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Borough of  
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
School Medical Officer  
FOR THE  
Year 1940.

ADAM WHITE,  
M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.







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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME  
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TO THE  
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
NEWCASTLE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Report for the year 1940 upon the School Medical Service.

In accordance with the instructions of the Board of Education the scope of the report, compared with those of former years, has been restricted.

I desire to thank the members of the Committee for the support which they have given me throughout the year and to express my thanks to all the members of the staff for the way in which they have co-operated with and assisted me.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ADAM WHITE.



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### STAFF.

The posts of School Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health are combined in one. The duties which the School Medical Officer carries out are supervisory, administrative and clinical.

There are four part-time assistant school medical officers—

Dr. R. A. Keane	...	Newcastle.
Dr. W. E. L. Horner	...	Wolstanton.
Dr. S. E. Smyth	...	Chesterton.
Dr. P. G. Johnson	...	Silverdale.

These officers carry out the work of school medical inspection and attend at the school clinics.

The school medical inspection work is distributed throughout the year as may be most convenient according to local circumstances. The work of the clinics is arranged on the basis that the assistant medical officers attend twice a week from 10 a.m. for a period long enough for them to deal with the cases presented to them. On the other days of the week the nurse is in attendance, and the assistant medical officers are available in an emergency.



There is one whole-time school nurse and four nurses who give 50 per cent. of their time to school nursing work and 50 per cent. to maternity and child welfare work, so that in effect there are three school nurses.

An arrangement between the Education Committee and the County Education Committee is in force under which the Education Committee have the whole-time services of one of the County Committee's dentists and one of their dental attendants. This arrangement has proved highly satisfactory.

### **EFFECT OF THE WAR ON THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE ORGANISATION.**

On the outbreak of war and for some short time afterwards the services were, to a certain extent, dislocated although at all times the essentials were attended to and carried out. This dislocation lasted for only a short period and at a point of time considerably before the end of 1939, the school medical services were working practically normally.

Ellison Street Infants' School, Albert Street Infants' School, and the Infants' School portion of Silverdale Council Junior Mixed (with Infants') School, are being used as depots in connection with Air Raid Precaution Services. Alternative accommodation for the children displaced from these schools has been obtained.

There have been no additions to or depletions of the staff during the year.

### CO-ORDINATION.

As the School Medical Officer is also Medical Officer of Health, and four of the school nurses act as health visitors, the maternity and child welfare scheme is co-ordinated with the school medical service in the area.

There are no Nursery Schools in the area.

With regard to debilitated children under school age, these have the opportunity of coming to the child welfare centres, of which there are five in the area, and the school nurses when making routine visits recommend parents to obtain appropriate treatment when necessary.

### SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT.

The following table shows the different schools in the district together with the number of children on the books and the average attendance as at 31st December, 1940, in addition to the number examined during the year at routine medical inspection—



NAME OF SCHOOL		No. on Roll	Average Attendance	No. Examined
Friars Wood Council	Junior Mixed	469	422	75
Hassell St. Council	Junior Boys'	262	237	68
" "	" Girls'	274	243	85
" "	Infants'	72	63	34
Rye Croft Council	Infants'	125	99	—
St. Giles & St. George's C.E.	Boys'	251	226	—
" " "	Girls'	223	201	106
" " "	Infants	120	103	23
St. Patrick's R.C.	Senior Mixed	233	209	75
Orme Boys	Senior Boys'	330	330	112
Priory Road Council	Infants'	293	227	112
Westlands Girls' Modern	Senior Girls'	344	309	106
Wolstanton C.E.	Junior Mixed	327	288	133
Albert Street Council	Junior Boys'	235	186	66
" " "	" Girls'	225	183	65
" " "	Infants'	126	71	61
Church Street Council	Infants'	86	35	46
Broadmeadow Council	Senior Boys'	299	250	77
" " "	" Girls'	297	264	74
Cross Heath C.E.	Infants'	92	85	43
Ellison Street Council	Junior Mixed	483	444	137
" " "	Infants'	237	195	146
Knutton C.E.	Junior Mixed	213	186	40
Knutton Council	Infants'	283	207	132

NAME OF SCHOOL		No. on Roll	Average Attendance	No. Examined
May Bank Council	Infants'	261	204	119
Red Street C.E.	Infants'	41	38	21
Silverdale Council	Junior Mixed (with Infants')	312	268	123
Silverdale C.E.	Junior Mixed (with Infants')	125	112	36
Watlands Council	Senior Mixed	434	390	153
" "	Infants'	322	270	140
Knutton Council	Senior Mixed	436	372	160
Clayton Council	Junior Mixed (with Infants')	65	46	—
St. Mary's R.C.	Junior Mixed	398	355	80
" "	Infants'	186	162	18
Totals ...		8479	7280	2666

### SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Generally speaking the hygienic conditions in the Council Schools are good, and those obtaining in the recently erected schools are excellent.

### ARRANGEMENTS MADE AND METHODS ADOPTED AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Parents are notified of the date and time of school medical inspection, and their presence at the examination is requested. The children are weighed and measured and are then submitted for examination by an assistant medical officer.



During the year under review 1436 parents availed themselves of the opportunity to be present when their children were being examined. This figure represents 53.9 per cent. of the children examined, which percentage is a little above the average for recent years.

## REVIEW OF CERTAIN OF THE FACTS DISCLOSED BY MEDICAL INSPECTION TOGETHER WITH A SHORT REPORT ON THE DENTAL SCHEME.

### CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR.

Twenty-one children were found to have defective clothing or footgear, or both. All the cases of defect were visited by the school nurse and as a result of these visits the defective condition was remedied in 13 cases, while in the others the conditions were materially improved.

### NUTRITION.

The following table shows the nutrition condition of children examined at routine medical inspection :—

Excellent ...	165	6.19 per cent.
Normal ...	2371	88.93 per cent.
Below normal	124	4.65 per cent.
Poor ...	6	.23 per cent.

### UNCLEANLINESS.

The following table shows the condition of the children's heads examined at routine medical inspection :—

		Boys	Girls	Total
Few nits ...	...	7	57	64
Nits ...	...	1	22	23
Pediculi ...	...	2	1	3
		10	80	90

This number (90) represents 3.37 per cent. of the children inspected at routine medical inspection. Taking the girls' heads alone, the figure is 5.67 per cent. The percentages for this year are about the same as the average for recent years.

## REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE DENTAL SCHEME FOR THE YEAR 1940.

The arrangements for the dental treatment of the elementary school children in the Borough remained unchanged during the year 1940. The clinic continued to be in charge of Mr. J. Greenhalgh, L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng., and he was assisted by Miss Hand as dental nurse until her resignation on July 17th when her place was taken by Mrs. Hulme.

The number of children inspected was 4,304 of which number 2,721 were found to require treatment and this was accepted by 2,345, the percentage of acceptances being 86.1.

The children accepting were treated for the following conditions :—

Extractions only	...	...	929
Extractions and fillings	...	...	561
Fillings only	...	...	785
Miscellaneous operations	...	...	70
			—
			2,345
			—

The operations performed comprised 33 metal fillings only ; 3,004 fillings in which the decay had penetrated so deeply as to necessitate a lining of non-conducting substance (sulphate of zinc) in addition to the amalgam ; 44 silicate fillings ; 3 zinc-oxide fillings ; 3,044 extractions of temporary teeth ; 340 extractions of permanent teeth ; 3 extractions of supernumerary teeth ; 35 dressings ; 17 scalings ; 4 cases of haemorrhage arrested ; 2 adjustments of an orthodontic



appliance ; 4 fillings polished ; 6 treatments for infective stomatitis and one for dental sepsis completed ; advice tendered to parents anent the dental conditions of children in 68 cases and dressings of silver nitrate applied to 500 temporary teeth.

In brief, 3,387 extractions ; 3,084 fillings and 637 sundries were completed, a total of 7,108 operations during the year. No temporary teeth were filled.

The number of children inspected who were found to possess permanent teeth so decayed as to be unsaveable by filling and to require removal was 455 of which total 218 have been reported in previous years, while the balance arising during the year under review 39 were found on first inspection already to possess unsaveable permanent teeth and the parents of 112 had refused the offer of treatment in preceding years when the teeth could have been filled and saved. The balance of 86 children represents the number for which an inspection at approximately 16 months is inadequate and illustrates the rapidity with which teeth decay in most susceptible mouths.

The nurses paid 160 home visits to parents who had refused treatment and gained consent in 91 cases. The nurses also interviewed parents other than by home visits in 190 instances and gained consent to treatment in 84 cases. Among the causes advanced for refusing treatment was the statement that they would obtain private treatment and in 54 cases in which this reason was advanced it was subsequently ascertained that 7 children had received private treatment while in the remaining 47 cases it was only an excuse, a state of affairs reflecting very adversely on the parents making this statement. Although the 455 children with unsaveable permanent teeth were again offered treatment, which was accepted for 107 children, parents should remember that the essential principle of school dentistry is



to preserve the dentition as a whole and failure to accept treatment when first tendered may result in their children being excluded from further benefit from the scheme, particularly when owing to shortage of staff such benefit can only be given by the exclusion of children whose parents are more appreciative of the necessity of preserving the dentitions of their children. Compassion for a suffering child whose parents have refused treatment has to be weighed in the balance against the chance of another child becoming equally afflicted through the delay caused by treating the helpless victim of parental stupidity.

During the year 21 toddlers under school age were treated at the request of their parents and for these infants 17 extractions of temporary teeth and 2 fillings were completed while in addition advice was tendered in 3 cases. These items are not included in the figures given in the preceding summary. Moreover during the year 332 parents attended at the time of treatment of older children of school age. The commendable interest of these parents should be an example to that section which appears so indifferent to the interests of their children's health and wellbeing as to lightly refuse the privileges afforded by an enlightened municipality.

During the year it is satisfactory to report that the working conditions have greatly improved, first by the provision of a suitable surgery at Friarswood House and subsequently when that establishment was vacated in May, by the provision of central and adequate premises in Merrial Street. There can be no doubt that the hygienic rooms now provided for the service make a favourable impression upon parents and children alike, with consequent better appreciation of the Dental Service provided.

In the area of the old Borough the scheme has now been extended to cover the whole school population but this advantage will have an adverse effect by prolonging the period



of successive routine inspections. It is to be hoped that circumstances will permit the appointment of additional staff to deal with this situation as soon as the War has been brought to a successful conclusion.

Some time has been lost during the year by the schools commencing half an hour later in the mornings. Time also has been lost by interruptions from "alerts," the total so lost being not more than approximately three sessions.

Relations with Head Teachers and their staffs continue to be very cordial and to them my best thanks are due for their sustained interest.

WILLIAM H. JONES, M.A., Cantab.,  
L.D.S., R.C.S., Eng.,  
County Dental Officer.

### TREATMENT OF UNCLEANLINESS.

The nurses make periodical inspections of the children in school, class by class, to ascertain the condition of their heads with regard to nits, vermin, etc. The number of individual children inspected was 8,259.

The following table represents the conditions found :—

		Boys	Girls	Total
Few Nits	...	34	417	451
Nits	...	11	134	145
Pediculi	...	4	43	47
		49	594	643

All the cases found with nits or vermin were re-inspected, in some cases three and four times,

In addition to these examinations of heads, the children are periodically examined in a more cursory manner with regard to general cleanliness, tidiness of hair and condition of clothing and footgear.

The average number of visits made by the nurses to each school was 10.7.

During the year under review no legal proceedings in connection with uncleanness were undertaken.

### SCHOOL CLINICS.

There are five school clinics in the area situated one at 14 King Street, Newcastle, one at Ellison Street Council School, Wolstanton, one at Broadmeadow Council School, Chester-ton, one at Silverdale Council School, and one at Knutton. One of these is an adapted house, two are semi-permanent structures, and two are permanent brick structures. All contain the necessary accommodation. The clinics at Ellison Street, Broadmeadow, and Silverdale, are being used as First Aid Posts but this has not interfered materially with their utility as clinics. With regard to the clinic at Newcastle, it has been necessary to return to the old premises at 14 King Street, Newcastle, as the clinic on the site intended to be occupied by Blackfriars' School has been taken over by the Admiralty. All minor ailments are treated at the clinics. During the year 3,892 cases were dealt with, the number of attendances being 16,776.

A school nurse attends each day, and an assistant school medical officer twice a week. Parents and teachers send to the clinics any cases which they consider require attention ;



and, in addition, teachers are specially enjoined to send children whom they suspect to be suffering from infectious disease. Cases are also referred to the clinics as a result of routine inspection. All treatment is carried out by the direction and under the supervision of one of the assistant school medical officers.

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

Scholars suffering from the various infectious diseases are excluded from school during the period of infectivity. Brothers and sisters of affected scholars, who themselves are not suffering from the disease, are excluded if such exclusion is considered necessary.

In the case of diphtheria and scarlet fever, contacts are excluded for the recognised period. In the case of measles and whooping cough, an endeavour is made to exclude those contacts who attend Infant Departments and who themselves have not previously had the disease.

Instructions have also been issued to teachers to send all cases of sore throat attending school to the clinics. The assistant school medical officers have been requested to swab such of these cases as they consider necessary, with the object of detecting cases of diphtheria as early as possible.

### **CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.**

During the year no school was closed on account of infectious disease.

## **FOLLOWING UP OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.**

On the ascertainment that a child is defective, a notice is sent to the parent or guardian drawing attention to the defect, and stating that medical attention should be secured. Subsequently, inspections are made by the school nurses and assistant school medical officers to find out if the required medical attention has been obtained, and, if it has not been obtained, the nurses visit the parents and verbally call their attention to the necessity for obtaining medical treatment, and in addition, a second notice is sent to the parents.

During the year under review 477 visits were paid by the nurses in the following up of medical defects.

The results obtained in the matter of treatment have already been noted under the various diseases concerned.

## **OPEN-AIR EDUCATION.**

Playground classes are held in the schools when the weather is suitable.



## PHYSICAL TRAINING.

For the following report I am indebted to Miss Marjorie Clare, the Organiser of Physical Training.

### REPORT.

The year 1940 has been a year of general unsettlement, anxiety and difficulty, and although the work of Physical Training has progressed as well as possible under the circumstances, it has naturally been affected by war conditions. However, education in this Borough has gone on steadily throughout the year, and the senior school children were able to have their swimming instruction during the summer months. In other respects Newcastle has been less fortunate, particularly over the appointment of its two recent Male Physical Training Organisers. It was a bitter blow to lose the services, first, of Mr. Ramsden who died in January 1940, and then of Mr. Newton, who is monopolised temporarily by the R.A.F. Mr. Newton succeeded Mr. Ramsden in April, and after working six months in Newcastle and Stoke-on-Trent he was called up to be a Physical Training Instructor for the Air Force. His interest, enthusiasm and guidance, particularly where the boys' work is concerned, is greatly missed, because many of the men who were teaching, or specialising in Physical Training in the schools, have also joined the Forces, and consequently the assistance of a male organiser is more urgently required. The supply teachers are, in many cases, filling in the gaps admirably, but it is natural that they need more help and find some difficulty in teaching Physical Training, if they have not specialised in, or perhaps taught this subject previously. Whatever difficulties and problems there are connected with the work, it is of vital importance to maintain as high a standard of physical education as possible in every type of school.



### **School Buildings.**

Another blow which befell this area was the loss of the Westlands Senior Girls' School, which the Navy requisitioned in June. This was the newest and best equipped senior school in the Borough. There was adequate space and playing field accommodation round the school for the girls to enjoy vigorous, healthy exercise, and major games such as hockey. Now the Westlands Girls have had to take up temporary quarters at Hassell Street School where there is a hall (but the regulation measurements of a Hall do not really provide sufficient room for Senior Boys' and Girls' work with portable apparatus), and a yard, but no field near at hand, so the hockey and major field games have had to go. It is some compensation to know that plans have been passed for a proper gymnasium to be erected on the Westlands School site in the near future, and it is hoped that the girls will soon be able to return to their own building and appreciate the gymnasium when completed. Hassell Street Junior Boys and Girls have had to extend their existence in Rye Croft School building. The facilities here are poor for Physical Training, because there is no suitable hall for indoor lessons, and the girls' yard is small.

### **Yard and Indoor Accommodation.**

Schools without indoor accommodation for Physical Training lessons, like the National Schools, Friarswood, Knutton C.E. and Hassell Street Junior (Boys' and Girls' Departments which are housed temporarily at Rye Croft School) suffer very much when a bad winter is experienced like that of 1940. Most of January, February and part of March the school yards were snow-bound and all work outside was impossible. When the weather improved, work on the air-raid shelters, the completion of which had been likewise suspended, had to proceed, so the school yards were untidy, wet or littered with snow or tools for many weeks, and



lessons were greatly hampered. The work in those schools with no alternative inside accommodation was badly affected. Now the shelters are complete, the lessons can progress more normally, although there are always certain weeks in the year when the weather limits out-door exercise. Most of the play-grounds have a fairly reasonable surface, and plans have gone forward to improve the yard surface of Knutton Senior and Red Street Schools, so that theirs will soon be as good as the others.

### **Playing Fields and Sports.**

The Inter-Elementary School Sports' day was abandoned in 1940 on account of the war, but one or two schools held their own Sports' events, and Knutton Senior School had a good meeting on Thursday afternoon of May 2nd. Their school field is the best one in Newcastle area, now the Westlands' grounds are no longer available. It is much to be regretted that the Pool Dam Playing Field cannot be kept in better condition. The grass and bumps on it are so bad that hockey is out of the question and the cricket pitch is somewhat farcical. Yet the field is in such a central position that it could prove a most useful playing-ground for several schools if it were improved, and at present its state is rather deplorable for games.

### **Equipment.**

Requisition lists, with the approximate amount of spending money, were sent to all the schools last year, so that the Head Teachers could order, in the case of small apparatus such as balls, bats, braid, etc., those articles which they most needed. The apparatus was ordered before goods were so severely restricted, and all schools received a fair proportion of supplies. Extra care and respect in the storage of equipment must now be taken, so that it will last longer, because



balls and other similar articles will be almost unobtainable until the end of the war. Although Infants' apparatus is of a very simple nature, there should be sufficient quantity for each child in a class to possess a ball or article each. It is better to have a good supply of balls and hoops for instance, than a meagre supply of various objects.

In addition to the supplies of small apparatus, the portable apparatus in the schools was checked and examined. Most of it is in good condition but some mats in the Senior Schools were found to be too small, and some in the Junior Schools were unnecessarily large, so they were exchanged. New cocoa-nut fibre mats were distributed to certain schools, and mats needing repairs were mended. The general condition and amount of equipment in the schools is satisfactory, although there is no Senior School with a fully equipped gymnasium, which one would like to see.

### **Swimming.**

The Swimming season for the Senior School children began in April, and continued until the end of August as school holidays occurred in relays. The number of bathing periods allowed for school use was reduced, so it was regretted that all the forms could not participate in the swimming instruction, but those classes that did attend worked with keenness and interest. The Annual Gala Competition did not take place, and thus the instructors could pay more attention to style and life-saving practices, and although the classes were big the progress was good. The swimming tests were slightly modified, and braid was presented instead of buttons, so that it could be stitched on to the swimming costume as a distinguishing mark. In addition to three Braid Tests, Certificates were awarded for higher standards of achievement, and it was gratifying to see the number of children who passed successfully one or other of the graded tests. Mrs.



Billington, who coached the girls, and Mr. Holland and Mr. Philbin (kindly released from the Boys' Orme School), who coached the boys, did excellent work, and the accompanying teachers assisted ably and enthusiastically.

### **Recreational and Teachers' Classes**

No evening or recreational Keep-Fit classes were held in 1940. There were no premises suitably "blacked-out." Some of the Senior School halls and buildings have been done recently, so they will be available for Keep-Fit classes or Club work in the future.

In the summer a Teachers' Games Course was held for ten weeks and the weather was most favourable with the exception of one wet evening. The Course started up at the Westlands School and the bracing air and out-door facilities there were much appreciated but in the middle the class had to evacuate to Priory Road School. There was no playing field here, so major games such as Hockey, Field Hand-Ball, Rounders and Stool Ball had to be replaced by more minor types of games which can be adapted to Yard conditions.

A Teachers' Swimming Club was also started during the summer and a number of swimming enthusiasts or would-be swimmers enjoyed the private use of the small Baths for an hour or so on Wednesday evenings.

### **Hygienic Aspect of Physical Training.**

One of the most difficult problems of these war-time days is that of clothing, and a great deal of tactful discretion must be exercised. Prior to the outbreak of war, advance in the way of clothing, undressing, and having shower baths and rub-downs where there was accommodation in connection with the Physical Training lesson, was beginning to show. Now, the cost of shoes is greater and therefore it is harder for



children to get suitable footwear. The classes have to be prepared to make sudden flights into chilly air-raid shelters, so they must be able to collect their clothes at a minute's notice, and the more they undress the greater is the teacher's responsibility. In consequence, one must pay more attention to the matter of dress than before, and must urge the children to wear as sensible garments as possible. Personal Hygiene and Physical Fitness go hand in hand. It is **not** sufficient to teach a series of exercises in the physical training lesson. At the same time as muscular development and control one must train the children in habits of self-respect, cleanliness and tidiness. If the children are not encouraged to remove outer clothing and change into suitable footwear for physical training, much of the enjoyment and value of the work is lost. Although shoes are not provided for school use by the Education Committee, the majority of the school children do change into pumps and this shows that a real care and lively interest in the welfare and work of the children is taken by the teachers.

### **Conclusion.**

One of the most heartening signs in the work in Newcastle is the willingness and response which most teachers show to any new suggestions or demands made upon them. Where there is this spirit, physical education should flourish and always progress forward. I feel much indebted to the co-operation which Mr. Till, the Education Committee and the Teachers have given me throughout the year and I wish to thank them for their friendly help and support.

MARJORIE CLARE

Organiser of Physical Training.

### **PROVISION OF MEALS.**

LIST GIVING NUMBER OF CHILDREN PROVIDED WITH FREE MILK AT EACH OF THE SCHOOLS DURING THE YEAR ENDED  
31st DECEMBER, 1940.



School					
Friars Wood Council Junior Mixed and					
Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	73
Hassell Street Boys' ... ..	...	...	...	...	29
„ „ Girls' ... ..	...	...	...	...	54
„ „ Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	11
Rye Croft Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	4
St. Giles' & St. Georges' C. of E. Boys'	...	...	...	...	3
„ Girls' ... ..	...	...	...	...	4
„ Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	—
St. Patrick's Sr. Mixed ... ..	...	...	...	...	39
St. Mary's R.C. Jr. Mixed ... ..	...	...	...	...	56
„ „ „ Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	16
Orme Boys' Senior ... ..	...	...	...	...	48
Priory Road Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	17
Westlands Girls' Modern, Senior Girls'	...	...	...	...	35
Wolstanton C.E. Jr. Mixed ... ..	...	...	...	...	45
Albert Street Boys' ... ..	...	...	...	...	45
„ Girls' ... ..	...	...	...	...	34
„ Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	19
Church Street Infants ... ..	...	...	...	...	7
Broadmeadow Sr. Boys' ... ..	...	...	...	...	29
„ Sr. Girls' ... ..	...	...	...	...	26
Cross Heath C.E. Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	13
Ellison Street Jr. Mixed ... ..	...	...	...	...	72
„ Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	44
Knutton C.E. Jr. Mixed ... ..	...	...	...	...	78
Knutton Council Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	62
May Bank Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	15
Red Street C.E. Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
Silverdale Council Jr. Mixed and Infants'	...	...	...	...	47
Silverdale C.E. Jr. Mixed and Infants'	...	...	...	...	15
Watlands Council Sr. Mixed ... ..	...	...	...	...	49
„ Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	31
Knutton Council Sr. Mixed ... ..	...	...	...	...	59
Clayton Council Infants' ... ..	...	...	...	...	—
TOTAL ... ..					1080

The number of bottles of milk supplied free of cost during the year was 303,392.

### **SCHOOL BATHS.**

The Education Committee have an arrangement with the Corporation for the use of the Municipal Baths for swimming instruction and details are given in the report of the Organiser of Physical Training.

### **BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.**

The School Medical Officer is brought in touch with children defective within the meaning of this paragraph by routine medical inspections, and by information from teachers, school attendance officers, the school nurses, parents and voluntary workers.

There is no Special School in the area, but with regard to blind and deaf children the Committee is a constituent Authority of the Mount Blind and Deaf School, which is situate in Stoke-on-Trent. The Committee have an arrangement with the Staffordshire Association for Mental Welfare for the supervision of mentally defective children not in Special Schools.

I append a report which I have received from the Organising Secretary of the Association showing the work done in the Newcastle area during the year.



## STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL WELFARE.

### Report on work carried out for Newcastle Education Committee during the year 1940.

Regular visiting in the homes of the feeble-minded children in the area has been carried out during 1940 on behalf of the Committee. Thirty-four children have been supervised during the year, of these 9 are classed as educable in special schools and one has been notified as ineducable to the County Council and was subsequently sent to an institution by them. Approximately 80 visits have been paid to children's homes and many interviews on their behalf have taken place. Fifteen defectives from the Borough attend the Mile House Lane Centre where ideal training for those notified children who can attend is provided by the County Council under Miss Baker and her staff. We were glad to welcome teachers from the Borough at Open Days held there to widen knowledge of the methods of training which are being applied at the Centre during the year. Many teachers expressed their surprise at the progress of individual children whom they had known prior to their exclusion from the elementary schools. We are convinced that it is only through the provision of such training as is given in the Committee's special class and through such units as the Occupation Centres that we shall get complete and useful ascertainment of the whole retarded group of children in our schools. To aid Medical Officers in the vital step of examining children and grouping them according to their inborn abilities there is now a service of trained educational psychologists available for those Authorities who decide to appoint a psychologist on their staff. It is only through full use being made of the provisions for notification that the Mental Deficiency Act can offer its utmost protection to defectives, and it is urgent that such ascertainment should be fully carried out. Notification has proved of added use in the present emergency inasmuch as notified defectives are exempt from registering for service



with the Forces under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act of 1939. Many defectives have thus been saved from clogging the war machine, and in some cases have been usefully serving the country on the land and in other kinds of work.

Experience of home supervision and close touch with the environment of the feeble-minded children proves justly how well worth-while it is to help these handicapped children, also that although much help can be given to parents through the advice of experienced Visitors, parents cannot provide at home the special training which will give children of the whole retarded group the basis on which to build lives which will be of use to the community. Such provision must form part of our scheme of reconstruction and development when the war is over, and a useful guide to such planning is ready to hand in the report of the Feversham Committee in 1939.

We wish to express our appreciation of the continued co-operation of the Newcastle Education Committee with the Association under its revised constitution, knowing that on such co-operation the usefulness of the Mental Deficiency Act to all defectives for whom the Committee is responsible must in the future depend.

F. H. TOSH,  
Secretary,  
Staffs. Association for Mental Welfare.

### **EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.**

Children attending school, and who are employed out of school hours, are occupied in the delivery of newspapers and milk, etc., and in the running of errands. Bye-laws made under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, have been approved by the Home Office, and employed children are dealt with in accordance with these Bye-laws.



TABLE I.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN  
 ATTENDING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
*(see note (a).)*

## A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(1) Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :  
*(see note (b).)*

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	857
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	988
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	808
						—
TOTAL						2653

(2) Number of other Routine Inspections : ... 13  
*(see note (c).)* —

GRAND TOTAL 2666  
 —

## B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections and

Re-Inspections : ... 1937

*(see note (d).)*

## NOTE ON TABLE I.

(a) This return refers to the calendar year 1940. All medical inspections carried out in the Authority's area during the year should be recorded in this table, no distinction being made between children ordinarily attending school in the area and children who have transferred to the area as a result of evacuation. It is immaterial whether the inspections were carried out by a local Medical Officer or by a Medical Officer of an evacuating Authority. For the purposes of this table, Medical Officers of an evacuating Authority working in a reception area are to be regarded as on the staff of the School Medical Officer of the latter area.

(b) Head A (1) relates solely to the routine medical inspection of the three ordinary age groups, *i.e.*, to medical inspection carried out:—

- (i) in compliance with Article 17 of the Regulations relating to Special Services—Grant Regulations No. 19 ;
- (ii) on the school premises (or at a place specially sanctioned by the Board) ;
- (iii) for the purpose of making a report on each child on the lines of the approved Schedule set out in Circular 582.

(c) Under Head A (2) may be recorded *routine* inspections, if any, of children who do not fall under the three prescribed age-groups, *e.g.*, *routine* inspections of a fourth age-group or of other groups of children, as distinct from those who are individually selected on account of some suspected ill-health for "Special" Inspection. Any children who are absent at the time of a routine inspection and are examined in a subsequent year prior to their next routine inspection should be recorded as "routine" and not as "special" inspections. For example, a child who is absent from School when due for routine inspection at 8 years of age should be included in the second routine age-group when the missed inspection eventually takes place.

(d) Under Head B should be recorded all medical inspections by the School Medical Officer or by one of the Medical Officers on his staff which have not been recorded under the heading "Routine Medical Inspections" including inspection of children specially selected for medical examination as indicated in paragraph 4 (ii) of Circular 1523. Children passed under review only should not be included in this Table. Special inspections and re-inspections are to be aggregated and not, as in former years, recorded as two separate totals.

It is immaterial for the purpose of this heading whether children are inspected in school, or at a clinic, or elsewhere.

Attendances for treatment by a Nurse or for examinations by anyone other than a Doctor on the staff of the School Medical Service should not be recorded as medical inspections. If however at any such attendance a child is also examined by one of the Authority's Medical Officers, this should be recorded as a special inspection or re-inspection, even if treatment is also given, but such attendance may also, of course, be recorded as an attendance for treatment.



TABLE II.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF  
CHILDREN INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE  
ROUTINE AGE GROUPS.

(see *Administrative Memorandum No. 124, dated 31st December, 1934, and paragraphs 4 and 5 of Form 6 M, dated 20th January, 1941*).

Age-groups	No. of Children Inspected	A (Excel- lent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly sub- normal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ...	857	41	4.79	780	91.01	35	4.08	1	0.12
Second Age- group ...	988	72	7.29	870	88.06	44	4.45	2	0.2
Third Age- group	808	52	6.44	708	87.62	45	5.57	3	0.37
Other Routine Inspections	13	—	—	13	100.00	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	2666	165	6.19	2371	88.93	124	4.65	6	0.23

## TABLE III.

## NOTES.

(a) The Tables below should deal with defects treated during the year, however they were brought to the Authority's notice, *i.e.*, whether by routine inspection, special inspection, or otherwise, during the year in question or previously.

(b) The heading "Under the Authority's Scheme" should include all cases that received treatment under definite arrangements or agreements for treatment made by the Local Education Authority and sanctioned by the Board of Education under Section 80 of the Education Act, 1921. Cases which, after being recommended for treatment or advised to obtain it, actually received treatment by private practitioners, or by means of direct application to Hospitals, or by the use of hospital tickets supplied by private persons, etc., should be entered under other headings.

(c) The tables cover defects for which treatment is normally provided as part of the School Medical Service. In the reception areas the Tables should include children from the evacuation areas as well as children ordinarily resident in the area.

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 GROUP I.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS

(excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V.)

Total number of Defects treated or under treatment during  
the year under the Authority's Scheme ... 3892



GROUP II.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION AND  
SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor  
Ailments—Group I.).

	No. of Defects dealt with		
	Under the Authority's Scheme (see note b)	Other- wise	Total
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint) ... .. (Operations for squint should be recorded separately in the body of the School Medical Officer's Report.)	367	3	370
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) ...	3	2	5
TOTAL ... ..	370	5	375
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Other- wise	Total
No. of Children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed ... ..	338	3	341
(b) Obtained ... ..	338	4	342

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.

Received Operative Treatment		Received other forms of Treatment (3)	Total number Treated (4)
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital (see note b) (1)	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme (2)		
—	113	6	119



TABLE IV.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

The heading "Specials" in this Table relates to all children inspected by the School Dentist otherwise than in the course of the routine inspection of children in one of the age groups covered by the Authority's approved scheme, namely, to children specially selected by him, or referred by Medical Officers, Parents, Teachers, etc., on account of urgency. The number inspected in each routine age-group should be separately shown, as well as the total, but under "Specials" only the total number should be given.

Temporary fillings, whether in permanent or temporary teeth, should be recorded as other operations.

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist :

(a) Routine age-groups.

		Age :			
Routine Age Groups		<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="font-size: 4em; margin-right: 10px;">{</div> <div style="text-align: left;"> 5—111  6—293  7—317  8—455  9—580  10—594  11—425  12—450  13—416  14—245 </div> </div>			
		Total 3886			
(b)	Specials (see note above) ...	...	...	...	418
(c)	TOTAL (Routine and Specials) ...	...	...	...	4304
(2)	Number found to require treatment ...	...	...	...	2721
(3)	Number actually treated ...	...	...	...	2345
(4)	Attendances made by children for treatment	...	...	...	2599
(5)	Half-days devoted to :—Inspection ...	...	...	59	
	Treatment ...	...	...	335	
				—	394
(6)	Fillings (see note above) :—Permanent Teeth	...	3084		
	Temporary Teeth	...	—		
			—		3084
(7)	Extractions :—Permanent Teeth ...	...	340		
	Supernumery Teeth ...	...	3		
	Temporary Teeth ...	...	3044		
			—		3387
(8)	Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions	...	—		
(9)	Other Operations :—Permanent Teeth	...	137		
	Temporary Teeth	...	500		
			—		637

TABLE V.—VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

A statement as to the arrangements made by the Local Education Authority for cleansing verminous children and a record of the cases in which legal proceedings were taken should be included in the body of the School Medical Officer's Report.

All cases of uncleanness, however slight, should be recorded. Children from evacuation areas examined and cleansed *on arrival* should not be included in this Table, but may be shown in the body of the Report.

The Return should relate to individual children and not to instances of uncleanness.

(i)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	...	10.7
(ii)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	...	18594
(iii)	Number of <i>individual</i> children found unclean ( <i>see note above</i> )				643
(iv)	Number of <i>individual</i> children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	—
(v)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—				
	(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	—
	(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	...	...	...	—



TABLE VI.  
BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.

Number of totally or almost totally blind and deaf children who are **not** at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs. The return should relate to all such children including evacuees resident in the Authority's area.

A blind child is defined by Section 69 of the Education Act, 1921, as one who is "too blind to be able to read the ordinary school books used by children." This definition covers (a) children who are totally, or almost totally, blind and can only be appropriately taught in a school for blind children, and (b) children who have partial sight and can be appropriately taught in a school for partially sighted children. **Only the children in category (a) should be included below.**

A deaf child is defined by Section 69 of the Education Act, 1921, as one who is "too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school." This definition covers (a) children whose hearing is so defective and whose speech and language are so little developed that they require education by methods used by deaf children without naturally acquired speech or language, and (b) children who have partial hearing and can be appropriately taught in a class for partially deaf children. **Only the children in category (a) should be included below.**

	1 At a Public Elementary School	2 At an Institution other than a Special School	3 At no School or Institution	4 Total not receiving suitable education
Blind Children ...	—	—	—	—
Deaf Children ...	—	—	—	—

Have the names and addresses of all the blind children included in Column 4 above been forwarded to the appropriate Authority under the Blind Persons Act, 1920 ? ... .. Nil.

#### MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1940, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928 ... .. 1







