, has also received consideration and the walls of two centres, East Cowes School Canteen and School of Art Canteen, Ryde, were treated with a special steam-absorbing preparation "Pyrok". It is the ultimate aim that those centres where there is the problem of excessive condensation shall be similarly treated.

In May, the annual film show and tea was held for meals service employees and Dr. D. Warren Browne gave a very interesting lecture on "Hygiene and the Meals Service".

A census of school meals taken on a normal school day in October, 1954, gave the following figures. :—

<i>Schools.</i>	<i>No. in attendance.</i>	<i>No. of meals served.</i>	<i>Percentage taking meal.</i>
Primary ...	7665	3169	41.3 (41.8)
Secondary Modern ...	4712	2645	56.3 (60.9)
Secondary Grammar and Technical ...			
Totals ...	<u>12377</u>	<u>5814</u>	<u>47.0 (48.2)</u>

### **MEDICAL INSPECTION.**

Apart from one school where an inspection due to be held in December was cancelled because the bulk of the children due for examination were absent with colds, mumps or whooping cough, all schools were visited twice for periodic medical examination during the year. In all 3,472 children were examined by the school medical officers, 245 more than in 1953.

In addition to the usual medical examinations of children in the schools, etc., the school medical officers also carry out medical examinations of entrants to training colleges for teachers. Thirty-eight of these examinations were made during the year.

### **FINDINGS AT MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.**

STATE OF NUTRITION.—Table II B shows that of the total number of children examined, 49.7 per cent (36.8 per cent) were in Group A (good), 41.1 per cent (55.6 per cent) were in Group B (fair) and 9.2 per cent (7.6 per cent) were in Group C (poor). These percentages show a big increase in the A group and small increase in the C group, the middle of B group showing consequently a big decrease. It is difficult to explain such a large variation over the preceding year except that there is no formula for deciding into which group a particular child should be included and the decision depends entirely on the personal opinion of the doctor who makes the assessment

and this opinion can be coloured by varying factors, such as the weather, the temperature (affecting both the inspector and the inspected) and the state of the liver of the inspector. There is no clear line of demarcation between the groups and on a fine warm sunny spring morning, a child, who on a cold dark November day might be classed as "fair", will probably be classed as "good".

DEFECTS.—Table I C shows the number of individual pupils found at periodic inspections who, in the opinion of the examining medical officer, required treatment for defects.

Out of the 3,472 children examined, 216 (275) had such defects, a percentage of 6.2 (8.5). Uncleanliness and dental defects are not included in this table.

Table II A shows that at all inspections (periodic, re-examination and special) 508 (558) defects requiring treatment were discovered and of these 71.4 per cent (73.1 per cent) were defects of vision, ear, throat and nose, or orthopaedic system.

UNCLEANLINESS.—As early as possible each term a school nurse visits each school to carry out cleanliness inspections. In all 33,807 (35,374) examinations were carried out, 11,426 in September and of that number 34 children or 0.3 per cent (0.6 per cent) were found to have nits. The number of clean schools was 44 out of a total of 60 schools inspected. This was six more than in 1953 and the highest number yet recorded.

During the year the school nurses paid 1,234 visits to schools, 1,341 home visits and the number of minor ailments treated was 410.

#### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREATMENT.**

No changes were made in the arrangements for treatment during the year and the waiting lists for children awaiting consultant opinion are not lengthy.

Except in the case of ear, throat and nose defects, which are not considered urgent by the Consultant concerned, the waiting time for hospital admission is short.

The number of sessions held at the Newport E.N.T. clinic during the year was 18 and the total number of attendances made by 171 children was 203. Of the 171 children who attended, 135 were new cases.

**PRINCIPAL SCHOOL CLINICS.**

**CLINIC SESSIONS HELD.**

*Name and Address of Clinic.*

**(a) Provided directly by Local Authority.**

County Hall, Newport ... ..  
 School Clinic, Nine Acres, Newport ... ..  
 62, Crocker Street, Newport ... ..  
 Methodist Church Hall, Well Street, Ryde ... ..  
 Caversham House, Dover Street, Ryde ... ..  
 Northwood House, Cowes ... ..  
 Northwood Park School, Cowes ... ..  
 Denmark Road Junior School Clinic, Cowes ... ..  
 Church Hall, Adelaide Grove, East Cowes ... ..  
 Methodist Church Hall, Station Avenue, Sandown ... ..  
 Bowls Club Pavilion, Brook Road, Shanklin ... ..  
 Arthur Webster Hospital, Shanklin ... ..  
 Church Hall, Alpine Road, Ventnor ... ..  
 Nurses' Institute, Princes Road, Freshwater ... ..  
 Newport Secondary Grammar School ... ..  
 Freshwater Secondary Modern School ... ..  
 Secondary Modern School, Sandown ... ..

<i>Minor Ailment.</i>	<i>Dental.</i>	<i>Ophthalmic.</i>	<i>Ear, Nose and Throat.</i>	<i>Orthopaedic.</i>	<i>Remedial Exercise.</i>	<i>Child Guidance.</i>	<i>Speech Therapy.</i>	<i>Heart.</i>	<i>Orthoptic.</i>
(3)	(3) + (6)	—	—	—	(3)	—	(5)	—	—
(6)	(6)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	(4)	—	—	—
(6)	—	—	—	—	(3)	—	(3)	—	—
—	(6)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	(3)	—	(3)	—	—
(6)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	(3)	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	(3)	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	(3)	—	—	—	—
(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(3)	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	(3)	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(3)	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	(3)	—	—	—	—
—	(6)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	(2)	(9)	—	—	—	(8)	—
—	—	(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(3)
—	—	(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(4)

**(b) Other Clinics provided under arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board.**

St. Mary's Hospital, Newport ... ..  
 Royal I.W. County Hospital, Ryde ... ..  
 County Hall, Newport ... ..

**Key to Table—**

(1) = Once Monthly. (2) = Twice Monthly. (3) = Once Weekly. (4) = Twice Weekly. (5) = Four Times Weekly. (6) = Permanent Clinic. (7) = Occasionally. (8) = Bi-monthly. (9) = Thrice Monthly.

**Details of work done at the Eye Clinics at Newport  
and Ryde.**

Number of children who attended	...	...	682
Number of attendances :—			
i.e. New attendances	...	...	204
Re-examinations	...	...	478
Re-examined twice during year	...	...	312
Number of children referred for :—			
Defective vision	...	...	682
Other defects	...	...	—
Results of attendances :—			
Spectacles prescribed (first time)	...	...	123
Lenses altered	...	...	129
Frames renewed	...	...	69
Already had spectacles which were suitable	...	...	185
Spectacles not required	...	...	153
Spectacles repaired	...	...	—
Vision not improved with spectacles	...	...	—
Spectacles no longer necessary	...	...	44
Other attendances for examination with or without atropine	...	...	291

N.B.—Thirty-one of the above children were referred to the Orthoptist.

Spectacles are now prescribed under the Hospital Eye Service and 312 school children received spectacles during the year. How many children were dealt with under the supplementary eye service, i.e., children taken by parents to opticians is not known.

In 14 instances, where spectacles have been broken this Authority has been asked by the Executive Council to defray the cost as in the view of that Council, carelessness in handling the spectacles was established.

**ORTHOPTIC TREATMENT.**—Clinics for children requiring orthoptic treatment are held at the County Hall and also at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, Ryde, and the following table gives a picture of the work done.

	<i>Newport Clinic.</i>	<i>Ryde Clinic.</i>
Number of cases attending regularly 1-1-1954 ... ..	108	105
Number of 'old' cases re-admitted	1	—
Number of new cases attending during 1954 ... ..	44	45
Number of cases discharged during 1954 ... ..	27	19
Number of cases attending regularly 31-12-1954 ... ..	128	129

N.B.—Two cases transferred from Ryde to Newport during 1954.

SPEECH THERAPY.—From the resignation of Miss U. Purchase in April, 1953, until the appointment of Mrs. C. Delap in February, 1954, speech therapy was in abeyance and there was another break in the service when Mrs. Delap resigned in May, 1954, for domestic reasons. This break lasted until September, when Miss N. Bailey commenced duty and since then the clinics have run normally. The following table gives details of the work done at speech therapy clinics.

Number of sessions held ... ..	223
Number of attendances of children ... ..	1323
Number of new patients seen ... ..	104
Number of children found suitable for treatment ... ..	68
Number of patients discharged ... ..	49
Number of schools visited ... ..	55
Number of homes visited ... ..	17
Number of children treated during the year ... ..	85

HEART CLINIC.—This clinic is practically moribund as all new cases are now sent by general practitioners to the Consulting Paediatrician at the Royal I.W. County Hospital and only old cases are now seen at the clinic at St. Mary's Hospital. During the year, six sessions were held and 44 attendances were made by 26 school children.

CHILD GUIDANCE.—Dr. C. Davies-Jones, the Honorary Psychiatrist and Dr. Hynes, whose services are made available through the kindness of the I.W. Group Hospital Management Committee, hold clinics twice weekly in a room at the Occupation Centre. The following report was furnished by Dr. Davies-Jones and I must express my gratitude to him for his work in an honorary capacity and also to Dr. Hynes for his assistance.

The number of new cases of children of school age referred to the Clinic was five less than in the previous year, but the number of children outside the limits of compulsory school attendance referred for the first time was two, compared with one in the previous year.

The total number of attendances was considerably less than in the previous year. This is partly accounted for by the fact that the number of children seen only once during the year was nineteen, an increase of eight over the figures for the previous year. Of these, a larger number of cases were satisfactorily dealt with in a single interview. The number of children seen more than once, but less than five times, was nineteen, and the number of those seen five times or more was nine, compared with twenty-six and fifteen respectively in these groups in the previous year.

A further reason for the reduction in the number of attendances appears to have been the large number of appointments which were not kept owing to the illness of the child or of the parent, particularly in the last quarter of the year. In nearly all instances it was not possible to substitute appointments for other children, owing to the short period of notice given.

Thanks are again due to Dr. Hynes for the help he has given from his spare time to the work of the Clinic.

The following is a statistical survey of the work of the Clinic :—



**Children of School Age.**

Total number of cases dealt with	...	45	(51)
Number of new cases dealt with	...	26	(31)
Number of old cases re-opened	...	2	(6)
Total number of attendances	...	156	(231)

**Children above or below School Age:**

	<i>Under School Age.</i>	<i>Over School Age.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Total number of cases dealt with	2 (—)	1 (1)	3 (1)
Total number of attendances	2 (—)	6 (5)	8 (5)
Number of new cases dealt with	2 (—)	(—) 1	2 (1)

**Analysis of New Cases seen at the Clinic:**

	<i>Reason for reference to Clinic.</i>	<i>*Number.</i>
(a)	Difficult behaviour at home or at school	11 (10)
(b)	Backwardness	1 (3)
(c)	Pilfering	4 (5)
(d)	Bedwetting	5 (5)
(e)	Nervousness	2 (5)
(f)	Attendance recommended by Juvenile Court	— (3)
(g)	Other Reasons	6 (5)

\*N.B.—Some children were referred for more than one reason.

It may be of interest to record that it is now over 21 years since, with the approval of the then Visiting Committee of the Mental Hospital I introduced the Clinic. Its beginnings were very small, but I think that it is possible to say that it was soon evident that it was serving a useful purpose and I trust that it can be said that it continues to live up to its aims.

As time has gone on it has become obvious that one of the most constant features leading to the development of behaviour problems has been the "Broken Home" in its

manifold manifestations. The tendency on the part of parents to feel that the main duty due to the child is the purely material one of good feeding, clothing and general care is all that is to be expected of them and that there is only a small call to give attention to the spiritual and moral aspect of the home life as an influence in shaping the character and growth of the offspring is still frequently noted.

Today we add to the pitfalls, euphemistically embraced by the term "Emancipation", the "Horror" Comic. In a recent investigation which I carried out I was very agreeably surprised to find that these publications are none too easy to obtain in the Island. At many of the shops which I visited I was quite firmly told to look elsewhere, or that they scorned to stock such trash. When the copies which I was obliged to have ordered for me arrived I found that the shop proprietor had ordered them to be kept hidden away until called for.

Once again I should like to emphasise the desirability of parents making regular allowances of pocket money to their children, and the importance of informing all adopted children of the fact of their adoption as soon as they are able to appreciate the knowledge, and before they are informed by busybodies and gossips, often with definitely harmful mental results."

### **CRIPPLING DEFECTS AND ORTHOPAEDICS.**

The Regional Hospital Board has now made available to the Island an Orthopaedic Surgeon (Mr. Smyth) all of whose sessions are for work in the Island. Consequently the children's orthopaedic clinics formerly conducted by a consultant from Alton Hospital are now served by an Island Specialist who is assisted by one of our school medical officers specially interested in orthopaedic work. Clinics are held twice monthly at St. Mary's Hospital and cases referred by general practitioners or by the school medical officers are usually seen at the next clinic following the request for appointment.

During 1954, 30 sessions were held and 330 school children and 137 pre school children were seen and made 506 attendances.

*Remedial Exercise Clinics.*

The Remedial Gymnast, Miss D. E. Hitchins, treats at the various exercise clinics, children referred by the orthopaedic surgeon or school medical officers. At the various clinics, 388 children in all made 4,849 attendances.

RESIDENTIAL ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT IN HOSPITAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES :—

	<i>Alton Hospital.</i>	<i>Other Hospitals and College.</i>
In residence on January 1st, 1954 ... ..	7	2
Admitted during 1954 ...	23	—
Discharged during 1954 ...	29	1
Remaining on December 31st, 1954 ... ..	1	1

These 23 children admitted during the year suffered from various orthopaedic defects.

*Delicate Children.*

One child handicapped by pulmonary tuberculosis was admitted to hospital during the year. One was already there when the year opened, none were discharged, leaving two in residence at the end of the year.

The total number of children from maintained schools treated in Island Hospitals from 1st January, 1954, until 31st December, 1954, is shown in the following table :—

<i>Hospital.</i>	<i>In-Patient.</i>	<i>Out-Patient.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Royal I.W. County Hospital ... ..	214	344	558
Shanklin Cottage Hospital ... ..	166	—	166
East Cowes Cottage Hospital ... ..	139	—	139
Newport St. Mary's Hospital ... ..	84	502	586
Fairlee Isolation Hospital ... ..	17	—	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	620	846	1466
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NUMBER OF EXCLUSIONS NOTIFIED BY HEAD TEACHERS EACH TERM DURING 1954  
ON ACCOUNT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

On Account of	Jan. 11th to April 14th. (13 weeks)		May 4th to July 27th (12 weeks)		Sept. 7th to Dec. 22nd (15 weeks)		TOTALS.	
	Cases	Contacts	Cases	Contacts	Cases	Contacts	Cases	Contacts
Scarlet Fever ...	18	4	4	4	10	2	32	10
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	4	—	—	—	30	10	34	10
German Measles ...	3	—	8	2	6	—	17	2
Mumps ...	42	—	22	—	205	11	269	11
Whooping Cough ...	19	—	1	2	58	3	78	5
Chicken Pox ...	107	3	89	1	120	4	316	8
Infantile Paralysis ...	—	—	—	—	3	1	3	1
Acute Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza and Influenzal Colds ...	1	—	—	—	2458	—	2459	—
Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases ...	2	—	1	—	1	—	4	—
Totals ...	196	7	125	9	2891	31	3212	47
		203		134		2922		3259

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Table on page 18 shows for various diseases the number of children reported in the weekly returns of head teachers as being absent on account of these diseases or being contacts of them.

From the Table, it will be seen that apart from a few cases of chicken pox and mumps there was very little infectious disease among the school children during the spring and summer terms of 1954.

The outbreak of a mild **influenza epidemic** in the Autumn term however and a number of cases of **mumps** made the total number of exclusions from school more than in any year since 1940 when there was a similar influenza epidemic. The total number of all exclusions was 3,259 compared with 2,812 in the previous year. Of the total, 3,212 were actual cases of infectious disease and 47 were contacts.

Influenza and influenzal colds accounted for 2,459 of the absences, i.e., 75.4 per cent and these became prevalent in a mild form in October in the Yarmouth area. The epidemic then appeared to spread to the Cowes and East Cowes area and later to Newport, Freshwater and Ryde. The cases were distributed as follows:—

	<i>October.</i>	<i>November.</i>	<i>December.</i>
Freshwater ... ..	—	—	100
Yarmouth ... ..	30	—	34
Cowes ... ..	—	159	507
Northwood ... ..	—	—	93
Whippingham ... ..	—	—	56
East Cowes ... ..	—	5	364
Gurnard ... ..	—	—	49
Rookley ... ..	—	2	—
Newport ... ..	—	—	686
Parkhurst ... ..	—	—	168
Ryde ... ..	—	—	204
Havenstreet ... ..	—	—	1

At the beginning of December, two children attending Newchurch School were admitted to hospital suffering from paralytic poliomyelitis and several others were absent with feverish colds. As influenzal colds were so prevalent at the time, it was thought advisable to close the school and this was done on December 3rd.

Two further cases of poliomyelitis developed within the next few days but these were both of the non-paralytic type. Soon after a case was notified from Shanklin but at the time of writing no further cases have occurred. One other paralytic poliomyelitis case occurred in Newport in October and after treatment in the Isolation Hospital was transferred to the Wingfield Morris Hospital in Oxford where the diagnosis was changed.

Although there were only 44 absences (34 cases and 10 contacts, the majority during the last term) notified to me of children who were suffering from **measles**, many more children were off school because of this disease as indicated by the information passed on to me by notifications received from medical practitioners. I am afraid therefore that the figures given in the table do not give a true picture of the actual facts because of the failure of the head teachers to notify me of all the absences of children on account of infectious disease. Most of the measles cases occurred in the Ryde area.

**Mumps** also accounted for 280 absences (269 cases and 11 contacts). This disease was prevalent in the last three months of the Autumn term. Most of the cases occurred in the Ventnor and Niton areas although there were several cases also in Cowes and a few scattered cases in Newport, Sandown, Freshwater and Godshell.

**Chickenpox**, which caused 324 absences (316 cases and 8 contacts) occurred over the whole year. Cases first appeared in the Sandown area in January and later in March, April, June and July spread to Cowes, Ventnor Shanklin and Newport respectively. In October, 13 cases occurred in Wootton and in November 20 were

notified from East Cowes and 29 from Shalfleet. Seventeen other cases occurred in the latter district in December.

**Whooping Cough** was also prevalent in the last term of the year when 61 absences were notified out of a total of 83 for the whole year. Apart from isolated cases scattered in Parkhurst, East Cowes, Newport and Ventnor, a few more cases were notified from Cowes, Arreton, Wroxall, Ryde and Totland ; the majority since October.

**Scarlet Fever** accounted for 42 absences (32 cases, 10 contacts) compared with 67 the previous year and the disease was spread over the whole year but half of the cases occurred in the first term. Twenty of the absences occurred in Newport.

There were 19 absences on account of **german measles** ; isolated cases occurring in the Freshwater, Sandown, Newport, Ryde and Shalfleet districts.

The four other diseases included one impetigo case and three ringworm cases.

The Table on page 18 is of course not a complete record of all the infectious diseases occurring in school children but is simply a record of the exclusions from school notified on the weekly returns from the head teachers. It does not include notifications of children suffering from tuberculosis made to the district medical officers of health. During the year, medical practitioners notified 16 of these cases occurring in children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. Six of these children were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and ten from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. All of these cases would be automatically investigated by the medical officer of health for the district in which the child lived.

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

### **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

All children on entry to the primary schools are invited to be immunised against diphtheria. To those



who have not previously been immunised, a full protective course is offered and to those who have had a protective course in infancy, one further boosting dose is offered.

The number of school children receiving full immunisation for the first time during the year totalled 173 and the number receiving only "booster doses", 730.

In addition, the medical practitioners gave full immunisation to 16 children and "booster" doses to 91.

### **Vaccination against Tuberculosis.**

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis commenced in the Secondary Schools towards the end of the year and three schools, one in Newport, one in Ryde and one in Ventnor, were completed except for a few children who were absent when the initial tests were made.

Two hundred and seventy-five children in the age group 13+ were tested and of these 151 or 54.9 per cent were non reactors and received vaccination.

It is of interest to note that there is only a small difference in the percentage of children attending the Newport and Ryde Schools who required vaccination, whilst in Ventnor 31 per cent (or less than half of the Newport percentage) were non reactors. In Newport the public have had the advantage over a longer period of both tuberculin tested and heat treated milk than have the Ventnor public and for many years all the Newport schools have been supplied with heat treated milk under the milk in schools scheme.

Judged therefore by the result of tuberculin tests it would appear that in areas where children have been nourished on heat treated milk a larger proportion of them show no evidence of past tubercular infection than in areas where heat treated milk has not been available over such a long period.

The following Table shows the results in the three schools :—

RESULTS OF CHILDREN EXAMINED IN CONNECTION WITH B.C.G. SCHEME.

	<i>Actual No. Tested</i>	<i>Absent at Reading of Test</i>	<i>No. found with Positive Reaction</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No. found with Negative Reaction</i>	<i>%</i>
Priory Secondary Modern Girls' Newport ...	99	—	36	36.4	63	63.6
Ryde Secondary Modern	93	6	30	34.5	57	65.5
Ventnor Secondary Modern ...	83	4	48	60.8	31	39.2

DENTAL TREATMENT.—Mr. G. Simons, L.D.S., submits the following report :—

“There have been further staff changes during the year. Mr. Maden was appointed as Dental Officer in the Newport Area in April, but Mr. Allen resigned in September. We were fortunate in securing the services as locum tenens of Mr. J. E. Kenny from September until the end of November when Mr. A. E. Hurford, who had been appointed to the Cowes and West Wight area, was able to take up his duties. There is now, therefore, a full establishment of Dental Officers.

The pupils of nearly all the schools on the Island have received a dental inspection and, provided that a full staff is maintained, it is hoped to lessen the intervals between routine examinations.

A total of 11,449 children were inspected, an increase of over 2,000 on the previous year. Of these children, 6,706 were found to require treatment and 4,087 were actually treated.

In practically all cases, all treatment considered necessary for dental fitness has been carried out including some minor oral surgery and the supply of dentures. The great aim has been the conservation of the teeth and the number of permanent teeth removed totalled only 776. Of this small number, 193 were removed for regulation purposes.

In addition a number of orthodontic cases have been undertaken.

A marked deterioration of the teeth, particularly of new entrants to the schools, has been noticed by all the Dental Officers. This experience appears to be common to the whole of Great Britain and must be due, in a major degree, to the increased consumption of sugar confectionery.

In addition to the normal routine work, some meetings of Parent-Teachers' Associations have been addressed on dental matters.

I should like to conclude by thanking the Dental Officers and Attendants for their hard work and also the Head Teachers and their secretaries for their co-operation, without which the work of the School Dental Service would become much more difficult."

### **EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.**

**HANDICAPPED PUPILS.**—During the year, four children were admitted to special schools, two deaf and one maladjusted and one epileptic. In addition, this County Education Authority accepted financial responsibility for one other deaf child who was already in a special school on the mainland and whose parents came to reside on the Island during the year. Two blind persons were also admitted to Special Institutions for training.

Four children are on the waiting lists for admission ; one deaf with loss of speech, one maladjusted and two spastic.

**DEAF CHILDREN.**—At the end of the year, there were seven deaf or partially deaf children in special schools, three at the West of England Institution for the Deaf at Exeter, two at the Royal School for the Deaf at Margate, one at the Tewin Water School, Hertfordshire, and one at the Nutfield Priory Boarding School, near Redhill, Surrey.

**BLIND AND PARTIALLY BLIND CHILDREN.**—At the end of 1954, one blind child was still in a special school, i.e., at the Royal School of Industry for the Blind, Bristol.

The girl who left the Condoover Hall, Shrewsbury, in 1953, was admitted in January, 1954, to the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind for training in the Technical Department. She is making progress in varied handicrafts.

The other lad, mentioned in last year's report, was not accepted as a trainee to become a telephone switch-board operator but instead has been admitted to the Royal School for the Blind at Leatherhead, Surrey, to be trained in brush making.

One girl who was sent on leaving school to the America Lodge, Torquay, for rehabilitation and training in secretarial work in November, 1953, was transferred on the 26th April, 1954, to the National Institute Training College for the Blind in London for a period of one year's training in shorthand/typewriting.

EDUCATIONALLY SUB-NORMAL CHILDREN.— During the year the three school medical officers qualified to do so, ascertained the intelligence quotient of 65 children. Of these, 39 had I.Q's of over 80 and 26 under 80. All of these latter were reported to the Education Welfare Sub-Committee.

Three new special classes were opened during the year. One at Fairy Court, Shanklin, for children over 11 years of age, in April, and two others in September; one at Ventnor C.E. Junior and one at Gatten and Lake County Junior, for the education of educationally sub-normal children under the age of eleven years. This makes a total of six special classes in existence at the end of the year and the total number of children in attendance was 79 (56 boys and 23 girls). It is planned that a special class for children under eleven will be opened at the Freshwater C.E. Junior School at the beginning of 1955.

At the end of 1954, there were two children, both boys in special residential schools; one at the Staple Hill House School, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, and the other at the Beacon School, Lichfield.

The other children mentioned in last year's report as resident in special schools at the end of 1953 attained school leaving age and left during the year with one exception of the girl at the Sheiling Curative School, Ringwood, who was removed and sent to a Mental Defective Colony.

Three maladjusted children were in special schools on the mainland at the end of the year; one at Thornbury House, Bristol, one at the Nazeing Park School, Essex, and one at the Redhill School, East Sutton, near Maidstone, Kent.

Seven children, five boys and two girls were notified during the year ended 31st December, 1954, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Health Authority under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act, 1944, and 9 (six boys, three girls) were referred under Section 57 (5) for supervision on leaving school.

#### **OTHER EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.**

**EPILEPSY.**—Two epileptic children were in Lingfield Epileptic Colony at the end of the year (one boy and one girl) and in addition 15 other children of school age are known to be suffering from epilepsy (eight major and seven minor).

**OTHER.**—Six children were absent at the end of the year having been exempted from school for short periods ; two suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, one because of an asthmatic condition, one with a congenital heart disability, one suffering from cerebral diplegia and one deaf child. (The latter case is having tuition at home by mother.)

Notification has also been received of two sisters reported to have abdominal tuberculosis who have recently come to the Island with their parents. They were not in attendance at any school at the end of the year.

**TABLE I.**  
**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING**  
**MAINTAINED PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

A. PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :—

Entrants ... ..	1414
Second Age Group ... ..	1095
Third Age Group ... ..	877
Total ... ..	3386
Number of other Periodic Inspections ... ..	86
Grand Total ... ..	3472

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections ... ..	803
Number of Re-inspections ... ..	1354
Total ... ..	2157

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

*Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical  
Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases  
and Infestation with Vermin).*

Group. (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint). (2)	For any of the con- ditions recorded in Table II A. (3)	Total Individual Pupils. (4)
Entrants ... ..	8	91	100
Second Age Group ... ..	26	36	62
Third Age Group ... ..	32	26	54
Total (Prescribed Groups)	66	153	216
Other Periodic Inspections	—	—	—
Grand Total ... ..	66	153	216

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of defects		No. of defects	
		Requir- ing treat- ment	Requir- ing to be kept under observa- tion, but not re- quiring treat- ment	Requir- ing treat- ment	Requir- ing to be kept under observa- tion, but not re- quiring treat- ment
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4.	Skin ... ..	3	6	28	7
5.	Eyes—				
	a. Vision ...	66	1	69	14
	b. Squint ...	6	5	5	1
	c. Other ...	7	2	12	3
6.	Ears—				
	a. Hearing	6	1	3	2
	b. Otitis Media	—	—	1	2
	c. Other ...	2	2	6	2
7.	Nose or Throat ...	59	30	38	17
8.	Speech ... ..	5	10	9	1
9.	Cervical Glands ...	5	4	1	5
10.	Heart and Circulation	3	6	1	—
11.	Lungs ... ..	2	6	14	6
12.	Developmental—				
	a. Hernia ...	1	1	—	—
	b. Other ...	2	4	1	—
13.	Orthopaedic—				
	a. Posture	11	2	7	—
	b. Flat foot	23	3	13	2
	c. Other ...	18	15	11	8
14.	Nervous system—				
	a. Epilepsy	—	—	—	—
	b. Other ...	—	2	—	—
15.	Psychological ...				
	a. Development	3	2	2	5
	b. Stability	1	1	—	—
16.	*Other ... ..	10	33	54	45

\*Excluding uncleanliness and dental diseases.



**TABLE II continued.**

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL  
CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING  
THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS.

Age-groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ...	1414	797	56.4	495	35.0	122	8.6
Second Age-group	1095	481	43.9	478	43.7	136	12.4
Third Age-group	877	409	46.7	410	46.7	58	6.6
Other Periodic Inspections	86	40	46.5	44	51.2	2	2.3
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>3472</b>	<b>1727</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>1427</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>9.2</b>

TABLE III.  
INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

(i)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons ... ..	33,807
(ii)	Total number of individual children found infested ... ..	86
(iii)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944)	—
(iv)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	None
(v)	Average number of visits per School made during the year by the School Nurses ...	8.9

**TABLE IV.**  
**Treatment Tables.**

*Group I.—Diseases of the Skin (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table III).*

(a)	<i>Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year.</i>	
	<i>By the Authority.</i>	<i>Otherwise.</i>
SKIN—		
Ringworm—Scalp—		
(i) X-Ray treatment	—	—
(ii) Other treatment	2	—
Ringworm—Body ...	—	—
Scabies ... ..	—	—
Impetigo ... ..	25	—
Other skin diseases ...	49	6
Total ...	76	6

(b)

Total number of attendances at Authority's  
minor ailments clinics ... .. 314

**TABLE IV.—continued.**

*Group II.—Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.*

	<i>Number of cases dealt with.</i>		
	<i>By the Authority.</i>	<i>Otherwise.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
External and other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding errors of refraction and squint) ... ..	40	8	48
Errors of Refraction (including squint) ... ..	—	697	697
Total ... ..	40	705	745
Number of Pupils for whom spectacles were:			
(a) Prescribed ... ..	—	312	312
(b) Obtained ... ..	—	312	312

*Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat.*

		<i>Number of cases treated.</i>	
		<i>By the Authority.</i>	<i>Otherwise.</i>
Received operative treatment—			
(a)	for diseases of the ear	—	6
(b)	for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	—	348
(c)	for other nose and throat conditions	—	15
Received other forms of treatment		51	254
Total		51	623

*Group IV.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.*

		<i>Number of cases treated.</i>	
		<i>By the Authority.</i>	<i>Otherwise.</i>
(a)	Number treated as in-patients in hospitals	51	
(b)	Number treated otherwise, e.g., in clinics or out-patient departments	402	331

		<i>Number of cases treated.</i>	
		<i>In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics.</i>	<i>Elsewhere.</i>
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics		45	—

*Group VI.—Speech Therapy.*

		<i>Number of cases treated.</i>	
		<i>By the Authority.</i>	<i>Otherwise.</i>
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapist		85	—

*Group VII.—Other Treatment given.*

		<i>Number of cases treated.</i>	
		<i>By the Authority.</i>	<i>Otherwise.</i>
(a)	Miscellaneous minor ailments	337	246
(b)	Others	—	26
		337	272

**TABLE V.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT**

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers.				
(a) Periodic Age Groups	...	...	...	10686
(b) Specials	...	...	...	763
(c) TOTAL (Periodics and Specials)	...	...	...	<u>11449</u>
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	6706
(3) Number referred for treatment	...	...	...	6687
(4) Number actually treated	...	...	...	4087
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	...	...	6888
(6) Half-days devoted to :—				
(a) Inspection	...	92		
(b) Treatment	...	1261		
TOTAL	...	<u>1353</u>		
(7) Fillings :—				
Permanent Teeth		4180		
Temporary Teeth		1477		
TOTAL	...	<u>5657</u>		
(8) Number of teeth filled :—				
Permanent Teeth		3662		
Temporary Teeth		1441		
TOTAL	...	<u>5103</u>		
(9) Extractions :—				
Permanent Teeth	...	776		
Temporary Teeth	...	3382		
TOTAL	...	<u>4158</u>		
(10) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	...	2		
(11) Other Operations :—				
Permanent Teeth	...	1037		
Temporary Teeth	...	1294		
TOTAL	...	<u>2331</u>		