[Report 1916] / School Medical Officer of Health, Nelson Borough.

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Borough of Nelson.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer,

FOR 1916.

A. P. MILLAR, M.D.,

School Medical Officer.

Nelson:

Coulton & Co., Ltd., Printers, Publishers, &c.

1917.

NELSON,
FEBRUARY, 1917.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with pleasure that I present you with my ninth Annual Report on the Medical Inspection of School Children for the year ending 31st December, 1916, with which is included the fourth Annual Report of the work done at the School Clinic and the third Annual Report of the School Dentist.

In scope, extent, and quantity, the total work carried out by the School Medical Staff has been the largest since school medical work was inaugurated. The three Routine Inspections asked for by the Board of Education have been completed; the School Dentist has inspected and treated children of 6, 7, and 8 years of age; and in addition a surprise visit has been paid by your School Nurses to all the schools for the purpose of inspecting the cleanliness of the children. These surprise visits have enabled your staff to find out the extent of uncleanliness of the heads of children attending school and to get the worst cases to the School Clinic for treatment, but it has not been possible to follow up most of those cases of lesser severity as the Nurses' time was fully occupied by more important work. To follow up these cases would necessitate the appointment of another Nurse. To carry out the Dental work as originally intended, your Committee, for next year, arranged for the services of the School Dentist for another half-day per week to inspect and treat the children of 9 years of age.

Unfortunately it has been necessary at different times during the year to temporarily appoint three different Nurses to do the work of one of the Nurses who was absent from her duties for long periods due to sickness. This has caused the rest of the staff to work temporarily under difficulties, and it reflects greatly to their credit that the work has been so well done.

ORGANISATION OF WORK.

The organisation of the work in Medical Inspection, in Dental Inspection, and in the School Clinic has been the same as last year, and for an account of this part of our work I must refer you to previous reports.

Infectious Diseases in the Schools.

In the middle of February it was noticed that measles was about to become epidemic in the town. Bradshaw Street Infants' Department was first attacked, and soon after it was observed to have broken out in the infants' departments of Bradley and Leeds Road Schools. From them it spread to all the other schools until it finally disappeared during the summer vacation in July. To mitigate the extent of the disease the infants' departments of the following schools were closed at different times:—

Bradshaw Street School from 29th Feb. till 18th March (inclusive)
Bradley School from 29th Feb. till 18th March (inclusive)
Leeds Road School from 13th March to 18th March (inclusive)
Walverden School from 11th April, opened after Easter Holidays, (April 21—30).
Carr Road School from 11th April, opened after Easter Holidays, (April 21—30).
Great Marsden School from 19th June, opened after Summer Holidays (July 1—29).

The extent of the epidemic in the different schools is shown in the following table:—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Bradley.....	...	17	34	13	28	9	...	1	...	...	...	1	103
Bradshaw St....	1	23	36	16	12	17	4	...	...	...	...	...	109
Lomeshaye.....	...	...	2	19	16	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	39
Walverden.....	2	...	11	73	24	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	115
Whitefield.....	...	...	6	12	16	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	36
Carr Road.....	...	...	17	21	4	8	2	...	...	...	...	...	52
Great Marsden...	1	1	1	1	11	58	2	...	...	...	...	...	75
Leeds Road.....	...	3	17	4	9	17	1	...	...	...	...	...	51
Little Marsden...	...	...	...	...	4	19	1	...	...	...	...	...	24
St. Joseph's.....	...	1	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Holy Saviour.....	...	...	...	3	22	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	30
St. George's.....	...	1	1	3	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Totals.....	4	46	125	169	165	135	16	2	...	...	...	1	663

A number of cases of scarlet fever were noticed in Whitefield School in November and December. A visit was paid to both departments, and in the infants' department it was noticed that most of the cases had occurred in one class. Closure was not considered necessary and the disease has now disappeared.

Medical Inspection.

All the Elementary Schools were inspected and all infants entering (entrants), all children of 8 years of age (intermediates), and all children leaving school (leavers), were inspected. 70 visits were paid to the various schools and 1,986 children were inspected. They were made up of 687 entrants—328 boys and 359 girls; 605 intermediates—291 boys and 314 girls; 694 leavers—346 boys and 348 girls. The number of parents present was 582, or 30% of the children inspected.

The numbers were 359 with entrants, 128 with intermediates, and 95 with leavers. The diminution of the number of parents present is due to many of them being engaged at work.

Children who showed marked defects at the last inspection were asked for and inspected, and a number of children, whose condition was unsatisfactory were presented by the Head Teachers. These were also inspected and when necessary their parents were communicated with. No record was kept of their number.

The following Anthropometric Table has been compiled from the measurements of the children taken by the teachers. Each parent was supplied with the measurements of his children on the physical schedule.

Anthropometric Table.

Age	BOYS					GIRLS				
	Number	Average Height		Average Weight		Number	Average Height		Average Weight	
		Inches	Centi-metres	lbs.	Kilos		Inches	Centi-metres	lbs.	Kilos
3	58	36·94	93·82	33·65	15·29	42	36·5	92·71	34·	15·47
4	181	39·41	100·09	37·31	16·97	196	39·42	100·12	36·38	16·53
5	311	42·71	108·48	41·31	18·77	303	41·61	106·48	39·57	17·98
6	284	43·66	110·89	45·14	20·51	277	43·48	110·43	43·09	19·58
7	323	45·92	116·63	49·01	22·27	300	44·58	113·23	46·90	21·31
8	339	47·36	120·29	52·98	24·08	324	47·03	119·45	52·93	24·05
9	350	49·52	125·78	58·56	26·61	336	48·96	124·35	55·19	25·08
10	318	51·85	141·69	63·59	28·90	338	50·99	135·91	59·38	26·99
11	343	52·39	133·07	67·09	30·49	347	53·01	134·64	66·14	30·06
12	333	54·73	139·01	73·77	33·53	300	55·22	140·25	73·32	33·32
13	51	56·21	142·77	79·16	35·98	61	56·88	144·47	80·53	36·6
14	1	61	154·94	104	47·27	2	57·75	146·68	91·75	41·7

Nutrition.

The figures representing the condition of badly nourished children show that 0·9% come under that heading. It is practically the same as last year.

Clothing and Footwear.

The clothing and footwear of the children is as a rule satisfactory. The results of the inspection show that only 0·9% had unsatisfactory clothing and 0·5% unsatisfactory footwear. Careful enquiry was made to find out whether any difference had been caused by the war. All the Head Teachers except one said the war had made no difference. The one exception, whose school was inspected in November, said that there was a slight difference, that the clothing was not as elaborate and not quite as well looked after, chiefly in the homes where the parents had temporarily returned to work. The Nurses in their visits to the schools could not, except in a few cases, find anything wrong with the clothing and footwear.

Cleanliness.—Heads.

The slow but gradual improvement noticeable in the cleanliness of the children's heads still continues, and as year after year goes by the standard of inspection is being gradually raised . The Medical Inspector does not as often hear the remark that nits are the necessary accompaniment of good health as used frequently to be the case in the early days of school inspection. It was found necessary to hand over 50 children (2·1%) to the School Nurses, whose parents were visited and instructed and the child kept under observation till it became a clean and useful member of the class.

Cleanliness.—Body.

It is well known that the standard seen at the time of Medical Inspection is not a true index of the usual condition of the children, for the notice to the parents acts as a warning and the children are always prepared for the inspection. 1·2% of the children's bodies showed old-standing flea bites indicating that thorough cleanliness was not their usual condition. These are the children who are a care to their teachers—they require constant supervision, their attendance is usually irregular, they come from dirty and neglected homes, and visits by the Nurse to the mothers have constantly to be made to stimulate them to a proper sense of their maternal duties .

Teeth.

A number of the children of 8 years of age who were inspected had had treatment from your Dentist, and it is pleasing to record that their dental condition was much better than in those who had had no treatment. Their permanent teeth were either sound or carefully filled, and there were no temporary decayed teeth touching them, infecting them with the insidious caries which destroy the enamel of the teeth before the parent or child is aware of their presence. 262 children, or 13%, had sound dentition. I should again like to mention the three conditions by which it is probable that a child will have a sound dentition:—

(1) The natural preservation of the teeth by proper dietary.

(2) The artificial cleansing of the mouth and teeth.

(3) The prevention of progressive decay by early operative treatment.

Nose and Throat.

228 children, or roughly 11%, were found to be suffering from defects of the nose and throat. They were chiefly enlargement of the tonsils, 8%, and adenoid growths at the back of the nose, 3%. 44 were given to the School Nurses to be followed up for treatment, consisting of 26 cases of enlarged tonsils, 11 of adenoid growths, and 7 of a combination of the two conditions. Rather more difficulty has been experienced in getting these cases treated than in former years for two reasons: one owing to the pressure of work at the hospital necessitating a long wait after going there, and second the pressure on the mothers whose husbands are away and who have in many cases returned to work. These have postponed the treatment for future consideration.

Eyes.

98 children or 5% were found to have defective vision of 6-12 or worse, and were handed over to the School Nurses to be followed up. Most of them got spectacles either from their own doctor, from opticians, or were provided with them at the Clinic after further inspection. All the children of 8 years of age and upwards had their vision tested by the teachers and the worst cases were notified to your Medical Officer for further inspection at the Clinic. These were carefully inspected and suitable glasses ordered when necessary.

Ears.

142 children or 7% were found to be suffering from obstructive deafness. It was caused by an accumulation of wax in 90 cases, and by eustachian deafness in 52 cases. 30 of these cases were handed to the Nurses to be followed up, and 11 cases of otorrhœa in an active state were referred for treatment.

Speech.

6 children were found to be stammerers and 12 suffered from very defective articulation. The latter condition was found in entrants who had been allowed to continue the habit of baby talk. These cases are usually quickly cured by school discipline. In dealing with obstinate cases it must be remembered that the young child thinks it is talking correctly and is quite unaware of its defect. By watchng the teacher's lips and imitating the movements,

usually it is quickly cured, but the cure is hastened by the child becoming aware of its defect, and when the child recognises the correct sound and can say it the cure is accomplished.

Mental Condition.

19 children were found to be dull or backward, and 4 were feeble-minded. The mentally defective were entrants, and were too young to be sent to a special school.

Heart, Lung, and other Diseases.

25 children were found with organic disease of the heart, 5 had functional murmurs. 23 were found suffering from bronchial catarrh and their parents were advised to take the children for medical treatment. 3 children were suffering from anæmia, 2 were suspected to be in the pre-tubercular condition, they were sent to St. Annes and were advised a long holiday combined with good feeding. 16 showed the results of rickets. 28 suffered from other diseases, chiefly hernia, the results of anterior poliomyelitis, and minor skin diseases.

Surprise Visits by the Nurses to the Schools.

Each school was in its turn visited by the Nurses for the purpose of inspecting the cleanliness of the children. At the beginning of these inspections, the conditions of the heads, the clothing, and footwear were inspected, but it was found that it was a waste of time inspecting the clothing and footwear, so that afterwards it was arranged that only the heads of the children were inspected.

22 visits were paid to the schools and 5,132 children were inspected. 316 children's heads showed nits only, and 134 showed pediculi in their heads. The numbers varied considerably in different schools; as a rule the results were better in the smaller schools. Every effort was made to bring children who had pediculi and those with many nits to the Clinic for treatment, but it has been quite impossible to follow up those cases of lesser severity and they were supplied with a yellow paper giving instructions how to cleanse their heads.

The results of the inspections are shown in detail:—

NURSES' INSPECTIONS, 1916.

BOYS.

	Number Inspected.	Clean.	Nits only.	Pediculi.
Mixed Departments ...	1787	1761	13 (0·72%)	13 (0·72%)
Infants' Departments..	739	724	4 (0·5%)	11 (1·5%)

GIRLS.

Mixed Departments ...	1873	1624	159 (9·8%)	90 (5·5%)
Infants' Departments..	723	663	40 (6·0%)	20 (3·0%)
Totals	5122	4772	216	134

FOLLOWING UP WORK.

This part of our work has been carried on under difficulties during the year. The return of many parents to work has resulted in a great number of visits to shut houses, with the consequence that the Nurses' time has often been wasted. Especially has this been so in the Dental Visiting. In some instances the nurse has visited 20 to 25 homes and only found 3 or 4 parents at home.

Also the temporary nurses were found unsuitable for this part of the work: they neither knew the town, nor the parents, they were unfamiliar with the work, so that at different periods of the year following up was almost suspended.

From the routine inspection all cases were visited. They numbered 228 cases as compared with 223 last year, comprising 98 cases of defective vision, 52 cases of verminous heads, 44 cases of tonsils and adenoids, 11 cases of active otorrhœa, 4 cases of skin diseases, 2 of malnutrition, 2 of chronic bronchitis, and 15 of other defects or diseases

In all 882 homes have been visited and 1,039 visits have been paid to these homes. (Last year 692 homes were visited and 1,173 visits were paid to these homes.) Most of the visiting was again done in cases of verminous heads, when the Nurse gives useful advice to the parents, leaves a circular with instructions for cleansing heads, and when necessary tries to get the child to the Clinic.

The details of 215 cases (last year 194) followed up who have not been treated at the School Clinic are shown in Table IV., where it will be noticed that 157 or 78% have been treated, and 47 were not treated, and of 11 there is no report, the house was closed, there being no one at home.

It will again be noticed that the bulk of the untreated cases are cases of tonsils or adenoids needing operative treatment. In these cases the treatment is deferred for reasons already mentioned. Of the 157 cases treated, 83 were cured, 65 were improved, and 9 were unchanged.

School Clinic.

The cases treated at the Clinic, 11, Carr Road, are common skin diseases (including the treatment of ringworm by drugs), minor external diseases of the eyes, discharging ears, uncleanliness associated with pediculosis, and the further inspection of cases of defective vision, along with the provision of spectacles when necessary.

The Clinic has been open 266 days during the year, 664 children have attended for treatment, they have paid 20,898 visits, making an average of 78 cases treated per day.

They were reported as follows:—

School Medical Officer	100
School Nurses	116
Head Teachers	181
Attendance Officers	36
Parents	228
Medical Practitioners	3
	664

The number of parents who have brought their children on their own initiative has increased from 127 last year to 228 this year.

137 children attended for further inspection of defective vision. 95 were inspected for the first time, and 42 were re-inspected. They were all examined under a midriatic. The error of refraction was accurately estimated and if spectacles were re-

quired they were ordered. 78 pairs of spectacles were supplied. During the year £12-12-1 has been paid for spectacles and £10-13-4 has been recovered from the parents. The details of this part of the work will be found in Table VI.

The details of the children treated for other diseases is seen in Table V. They numbered 527 and were made up chiefly of verminous heads (106 cases), ringworm (89 cases), and impetigo (209 cases).

The visits of the Nurses to the schools resulted in a great number of the worst cases of verminous heads being brought to the clinic for treatment. It entailed a great deal of work on their part and it can be seen by the increase in the number of visits of children in April (1,521) and in May (2,402), and this increased number continued throughout the year.

Ringworm of the scalp (49 cases) has again proved the most intractable of the diseases to cure. Unless the cases are got early they drag on week after week, and even with the most careful co-operation on the part of the parents, may be months before they are cured. Children suffering from ringworm were excluded from school.

As usual, after the summer holidays, there was a great increase in the number of cases of impetigo. This condition of scabbed face is frequently caused by a child constantly eating bread and jam. The jam remains round the corners of the child's mouth and is spread over the face by its hands. In the hot weather it is attacked by micro-organisms which find a suitable medium for growth in the jam; they attack the child's face and set the disease going. It is sometimes known as bread-and-jam disease. It is highly contagious, especially in warm weather, and children suffering from it should be excluded from school. When the cause is from the jam it can be prevented by washing the child's mouth after it has finished eating.

The cost of drugs, &c., for the use of the children has been £36-8-4.

Provision of Meals Act.

During the year all children in receipt of free meals have been accommodated at the Ambulance Hall, kindly lent by the St. John

Ambulance Association. Dinners were provided 6 days per week, and there was a suitable dietary.

The number of children fed was 41, the total number of meals provided being 6,487. The cost at 3d. per meal was £81-1-9, and the cost of printing, stationery, &c., was £0-8-6, making a total cost of £81-10-3.

The number of meals provided each month was:—January, 562; February, 421; March, 431; April, 390; May, 448; June, 433; July, 517; August, 540; September, 509; October, 657; November, 796; December, 783.

Great credit must be given to the School Nurses for their untiring work during the year. On them depends the thoroughness of the work done, both in following up and in the treatment of children at the Clinic. My special thanks are due to the Head Nurse, through whose thoroughness in record keeping I am enabled to give you the statistical details contained in this report. The thanks of your Committee are due to Sir John Thursby, through whose generosity it has been possible to send 28 children to the Thursby Convalescent Home at St. Annes. They are also due to the St. John Ambulance Association for the free use of the Ambulance Hall for dinners.

The willingness of the teachers to give every assistance at the time of medical inspection, and their help in notifying suitable cases for the Clinic, has helped greatly in carrying out the year's work. I take this opportunity of thanking them for the unselfish and admirable spirit in which they have shown their deep interest in the children's welfare. I have also to thank the Organising Secretary and his staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am,—Your obedient servant,

A. P. MILLAR, M.D.,

School Medical Officer.

NELSON, 1916.

REPORT

OF

SCHOOL DENTIST

(MR. T. JACKSON, L.D.S.)

TO THE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

NELSON,

DECEMBER 30TH, 1916.

DENTAL REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nelson Education Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Third Annual Report, as Dental Surgeon, for 1916.

SIX YEARS OLD CHILDREN.

The children of 6 years of age were inspected at their respective schools and subsequently treated at the School Clinic, as in previous years.

During the year I inspected 504 children of 6 years of age, which is a marked decrease on the year 1915. In the latter year I inspected 715 children of 6 years of age, thus the decrease is 209. This is to be accounted for to a certain extent by the epidemic of measles which was prevalent in the first two or three months of the year; and also by a decreased number of children being on the rolls of the schools as in attendance at the schools.

There were 72 parents of children present during the inspectons, to whom, as in former years, the children's requirements were explained and advice given.

TABLE I.—SHEWING RESULTS OF INSPECTION.

	No. Examined	Sound Dentition	Treatment necessary	Urgent Treatment necessary	Temporary			Permanent		
					Sound	Savable	Unsavable	Sound	Savable	Unsavable
BOYS	245	28	175	42	3019	287	836	932	67	—
GIRLS	259	29	173	57	3147	328	860	1071	81	—
Total	504	57	348	99	6166	615	1696	2003	148	—

PERCENTAGES.

	No. Examined	Sound Dentition	Required Urgent Treatment	Treatment Required
BOYS	245	11·42	17·14	71·44
GIRLS	259	11·2	22·007	67·793

TABLE II.—SHEWING NUMBER OF TEETH TREATED.

Fillings	132
Extractions	799
Dressings	227
	1158

TABLE III.—SHEWING ATTENDANCES AT SCHOOL CLINIC.

	Girls.	Boys.	Total.
Treated at School Clinic	134	118	252
Sound Dentition	29	28	57
Taken to own Dentist	52	47	99
Refuse Treatment	8	14	22
No replies to Notices and therefore not accounted for	36	38	74
	259	245	504

In addition to above, nine children were attended to twice.

PERCENTAGES.

	No. Examined	No. treated at Clinic	Percentage
BOYS	245	118	48·16
GIRLS	259	134	51·35

SEVEN YEARS OLD CHILDREN.

During my inspections this year of the children of seven years of age, I have noted with continued satisfaction the general im-

provement in the teeth of the children, who have been treated by their own Dentist or at the School Clinic. But on the other hand, many children who had not been so treated were really in many cases, in a deplorable condition, the parents in many instances being indifferent or unaware of the child's well-being, or had not sufficient control over the children to insist on what is required to be done, being done.

The percentage of children requiring urgent treatment is considerably less this year than last year, but the percentage of children requiring treatment is about the same; whilst the percentage of the children attending the School Clinic has also gone up very considerably over last year. This to me at least, is very gratifying, and shows the growth of confidence in the School Clinic and the treatment afforded.

50 parents of children attended the inspections.

TABLE I.—SHEWING RESULTS OF INSPECTION.

	No. Examined	Sound Dentition	Treatment necessary.	Urg'nt Treatment necessary.	TEMPORARY			PERMANENT		
					Sound	Savable.	Unsavable.	Sound	Savable.	Unsavable.
BOYS	310	75	158	77	3030	159	897	1999	168	4
GIRLS	304	59	160	75	2870	100	934	2231	131	7
Total	614	134	318	152	5900	259	1831	4230	299	11

PERCENTAGES.

	No. Examined	Sound Dentition.	Required Urgent Treatment.	Treatment Required.
BOYS	310	21·2	24 83	50·97
GIRLS	304	19·4	24·69	55·91

TABLE II.—SHEWING NUMBER OF TEETH TREATED.

Fillings	200
Extractions	1014
Dressings	137
Total	1361

TABLE III.—SHEWING ATTENDANCES AT SCHOOL CLINIC.

	Girls.	Boys.	Total.
Treated at School Clinic	153	164	317
Sound Dentition	59	75	134
Taken to own Dentist	19	16	35
Refuse Treatment	14	6	20
No replies to Notices and therefore not accounted for	59	49	108
	304	310	614

In addition to above, three children attended twice.

PERCENTAGES.

	No. Examined	No. treated at Clinic	Percentage
BOYS	310	164	52·9
GIRLS	304	153	50·32

EIGHT YEARS OLD CHILDREN.

At your request I also undertook the inspection and treatment of the children who had attained the age of 8 years, this affording the children the great advantage of having at least three years continuous dental treatment, and if you could have seen them you would be more than satisfied.

The contrast between those children who have received treatment at the Clinic or elsewhere is great in comparison with those who have not been so treated; and it seems to me a great pity—for the children's sake—that the parents are not compelled to have their children treated. It is very often the greatest unkindness—

on the part of the parents—to the child to either refuse treatment—when offered by you, or if the child begs not to have it done to yield to the child's entreaties.

During the year I have inspected 698 children who had attained the age of eight years; eighteen parents being present at such inspections.

TABLE I.—SHEWING RESULTS OF INSPECTION.

	No. Examined	Sound Dentition	Treatment necessary	Urg'nt Treatment necessary	TEMPORARY			PERMANENT		
					Sound	Savable	Unsavable	Sound	Savable	Unsavable
BOYS	363	69	168	126	2391	59	1172	3428	239	29
GIRLS	335	48	157	130	1970	72	1075	3472	236	25
Total	698	117	325	256	4361	131	2247	6900	475	54

PERCENTAGES.

	Number Examined	Sound Dentition	Required Urgent Treatment	Treatment Required
BOYS	363	19·008	34·71	46·282
GIRLS	335	14·32	38·8	46·88

TABLE II.—SHEWING NUMBER OF TEETH TREATED.

Fillings	255
Extractions	1158
Dressings	62
Total	1475

TABLE III.—SHEWING ATTENDANCES AT SCHOOL CLINIC.

	Girls.	Boys.	Total.
Treated at School Clinic	168	180	348
Sound Dentition	48	69	117
Taken to own Dentist	74	68	142
Refuse Treatment	11	6	17
No replies to Notices and therefore not accounted for	34	40	74
	335	363	698

In addition to above seven children attended twice.

PERCENTAGES.

	Number Examined	Number Treated at Clinic	Percentage
BOYS	363	180	49·58
GIRLS	335	168	50·41

GENERAL REMARKS.

In all I have paid 29 half-day inspections, and 79 half-day treatments at the Clinic, making a total of 108 half-days.

At the beginning of the year you appointed a second Nurse to the School Clinic, part of her time to be devoted to the Dental Clinic. In all the Nurse has paid 866 vsits for the Dental department and has assisted me on the days I attended the Clinic. But, I very much regret to say that through her own ill health as well as that of her mother, she has been off work for a considerable portion of the year. This has greatly interfered with the better results we had hoped to obtain as a result of her visitations, in children attending the Clinic; and also I cannot give you the figures as accurately as I would have wished, in regard to those who refuse or take their children to their own Dentist, or those included in " No replies." This is unfortunate and disappointing. However, we hope for better results next year. One matter must be mentioned in fairness to the Nurse, and that is, as she has gone to the homes of the people, she has found the fathers away at the war, and the mothers in a great majority of cases working at the mill or elsewhere, and hence she got no reply. Undoubtedly that is one great reason why we have so many to report " No replies and therefore cannot be accounted for."

We still receive the thanks of many parents for the treatment given to the children, several of whom this year—unknowingly to me—have come with their children to put me to the test, and after the treatment had been finished, have personally thanked me for what had been done, and spoke in the highest appreciation of the Clinic.

I once more beg to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Organising Secretary and his Staff, the Head Masters and Mistresses and Teachers for their uniformly kind assistance rendered me on all occasions; also to the School Nurses for their very efficient help, without which the work would be greatly impeded.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. JACKSON, L.D.S.,

School Dentist.

Table I.

Number of Children Inspected, 1st January, 1916, to 31st December, 1916.

	Entrants.						Int'rmed. Group	Leavers.				
Age	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years	Other Ages	Total	8 years	11 years	12 years	13 years	Total	Grand Total
Boys - -	40	133	121	31	3	328	291	32	286	28	346	965
Girls - -	38	132	144	34	11	359	314	32	288	28	348	1021
Total -	78	265	265	65	14	687	605	64	574	56	694	1986

TABLE II.

		CODE		SPECIALS	
		Referred for Treatment	Referred for Observat'n	Referred for Treatment	Referred for Observat'n
Malnutrition	... ...	1	2		
Uncleanliness	Head	50	...		
	Body	2	...		
Skin	Ringworm Head ...	3	...		
	Ringworm Body ..	...	...		
	Scabies	...	...		
	Impetigo	2	...		
	Other Diseases	...	...		
Eye	Defective Vision ...	98	3		
	External Eye Disease	3	...		
Ear	Defective Hearing ...	30	...		
	Ear Disease	12	...		
Teeth		...	...		
Nose and Throat	Enlarged Tonsils ...	26	...	No record kept of children specially examined.	
	Adenoids	11	...		
	Tonsils and Adenoids	7	...		
Heart and Circulation	Organic Disease ...	...	6		
	Functional...	5	...		
	Anæmia	3	...		
Lungs	Tuberculosis Definite ...	...	...		
	Tuberculosis Suspected	2	2		
	Chronic Bronchitis ...	2	...		
	Other Disease	...	...		
Nervous System	Epilepsy	1	...		
	Chorea...	1	1		
	Other Diseases	...	...		
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	Glands	4	3		
	Joints	1	1		
	Other Forms	1	...		
Rickets	... ...	4	...		
Deformities	... ...	1	...		
Other Defects or Disease	... ...	5	3		

Table III.

Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area, 1916.

			Boys	Girls	Total
Blind (including partially blind)		Attending Public Elementary Schools	1		1
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	3	1	4
		Not at School			
Deaf and Dumb (including partially deaf)		Attending Public Elementary Schools			
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	2	1	3
		Not at School	1		1
Mentally Deficient	Feeble Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools	6	6	12
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ...	5		5
		Not at School			
	Imbeciles	At School	1	1	2
		Not at School	3		3
	Idiots				
Epileptics		Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	1	2
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics			
		Not at School	1		1
Physically Defective	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools			
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...			
		Not at School	1	1	2
	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	3	2	5
		Attending Certified School for Physically Defective Children ...			
		Not at School		3	3
	Cripples other than Tubercular	Attending Public Elementary Schools	5	6	11
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...			
		Not at School			
Dull or Backward*		Retarded 2 years	24	24	48
		Retarded 3 years	9	13	22

* Judged according to Age and Standard.

Table IV.

Annual Return of Cases Followed Up, 1916, who have not been Treated at the School Clinic.

Defect	From Previous Year.	New	Total	No Report	Number Treated	Result of Treatment			Number not Treated	Left on Books	Percentage of Defects Treated
						Cured	Improved	Unchanged			
Tonsils	20	23	43	3	21	10	9	2	19	5	48
Tonsils and Adenoids... ...	4	6	10	1	5	4	1	...	4	...	50
Adenoids	6	7	13	...	5	2	2	1	8	...	38
Defective Vision	3	37	40	2	27	18	5	4	11	...	67
External Eye Diseases ...	...	2	2	...	2	1	1	...	...	1	100
External Ear Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Otorrhœa	...	2	2	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	100
Wax in Ears	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	100
Other Deafness	...	2	2	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	100
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-Pulmon'y Tuberculosis	...	4	4	...	4	...	4	...	...	...	100
Verminous Heads	8	45	53	3	48	23	24	1	2	5	90
Ringworm	...	14	14	...	14	14	...	...	...	...	100
Scabies	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Impetigo	...	5	5	...	5	5	...	...	...	...	100
Other Diseases	5	21	26	2	21	4	16	1	3	2	80
TOTAL ...	46	169	215	11	157	83	65	9	47	13	78

Table V.

Annual Return of Cases Treated at the School Clinic, 1916.

(Excepting Eye and Dental Cases.)

Defect	From Previous Year	New	Total	Discharged	Left on Books	Result of Treatment		
						Cured	Improved	Unchanged
Verminous Heads ..	14	91	106	86	20	71	22	13
Ringworm { Head ...	10	39	49	42	7	42	5	2
Ringworm { Other	3	37	40	40	...	40	...	...
Impetigo	12	197	209	184	25	184	22	3
Eczema	3	4	7	5	2	5	2	...
Scabies	...	3	3	3	...	3	...	...
Alopecia	5	2	7	3	4	3	4	...
Seborrhoea	3	3	6	5	1	5	1	...
Blepharitis	3	19	22	18	4	18	4	...
Corneal Ulcer	3	5	8	6	2	6	2	...
Otorrhoea	14	3	17	6	11	6	7	4
Wax in Ears	...	5	5	5	...	5	...	...
Other Deafness	...	4	4	4	...	2	2	...
Other Diseases	7	37	44	41	3	41	2	1
TOTAL	78	449	527	448	79	431	73	23

Table VI.

Annual Return of Cases of Defective Vision Inspected at the School Clinic, 1916.

Defect.	Number Inspected	Ordered Spectacles	Not Ordered Spectacles	Spectacles Provided	Squint
Hypermetropia	29	18	11	18	6
Myopia	12	11	1	11	...
Hypermetropic Astigmatism	23	19	4	18	12
Myopic Astigmatism	5	4	1	4	...
Mixed Astigmatism...	8	8	...	8	...
Hypermetropia and Hypermetropic Astigmatism	7	6	1	6	3
Myopia and Myopic Astigmatism	1	1	...	1	...
Hypermetropic Astigmatism and Mixed Astigmatism	2	2	...	2	...
Others	8	2	6	2	...
Total	95	71	24	70	21

Annual Return of Cases of Defective Vision Reinspected, 1916.

Defect.	Number Reinspected	Ordered Spectacles	Wearing Spectacles		Squint
			Spectacles Changed	Spectacles not changed	
Hypermetropia...	15	...	3	12	9
Myopia	2	...	...	2	...
Hypermetropic Astigmatism	13	1	3	9	3
Myopic Astigmatism	6	...	1	5	...
Mixed Astigmatism...	4	...	1	3	...
Others	2	...	...	2	1
Total	42	1	8	33	13

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

County Medical Officer of Health

AND

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

(J. T. C. NASH, M.D., C.M., D.P.H.)

FOR THE YEAR

1916.

Part 1

Report of the School Medical Officer.

School Medical Officer's Report for 1916.

1. Routine Medical Inspection of School Children, as Entrants or Leavers, was in abeyance throughout the year, all the Medical Inspectors being away on War Service, and the clerical staff reduced to one clerk (now called up)

2. In the course of visits to 52 Schools (generally in connection with outbreaks of infectious diseases), I inspected and referred for treatment the following number of children.

Malnutrition	8	Defective Speech ...	6
Uncleanliness of Head ...	23	Heart Organic Disease ...	3
,, ,, Body ...	10	,, Functional ...	1
Ringworm of Head ...	8	Anæmia	2
Scabies	3	Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1
Impetigo	19	,, ,, (suspected)	6
Other Skin Diseasss ...	2	Other Lung Diseases ...	2
Defective Sight	104	Epilepsy	2
External Eye Disease ...	21	Tuberculosis (non-pulmony.)	1
Defective Hearing ...	10	Rickets	2
Ear Disease	10	Deformities	12
Enlarged Tonsils ...	33	Mentally Deficient ...	*19
Adenoids	16	Other Diseases or Defects ...	57
Tonsils and Adenoids ...	12		

* Several schools were visited for the purpose of reporting on Mentally Defective children. Hence this figure is out of proportion.

3. Provision of Spectacles.

Vouchers issued, 63.

Glasses obtained through Education Committee ...	56
Glasses not advised after refraction test	3
Referred to Eye Infirmary	2
Still outstanding	2

In addition, I personally examined under atropin by the shadow test 47 children, and issued 47 prescriptions for glasses, which were obtained through the Committee.

Further, glasses were obtained for 5 children by the Committee upon prescriptions obtained by parents from their own doctors.

Thus, in all, 108 children were supplied with glasses by the Committee during 1916.

4. Operations for Removal of Tonsils and Adenoids.

No. of Vouchers issued, 25.

Operation was performed in 24 cases.

In addition, 9 operations were performed at the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital, under arrangements with the Education Committee.

Treatment of Early Cases of Tuberculosis in Children.

From time to time, since Medical Inspection was first instituted in Norfolk, I have called attention to the need for arrangements for the treatment of these cases, with a view to arresting the disease. Following on a recommendation I made to the Medical Inspection Committee in February, 1913, it was agreed that the Board of Education should be asked whether they

would consent to an expenditure for retaining a bed at the Holt Children's Sanatorium. The Board having intimated that they would be prepared to consider an application for their sanction to a contribution being made to a Sanatorium, the Medical Inspection Committee, in April, 1913, decided to make an application as regards the Holt Children's Sanatorium. In May, 1913, it was reported that the Board stated that the Holt Sanatorium was not certified under the Defective and Epileptic Children Act, 1899, for the reception of tuberculosis children, but sanctioned the proposed contribution if and when the institution was so certified. Some difficulty which arose in June, 1914, was settled in September, 1914, by a letter from the Board of Education that expenditure on the treatment of tuberculous school children could be included in the expenditure in respect of which the Board would pay grant. Nothing further was done until May, 1915, when the Committee asked the permission of the Board of Education for permission to defray the expense of sending suitable incipient cases to the Holt Sanatorium under the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899, which being given, financial questions with the Sanatorium authorities and the Board of Education were opened up, with the result that in January, 1916, it was reported that the Board of Education had fixed and sanctioned an amended fee of 18/- per week in respect of each child sent for treatment, which sum the Sanatorium authorities agreed to. The parents of two children were communicated with—one refused to allow the child to go, the other was admitted on the 11th March, 1916. Since that date five other children were admitted during 1916, making six in all : all received benefit from their stay in the Sanatorium. What is sometimes disheartening is that the children often have to return to unsuitable environment and insufficient diet when they return home—in some cases there is not even suitable accommodation for a shelter, assuming that one could be provided. It is to be hoped that when the war is over the country will readily assent to the expenditure of a sum equal to only one week of the cost of wasteful war, to procure decent habitations for the working classes, where such are obviously needed. Until such housing is provided, a large part of the money spent on Sanatorium treatment will be more or less wasted.

Ringworm.

A few comments may be useful on our administration in connection with this contagious disease, due to a microscopic vegetable parasite, difficult to eradicate when it affects the hairy scalp. The chief incidence of the disease is on quite young children attending elementary schools. Indeed, the disease is frequently introduced into a school by a newly admitted child to an infants' department or class. The disease does not materially affect the general health; hence an infected child may not be discovered until ample opportunity has been given in a school for the spread of the disease to other children. In many educational areas, affected children, when discovered, are excluded for protracted periods. In Norfolk, since 1908, it has been my aim to have affected children so dealt with that their attendance at school could be permitted after a short, temporary exclusion, to allow of proper measures being put in action, which would permit of their return to school without involving the risk of spread to other children. Avoiding minute details, these measures include cutting the hair short, the thorough daily application of a parasiticide ointment, and the wearing of a cap in school which is so made as to completely cover the hairy scalp, and the provision of a separate desk. When these precautions are adopted, it should be impossible for the disease to spread to others, and such precautions are not remitted until the case not only appears to be cured, but until repeated microscopical examinations of hair, specially searched for, indicate that the parasite has disappeared.

Work of the School Nurse and other Nurses employed in "following up."

During 1916 the School Nurse made 13,479 examinations and re-examinations of children, and kept under systematic observation cases of Ringworm in 85 schools. Children were not released from treatment or from wearing caps until repeated microscopical examinations of hairs submitted to me by the Nurse failed to show the presence of the Ringworm fungus, in cases followed up by Nurse Reynolds of the Norfolk Nursing Federation and other Federation nurses employed in following up Ringworm cases.

There were 8 ringworm prosecutions in 1916 for neglect on the part of parents to carry out instructions. 8 convictions. Fines varied from 4/- to 10/-.

During 1916 I examined microscopically no fewer than 368 specimens of hair, of which 299 showed the presence of the fungus, 24 were definitely negative, while 45 showed no Ringworm spores though otherwise coming under suspicion.

Verminous Conditions.

Generally after a preliminary visit in company with the School Nurse (Miss Bullock) the Norfolk Nursing Federation nurses were largely employed in connection with inspection and following up in the matter of pediculosis, and are provided by me for this purpose with an authority under Section 122 of The Children's Act. 12 prosecutions were instituted, resulting in 5 fines (5/- to 20/-), 4 attendance orders, and 3 dismissed.

EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN.

(*a*) STATEMENT ON NUMBER OF CHILDREN, INCLUDING CONTACTS, TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED AND RE-EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL DURING 1916.

Infectious Diseases—

Diphtheria	256	Influenza	83
Typhoid Fever	15	Coughs and Colds	27
Mumps	1416	Sore Throats	36
Chicken Pox	637	Whooping Cough	650
Scarlet Fever	223	German Measles	140
Measles	961	Cerebro Spinal Fever	12
Other Rashes	7		

Contagious Affections—

Ringworm of scalp (until rules are followed out)	325	Scabies	79
Pediculosis	153	Ringworm (body)	54
		Impetigo	181

Other Diseases (generally from Certificate issued by Family Doctor)—

Lung Affections (not tubercle)	44	Rheumatism	6
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary *	7	Anæmia	19
Glandular	4	Mental Deficiency	2
Osseous	1	Chorea	7
Abdominal	2	Debility, general	43
Other	4	Otorrhœa	3
Enlarged Glands	4	Infantile Paralysis	3
Heart Disease	4	Other	170
Tonsilitis	16		
Epilepsy	6		

* Includes suspected cases.

Total number of Temporary Exclusions = 5600.

In addition on 11 occasions complete classes were excluded owing to measles.

(*b*) Particulars of Permanent Exclusions issued in 1916

Mental Deficiency	7	Spina Bifida	2
Lung Affections (not tubercle)	1	Deafness	3
Epilepsy	3	Debility, Anæmia ...	11
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary ...	3	Heart Disease	1
,, Other Forms ...	5	Other Conditions ...	3

Total Permanent Exclusions during the year = 39

CLOSURES OF SCHOOLS AND DEPARTMENTS IN 1916 IN CONNECTION WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	1 week or under.	2 weeks.	3 weeks.	4 weeks.	5 weeks.	6 weeks.	7 weeks.	8 weeks.	Total No. of Closures (Schools and Departments).
Measles ...	1	12	14	11	7				45
Diphtheria ...	1	3	4						8
Whooping Cough		4	4		1	1			10
Scarlet Fever ...	1	2		2					5
Influenza ...	2								2
Mumps ...	1	9	2						12
Mixed Infectious	1	1	1	1				1	5
Chicken Pox ...	1								1
German Measles	1								1
Totals	9	31	25	14	8	1	0	1	89*

* N.B.—19 of the above were Closures of Departments only.

Of the above Closures 81 (including 18 Departments only) were advised by the School Medical Officer; 6 (including 1 Department only) were advised by the District Medical Officers of Health, with the subsequent approval of the S.M.O.; and 2 by the Managers, which were subsequently approved by the S.M.O.

EXAMINATION OF SWABS FOR CONTROL OF DIPHTHERIA.

No. of Swabs sent up	=	103
Reported "Positive"	...	19
,, "Hofmann"	...	15
,, "Negative"	...	69

2 specimens of sputum were submitted for examinaton for T.B.
1 was positive.

MISCELLANEOUS WORK GRATUITOUSLY DONE BY THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER IN 1916.

During 1916, 145 Scholarship Candidates, Pupil Teachers, other Teachers and applicants for Nursing Scholarship, were examined medically. Of these, 2 were rejected, 6 were referred, and 137 passed. 91 of these 137 were passed subject to teeth or other conditions being put right.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

5 children were notified to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Act of 1913, during 1916.

Under the Blind and Deaf Act—

4 children were certified as deaf.

1 child was certified as blind.

THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL DENTIST (Mr. A. A. Sumpter, L.D.S.)

No. of Schools inspected ... 60

I.—Dental Inspection.

	No. of Children inspected.	Result of Inspection. Teeth all sound.	Less than four decayed.	Four or more decayed.	Ages of Children inspected. 6-7	7-8	8-9	Other Ages.	No. of Children treated.
BOYS ...	731	49	156	526	266	250	94	121	368
GIRLS ...	732	38	170	524	234	222	121	155	427
Total ...	1463	87	326	1050	500	472	215	276	795

No. of Schools where treatment has taken place = 67

II.—Dental Treatment.

	Treatment. Fillings. Temporary Teeth. Amal.	Cemt.	Othr.	Permanent Teeth. Amal.	Cemt.	Othr.	Local Anæsth. used.	Scaling and Other.	Dressng. $AgNO_3$	Extractions Temp. Teeth.	Permt. Teeth.	Ages of Children treated. 6-7	7-8	8-9	Other Ages.
BOYS ...	123	175	8	—	13	18	1002	886	9	124	118	57	69		
GIRLS ...	112	290	5	2	18	30	981	911	31	113	114	89	111		
Total ...	235	465	13	2	31	48	1983	1797	40	237	232	146	180		

In round figures only 6 per cent. of the children inspected had all teeth sound, while over 70 per cent. had four or more teeth decayed. 54 per cent. of the children requiring treatment were treated. Treatment was refused in 570 cases.

Teachers continued to send in systematic notifications of children absent from school on account of infectious or suspected infectious diseases—and afforded me helpful assistance when I visited the schools, and in connection with the Measles Registers.

Useful assistance was also given by the School Attendance Officers.

The duties of Local Care Committees are more or less in abeyance owing to the more clamant requirements of the War, and the suspension of routine Medical Inspection.

J. T. C. NASH.