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Maidenhead
Education Committee.



MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL
CHILDREN.



ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF
School Medical Officer
1918.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
MAIDENHEAD EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

As School Medical Officer I beg to present to you the 11th Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1918. For the reasons mentioned in the previous year's report, as well as for economy in printing, only the Tables specified by the Board of Education are inserted, and the general account of the year's work is confined to a description of the more outstanding features.

The total number of children who have been medically inspected in the course of the year is 775, of these, 489 were examined at School under the Code Groups of "Entrants," "Intermediates" or "Leavers." There were also 32 special cases and 177 examinations of children previously inspected at School. The Children seen at the Inspection Clinic at the Town Hall numbered 254.

The number of children inspected in Code Groups is much less than that recorded in previous years. At the time of the second round of inspection, a large number of children were absent on account of illness, and practically all the Infants' Departments were closed; so that a large number of scholars missed the first inspection at the proper time. During the intervening periods when the Schools were open, it was not found possible to arrange for medical inspection

without great inconvenience and dislocation of school work. Most, if not all of the children missed, however, will be picked up in the course of the first round of inspection in 1919. On the other hand, the number of children treated at the Inspection Clinic for minor ailments, has increased very largely, in spite of the fact that, during the latter part of the year, the facilities for their treatment were very meagre, owing to the alteration, etc., of the Clinic premises. The total number of attendances registered at all the Clinics during the year amounted to 1,908, which is between three and four times the number recorded in the previous year. The Dental Clinic was opened on the 1st October, but unfortunately, owing to a number of adverse circumstances, such as the alteration of premises, difficulty of obtaining the necessary instruments and appliances, and the fact that the School Medical Service was frequently interrupted by the closure of Schools, the Clinic was temporarily abandoned after three Meetings.

Much the same applies to the Eye Clinic, which was started on the 3rd June, and which was suspended after five Meetings.

The number of children treated at the Dental Clinic on the occasions it was open was 35, and at the Eye Clinic 44, while at the Inspection Clinic, 238 children received treatment for minor ailments. Since the beginning of the present year, the premises and equipment for these Clinics have been in full working order, and every effort is being made to overtake the arrears of 1918. As mentioned in a previous report, a considerable number of cases requiring surgical treatment, such as removal of tonsils and adenoids, discharging ears, deformities, etc., are referred for treatment to the Ray Mead Children's Hospital, which has continued to give much valuable help in this connection.

With regard to clothing and footwear, the condition of Maidenhead School Children may be considered satisfactory on the whole, although in about a dozen cases, owing either to poverty or neglect, these articles of dress were so deficient or dilapidated, as to cause physical suffering to the child. These

cases were referred to Local Charities, generally the Mayor's Fund, and a satisfactory improvement of the condition was speedily obtained.

As heretofore, the Mayor's Fund has always been appealed to to provide a supply of milk for children suffering from malnutrition, or in a low state of health. The milk, a pint a day, is sent to the School where the scholar attends, and is given out during the play intervals under the supervision of the Teacher. The improvement in the children's condition in the majority of cases, has been distinctly gratifying.

Lack of personal cleanliness and hygienic defects do not now bulk so largely in the statistics as they did in former years, but this is partly due to the fact that habitual offenders are specially cleaned up for the routine inspections, for which the parents have good warning. The presence of nits in the hair, especially amongst girls, is still all too prevalent, although there is a marked improvement as compared with say 5 or 6 years ago. Many of the worst cases are taken in hand by the School Nurse, and have been treated either at home under her supervision, or at the Inspection Clinic. In this connection the good effect of several years labour, backed up as it has been by the Teachers, is plainly to be seen among the girls in the upper Standards at School, for it is now comparatively rare to see among them a head that can be described as verminous.

During the year under review the School Nurse, Miss Impey, paid eleven surprise visits to various Schools for the purpose of enquiring into the personal cleanliness of the scholars. In the course of these visits, she examined 1,183 children, and as a result, 26 official notices were sent to the worst cases, and 23 to those where verbal intimations previously had been of no avail. At the direction of the School Medical Officer, the School Nurse paid, in addition, 14 visits to Schools for enquiries other than in regard to cleanliness, chiefly for "following up" purposes, in the course of which, 916 scholars were dealt with and these in turn necessitated 156

visits to homes. She was also present assisting at routine medical inspections on 23 occasions, to which must be added 43 visits for purposes incidental to medical inspection *e.g.* arranging dates and times of inspection, weighing and measuring examinees, etc.

The number of scholars excluded from School by the School Medical Officer (apart from those in contact with infectious disease) and the nature of the ailment causing exclusion is shown in the following list:

<i>Cause of Exclusion.</i>	<i>No. of cases excluded.</i>
Abscesses.	1
Blepharitis.	2
Corneal Ulcers.	3
Chorea.	1
Conjunctivitis.	5
Chicken Pox.	2
Chronic Bronchitis.	2
Debility.	5
Discharging ears.	2
Eczema.	2
Fits.	1
Gastritis.	1
Herpes.	1
Impetigo.	34
Mumps.	2
Phthisis.	1
Ringworm.	12
Rheumatism.	1
Scabies.	46
Septic throat.	1
Sores.	5
Sinus discharging.	1
Tuberculosis.	2
Verminous Condition.	30
Whooping Cough.	3
<hr/>	
Total number of cases excluded. -	166

The illnesses affecting School attendance month by month as recorded by the School Attendance Officer, Miss Glover, are as follows:

JanuaryColds and Coughs.
 FebruaryColds.
 MarchMeasles and Influenza.
 AprilMumps, Measles, Chicken Pox, and Whooping Cough.

MayWhooping cough and severe colds.
JuneMeasles and Whooping Cough.
JulyInfluenza.
August(Schools closed for Holidays).
SeptemberInfluenza.
OctoberInfluenza and Measles.
NovemberInfluenza.
DecemberMany suffering from after effects of Influenza.

Severe colds and influenza were particularly prevalent in the period between the Summer Holidays and Christmas Holidays, in many cases especially in Infant Departments, the attendance, partly because of actual illness and partly because parents feared to risk infection by sending the children to School was reduced to about half.

As a matter of interest, a brief account may be given here of what was known locally at the time as the "Locust Bean" epidemic, which occurred amongst School children in the beginning of February. From a number of sources, information was given that children were sick after eating locust beans, then being sold as a War substitute for sweets. Enquiry was made at all the Schools by the School Medical Officer and School Nurse and from the records compiled, it appeared that out of 595 scholars who admitted eating the beans, 91 had been actually sick or felt sick within 24 hours, while a number had vomited the beans shortly after eating them. Over a hundred-weight of this "Cattle food" was voluntarily surrendered at the request of the Acting Sanitary Inspector at various shops in the Town. The facts were communicated to the Local Government Board, and an Inspector was sent down to investigate. The beans were traced to their source in a London Warehouse, but except for the fact that they were old, very dirty, and had an unpleasant smell in bulk, nothing further eventuated. Needless to say, their popularity here as a substitute for sweets promptly declined and is not likely to revive.

The particulars relating to the periods of School Closure are as follows :—

<i>Name of School.</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Cause.</i>
Church of England.....Boys	5-7-18	15-7-18	Influenza
" " "	24-10-18	18-11-18	"
" " Girls	5-7-18	15-7-18	"
" " "	24-10-18	2-12-18	"
" " Infants	12-3-18	28-3-18	Chicken Pox
" " "	5-7-18	22-7-18	Influenza
" " "	23-10-18	18-12-18	"
Boyn HillBoys	22-10-18	8-11-18	"
" Girls	18-10-18	8-11-18	"
Albert Street.....Infants	18-10-18	18-12-18	"
BrayGirls	21-10-18	18-11-18	"
St. Mary's R.C.....Mixed	5-7-18	15-7-18	"
" " "	24-10-18	18-11-18	"
" " Infants	5-7-18	22-7-18	"
" " "	8-10-18	20-12-18	" & Measles
CouncilBoys	22-10-18	15-11-18	Influenza
" Girls	21-10-18	8-11-18	"
" "	13-11-18	15-11-18	"
" Infants	21-10-18	8-11-18	"
" "	13-11-18	18-12-18	"

It remains to be added that, at the time of writing this report, the Dental, Eye, and Minor Ailment Clinics are now in full working order, and also that a bath room is being installed in connection with the Minor Ailment Clinic for the more effectual treatment of cases of scabies and pediculosis, the former disorder having become unusually prevalent of late.

I am,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

James J. Paterson.

School Medical Officer.

Guildhall,
Maidenhead.
April, 1919.



APPENDIX.



Borough of Maidenhead:

Table I. Number of Children Inspected.

1st January, 1918, to 31st December, 1918.

A. "Code" Groups:

Entrants.

	Under Age.—5 years	5 years	6 years	Other ages	Total
Boys ...	Nil.	51	4	Nil.	55
Girls ...	Nil.	47	2	Nil.	49
Totals	Nil.	98	6	Nil.	104

Intermediate Group. Leavers.

	Age—8 years	12 years	Other Ages	Total	Grand Total
Boys ...	105	74	Nil.	179	234
Girls ...	100	106	Nil.	206	255
Totals	205	180	Nil.	385	489

B. Groups other than "Code."

Intermediate Group.

		Special cases examined.		Re-examin- ations.
		at School	at Clinic	
Boys ...	1 at 10 yrs.	10	123	98
Girls ...	1 at 11 yrs.	22	131	79
Totals	3	32	254	177

Borough of Maidenhead.

TABLE II. Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1918.

Defects or Disease. (1)	Code Groups.		Specials.	
	Number referred for treatment. (2)	Number required to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment. (3)	Number referred for treatment. (4)	Number required to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment. (5)
Malnutrition	12 (a)	78 (b)	5 (a)	3 (b)
Skin	11 (c)	148 (d)	17 (c)	9 (d)
	12 (e)	7 (f)	8 (e)	1 (f)
	—	—	11	—
	—	—	4	5
	—	—	24	5
	5	2	18	11
2 (g)	1	13	11	
Eye	28	70 (h)	32	—
	3 (i)	8	8	2
Ear	2 (j)	13 (k)	3 (j)	2 (k)
	3 (l)	1	15	—
Teeth	35 (m)	196 (n)	28 (m)	1
	20 (o)	87 (p)	8 (o)	4 (p)
Nose and Throat	6 (o)	10 (p)	2	2
	4 (q)	10	1	—
	2 (t)	18 (s)	—	—
	—	—	—	—

Heart and Circulation	{ Heart Disease. Organic.....	1	2	1	—
	{ Functional	—	2	—	—
Lungs	{ Anaemia	1	1	5	—
	{ Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Definite)	3	—	2	2
	{ " " (Suspected)	2	2	2	—
	{ Chronic Bronchitis	1	8	—	2
Nervous System	{ Other Diseases	—	—	1	—
	{ Epilepsy	—	—	1	1
	{ Chorea.....	—	1 (t)	—	—
	{ Other Diseases	—	—	—	1 (u)
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis-Glands	Bones and Joints	1	—	—	—
	Other Forms	—	—	1	—
	Rickets	1	—	—	—
Deformities	Other Diseases.....	—	3	—	—
	Other Diseases or Defects	2 (w)	5 (v)	—	1 (v)
	Totals.....	157	777	219	72

- (a) Nutrition poor or much below average.
 (b) Nutrition below average but not requiring special treatment.
 (c) Live vermin present.
 (d) Nits only found.
 (e) Vermin present on body or clothing.
 (f) Dirty but not verminous.
 (g) Abscesses, Eczema, Seborrhoea, Chilblains, etc.
 (h) Minor degrees of defective vision or wearing glasses.
 (i) Blepharitis, Conjunctivitis, Corneal Ulcer.
 (j) Whisper heard at less than half distance with each ear.
 (k) Occasional deafness and minor degrees of deafness in one ear.

- (l) Discharge in one or both ears.
 (m) Decayed teeth with abscesses.
 (n) Four or more decayed teeth or irregular dentition
 (o) Operation considered advisable.
 (p) Not at present requiring operative treatment.
 (q) Other than adenoids, e.g. deflected septum, enlarged turbinates, etc.
 (r) Due to cleft palate.
 (s) Lisp, stammer, stutter, etc.
 (t) Doubtful case.
 (u) Fainting.
 (v) Deformed leg, depressed sternum, pigeon chest.
 (w) Enlarged thyroid, enuresis, rheumatism, etc.

Borough of Maldenhead.

Table III. Numerical Returns of all Exceptional Children in the area in 1918.

		Boys. Girls. Totals			
Blind (Including partially blind).	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	2	3	
	Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	—	2	2	
	Not at School	—	—	—	
Deaf and Dumb (Including partially deaf).	Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—	
	Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	2	—	2	
	Not at School	1	—	1	
Mentally Deficient.	Feeble Minded.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	3	4
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	—	—	—
		Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year	3	—	3
		Not at School	1	1	2
	Imbeciles.	At School	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	—	—
	Idiots.		—	2	2
Epileptics	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	—	1	
	Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics	—	—	—	
	Not at School	1	—	1	

Table III. (continued).

		Boys. Girls. Totals			
Physically Defective.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	3	5	8
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	3	3
	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	6	2	8
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
		Not at School	2	4	6
	Cripples other than Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	3	2	5
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	—	—
Dull or Backward	Retarded 2 years	not	reco	ded.	
	Retarded 3 years	9	6	15	
In Certified Industrial Schools		3	—	3	
Totals		37	32	69	

Borough of Maidenhead.

Table IV. Treatment of Defects of Children during 1918.

Condition.	Number of Defects found for which treatment was considered necessary.		Number of Defects for which no report is available.	Number of Defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			Number of Defects not treated.	Per-centage of Defects treated.	
	From pre-vious year.	New.			Total.	Rem-edied.	Im-proved.			Un-changed.
Clothing	1	7	8	8	—	—	—	—	100%	
Footwear	—	4	4	4	—	—	—	—	100%	
Cleanliness of Head	6	28	34	30	4	14	—	—	100%	
" Body	1	30	31	19	12	11	—	—	100%	
Nutrition	—	18	18	18	—	18	—	—	100%	
Nose and throat	5	40	45	22	4	4	6	19	54%	
External eye disease	7	11	18	18	—	2	—	1	94%	
Ear disease	3	18	21	18	3	10	3	—	100%	
Teeth	5	63	68	25	13	—	—	30	45%	
Heart and circulation	—	2	2	2	—	—	2	—	100%	
Lungs	—	10	10	10	—	8	2	—	100%	
Nervous system	1	2	3	3	—	—	3	—	100%	
Skin	10	62	72	64	8	10	—	—	100%	
Rickets	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	Nil	
Deformities	2	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	100%	
Tuberculosis non-pulmonary	1	2	3	3	—	—	—	—	100%	
Speech	2	2	4	—	2	—	—	2	Nil	
Mental condition	2	3	5	—	—	—	—	3	40%	
Vision and squint	28	60	88	61	2	5	5	25	41%	
Hearing	—	5	5	1	—	1	—	4	20%	
Miscellaneous	2	36	38	38	—	14	—	—	100%	
Totals	76	404	480	348	48	101	24	85	72%	

Borough of Maidenhead.

Table V. Inspection, Treatment, Etc., of
Children during 1918.

1. The total number of children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child).	775
2. The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footwear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment).	376
3. The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment, (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	226
4. The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	172

Table V. Inpatient Treatment of Children during 1938

1	The total number of children actually inspected (whether Code Cross, special or all-day child)	175
2	The number of children in (1) who were detected (other than noncompliance or defective clothing or footwear) who require to be kept under observation (not referred for treatment)	370
3	The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding unobtainable defective clothing, etc.)	400
4	The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding unobtainable defective clothing, etc.)	175