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COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Annual Report

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

By STEPHEN ROWLAND, M.D. Edin., D.P.H. Camb.,
Medical Officer of Health,
School Medical Officer, and
Chief Tuberculosis Officer.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee of the County Borough of Northampton.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the School Medical Officer, arranged in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Education.

The average number of local scholars on the registers of public elementary schools for the year ended 31st December, 1943, was 10,135, compared with 12,813 ten years ago. The average attendance was 8,944 (88·2 per cent.). The average number of evacuees on the registers was 1,368, with an average attendance of 1,233 (90·1 per cent.).

As mentioned in my last report, Dr. Margaret M. R. Gaffney took up her duties as temporary Assistant School Medical Officer on 3rd May, 1943.

No changes were made during the year either amongst the wholetime or part-time members of the school medical service, nor were any steps taken to replace Mr. W. C. Ovey, the temporary dentist, who relinquished his duties at the commencement of the Christmas holidays, 1942.

The whole-time staff employed at the School Clinic at the end of the year consisted of one school medical officer designated temporary Assistant School Medical Officer, two dentists, three nurses, and four clerks. Two of the clerks are employed in the Dental Department and give chairside assistance in addition to their other duties.

In addition to the above, who comprised the permanent staff of the Education Authority, Dr. Stanley E. Bethell and Dr. Mary Hendrie gave part-time service in the Department. Four nurses and one clerk were also employed whole-time in a temporary capacity.

The arrangements (outlined in previous reports) for the services of the ophthalmic surgeon and radiologist were continued as formerly and worked satisfactorily.

During the year three improvements were made in connection with the work of the School Medical Department:—

(1) It had been felt for some time that the responsibility for the certification of mentally deficient children was a matter of grave importance and one in which additional help and advice should be readily obtained when wanted; this difficulty has been overcome by the appointment as consultant of C. A. Keane, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., the Medical Superintendent of Berry Wood Mental Hospital.

- (2) Arrangements were made with Mr. E. Broughton Barnes, F.R.C.S.Ed., the honorary ear, nose, and throat specialist at North-ampton General Hospital, whereby he will be able to hold sessional examinations of school children at the School Clinic, King Street, instead of the children spending much time awaiting their turn amongst the out-patients at the General Hospital. Mr. Barnes has not been able to put this into practice up to the time of writing owing to the long delay in the arrival of the necessary instruments, etc.
- (3) The establishment of speech therapy classes by Mrs. Marland on 1st November, 1943. I do not think stammering is a very common failing amongst Northampton children, but it is a very distressing one for both child and parents, and an attempt to correct it during early life is a praiseworthy effort.

The incidence of scarlet fever was a little higher than during 1942; 176 notifications were received, of which 122 referred to school children. The last big outbreak of scarlet fever in Northampton occurred in 1924, when we received 1,056 notifications. The most remarkable feature in connection with scarlet fever has been the decline in virulence during the past fifty years. Only those who are old enough to remember the disease during the early years of the present century can have any idea of what it was like in the past. The precise cause of this welcome change is imperfectly understood. That being so, we see no reason why it should not at some time revert to its former type.

Diphtheria shewed a further fall in incidence, there being only forty-seven notifications, of which twenty-two referred to school children. One death was assigned to this disease, a child aged four years, who had never attended school.

Measles, which has been a notifiable disease since 1939, accounted for 537 notifications, 246 of which referred to children of school age. The type was apparently not very virulent as no deaths were attributed to measles. Towards the end of the year whooping cough became very prevalent in the Borough, leading to 128 notifications, forty-five referring to the age-group 5–15 years. There were no deaths from whooping cough. Neither of these diseases, which are both endemic, is of such grave importance in school children as in infants under one year.

Thirteen school children (nine boys and four girls) were notified as suffering from tuberculosis, the parts of the body affected being:—lungs (one boy), cervical glands (five boys, four girls), and abdomen (three boys). A boy of fourteen years (who had left school) died from pulmonary tuberculosis. Two other boys died from tuberculosis—one aged nine years from acute generalised miliary tuberculosis and another aged twelve from tuberculous meningitis.

The table below gives the cases of notifiable disease amongst school

children during 1943 :-

| NOTIFIABLÈ DISEASE | CASES ATTENDING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS | CASES ATTENDING OTHER SCHOOLS |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Diphtheria | 1 246* 14 | 3 —* 5 16 —* |
| Tuberculosis:— Respiratory Other Forms | 1 12 | = |

^{*}Most cases of measles and whooping cough over five years of age were not investigated. The figures given above relate to cases within the age-group five to fifteen years, whether investigated or not.

The following table shews the principal causes of death amongst children of school age (five to fifteen years) for the fifteen-year period ended December, 1943:—

| CAUSE | 1929- 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | Total Deaths | Percent- age of Total |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tuberculosis Diphtheria Violence Pneumonia, Bronchitis, | 25 29 19 | 2 1 1 | 6 1 4 | 1 3 6 | 2 _ | $\frac{3}{2}$ | 39 34 32 | 14·7 12·8 12·0 |
| and Other Respiratory Diseases Heart Disease Rheumatic Fever Appendicitis Nephritis | 9 14 6 6 | 3 - 1 - | 2 1 - 1 1 | - 4 1 - 1 | 3 - 2 3 1 | | 31 18 18 12 9 | 11·6 6·7 6·7 4·5 3·4 |
| Meningitis Measles and Whooping Cough Scarlet Fever Other Conditions | 5 | _ _ _ 4 | $\frac{1}{4}$ | - - 4 | _ _ _ 1 | - - 6 | 6 2 59 | 2·3 2·3 0·8 22·2 |
| Totals | 182 | 15 | 21 | 20 | 12 | - 16 | 266* | 100.0 |

^{*1.5} per cent. of the 17,551 deaths at all ages during the fifteen years.

Thirty-one school children were admitted to Manfield Orthopædic Hospital during the year.

Under the Authority's scheme, 304 children were operated on for the removal of tonsils and adenoids, compared with 378 during 1942. There is a considerable difference of opinion as to the necessity for the removal of so many tonsils, but all, I think, agree that the worst cases should be operated on. I am not at all sure the belief that enlarged tonsils are the chief cause of colds (catarrh) is well founded.

The milk-in-schools scheme continues to make progress as 2,494,014 bottles of milk were consumed by local scholars, compared with 2,258,391 during 1942. Of this number, 42,208 bottles were supplied free of charge to children whose parents were not considered to be in a position where payment might be reasonably asked. Evacuees consumed 270,946 bottles of milk, 146,162 being issued free. The average number of children taking milk in schools (both free and paid for) was 9,139 or 79·4 per cent. of the 11,503 on the registers. All the milk supplied to schools is pasteurised. There is a belief prevalent that milk during wartime "is not so good" as it was during the piping days of peace. Our records of analyses going back for thirty-five years do not support this assumption. The general standard of the milk on sale in Northampton, both during the present war and for many years previously, has been well above the standard laid down by the Orders and Regulations governing the sale of milk.

The Local Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was again very helpful with his tactful inquiries into cases affecting school children. I am afraid that under wartime conditions there has been some increase in the habit of mothers locking children in the house at night while they themselves go out to the pictures, etc., a reprehensible habit for which there is no excuse. The officer made inquiries into matters concerning thirty-three families and paid 205 visits relating to thirty-one cases of neglect, one of ill-treatment, and one where his help and advice were sought.

Owing to prevailing conditions, the camps for boys and girls were not held.

The organisers of physical training in their report shew that owing to the calling to H.M. Forces of so many members of the school staffs it was impossible to make any actual headway with physical training; nevertheless good work was done under difficult conditions, the end of these difficulties not yet being in sight. Much the same remarks apply to the "keep fit" classes, which continued to carry out their programmes in spite of adverse circumstances.

The proposed improvements at Barry Road Baths were not proceeded with, due chiefly to the difficulty of obtaining labour and materials. So long as the bath at Barry Road remains in its present condition every effort should be made to make more use of the splendid baths in Upper Mounts or the open-air swimming pool at Midsummer Meadow.

No special work on nutrition was carried out nor do I think it is necessary in Northampton. Before anything of the kind can be attempted with any degree of accuracy, we shall require an additional assistant school medical officer, which is quite unattainable at present. In the meantime there is no reason to fear that the health of the Borough school children is suffering due to malnutrition.

The trek back to London of evacuees continued throughout the year, so that at the end of December it was estimated that 2,472 still remained here, made up as follows:—expectant mothers 61, blind and their helpers 69, teachers 28, helpers 14, other adults 654, school children 1,258, children under school age 307, juveniles employed 81. At the time of writing the renewed air attacks on London are increasing in magnitude and may be the means of another evacuation to the provinces when we would undoubtedly get our share of all that was going.

Immunisation against diphtheria, though not looming so large as in 1941 and 1942, was not lost sight of; 1,410 children completed the course of two injections of prophylactic. At the end of the year it was estimated that seventy-five per cent. of children of school age in the Borough had been immunised according to the Ministry of Health instructions. I think one may say that we have almost reached saturation point regarding immunisation, i.e., practically all who wish to be protected, or whose parents wish them to be protected, have taken advantage of the opportunities offered. This is not to say that the facilities will be no longer available or that we shall not continue to advise parents on the matter.

Scabies is still with us in varying amounts. During the school sessions we appear to make headway against the disease only to be met with a large crop on the termination of the long holidays. The disease was on the increase before the commencement of the present hostilities and it is not likely we shall be able to eradicate it while the war lasts or perhaps for some time after its cessation.

The detailed reports of the Assistant School Medical Officer and the School Dental Officer are presented in the form required by the Board of Education (see pages 9 and 13).

The time given by the School Dental Officer to work on expectant mothers and pre-school children under the auspices of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee has increased beyond all expectations since the scheme was first started in 1920. In the beginning it was sufficient for the Dental Officer to give two evening sessions per week after the ordinary clinic hours. During the past year it became necessary to devote so much of his time to this work (during daylight owing to black-out difficulties) that it encroached considerably on his own school work. The situation was made worse by the recall of the dental apparatus lent by the Willesden Education Committee, which in turn was the cause of our losing the services of Mr. W. C. Ovey, the

Assistant Dental Surgeon at Weston Favell School. We are attempting to get over the difficulty by the Assistant Dental Surgeon giving one session per week to expectant mothers in addition to those given by Mr. Wilson. It is evident the work done for the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee cannot be allowed to encroach further on the work of the School Dental Department, otherwise the dental staff will require to be enlarged.

I take this opportunity of thanking all members of the School Medical Department—medical officers, dentists, nurses, and clerks—for their efficient co-operation and loyal support. I also thank the Secretary for Education and his staff for their courtesy and help.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Stephen Kowland

School Medical Officer.

Public Health Department,
Guildhall, Northampton.
March, 1944.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

School Clinic,

King Street,

Northampton.

February, 1944.

To the School Medical Officer.

SIR,

I herewith submit to you my report on the work of medical inspection and treatment carried out in connection with the School Medical Service during 1943. I have made the report as brief as possible.

The main changes brought about are as follows:-

- The establishment of speech therapy classes under the direction of Mrs. Marland—started on 1st November, 1943.
- (2) The appointment of an ear, nose and throat specialist, Mr. E. Broughton Barnes, to attend the Clinic for regular sessions. We are awaiting supply of equipment.
- (3) The appointment of Dr. C. A. Keane, Superintendent of Berry Wood Mental Hospital, as consultant in cases of mental defect in children of school age.

I wish to thank the Education Authorities and teachers for their co-operation and all the members of the School Medical Service for their support.

Your obedient Servant,

MARGARET M. R. GAFFNEY,

Assistant School Medical Officer.

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

STAFF. The medical staff consists of Dr. Margaret M. R. Gaffney (from 3rd May, 1943) full-time, and two part-time doctors. Dr. L. B. Peters was called up on 5th March, 1943, leaving the service without a full-time medical officer for a period of two months.

The nursing staff is the same as for the previous year (1942).

MEDICAL INSPECTION. All departments were visited for routine medical inspection during the year.

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

| Group | Number of Children Inspected | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------|--------|--|--|--|--|
| Group | Northampton | Evacuees | Totals | | | | |
| Entrants | 1269 | 86 | 1355 | | | | |
| Intermediates | 1203 | 187 | 1390 | | | | |
| Leavers | 1048 | 184 | 1232 | | | | |
| Totals | 3520 | 457 . | 3977 | | | | |

Nutrition Surveys. 330 children were examined: excellent 46, normal 262, subnormal 22.

The nutrition of children seen at routine examinations is classified in Table II., page 17. The cases of subnormal nutrition noted have usually been associated with some defect in the physical condition which prevents the child deriving full benefit from the proper assimilation of food constituents. Wartime diet appears to have very little, if any, effect on the condition of school children.

SCHOOL CLINIC ATTENDANCES.

| | Children | Attend | lances | Totals | Treat |
|--------------|----------|-----------|------------|--------|---------|
| Northampton | Cinidien | Treatment | Inspection | Totals | ments |
| Elementary | 5071 | 17426 | 4387 | 21813 | 20095 |
| Secondary | 190 | 458 | 72 | 530 | 458 |
| Special | 83 | 599 | 103 | 702 | 625 |
| Nursery | 228 | 1231 . | 365 | 1596 | 1236 |
| Open Áir | 40 | 123 | 29 . | 152 | 162 |
| Totals | 5612 | 19837 | 4956 | 24793 | 22576 |
| Evacuees | | | | | V.61835 |
| Elementary | 1030 | 4454 | 941 | 5395 | 4607 |
| Secondary | 137 | 342 | 61 | 403 | 304 |
| Totals | 1167 | 4796 | 1002 | 5798 | 4911 |
| Grand Totals | 6779 | 24633 | 5958 | 30591 | 27487 |

DEFECTS TREATED AT CLINIC.

| | Defects Treated | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| DISEASE OR DEFECT | | No | PTON | Eva | CUEES | | mber | | |
| DISEASE OR DEFECT | Elemen- tary | Second- ary | Special | Nursery | Open | Elemen- tary | Second- ary | Totals | Total Number Treatments |
| Uncleanliness of Hair Ringworm (Scalp) Ringworm (Skin) Impetigo Scabies Other Skin Diseases Defective Vision | 20 18 42 149 690 1393 | - - 8 7 | 1 - 6 11 29 | 1 6 6 144 | | 94 1 9 30 72 349 | 1 - 2 5 9 | 116 19 52 193 802 1939 | 230 216 249 1312 5271 6496 |
| and Squint Blepharitis Conjunctivitis Keratitis Other Eye Diseases Otorrhœa Wax Other Ear Diseases | 540 47 57 2 71 66 120 40 | 50 -3 -1 20 1 | 8 -2 -4 1 1 | 4 1 3 -4 8 3 7 | 6 1 1 | 111 8 20 | 33 1 1 - 3 2 6 | 752 57 86 2 110 107 188 60 | 3167 136 348 19 260 1622 281 126 |
| Nose and Throat Defects Minor Injuries Other Defects Repairs to Spectacles Diphtheria Immunisation | 21 561 351 471 975 | 5 3 12 38 | 15 18 20 13 | 1 43 21 2 33 | 4 2 5 2 | 6 170 150 199 95 | 9 9 12 2 | 28 807 554 721 1158 | 43 2110 1938 1494 2169 |
| Totals | 5634 | 148 | 129 | 287 | 39 | 1419 | 95 | 7751 | 27487 |

Scables. There has been a slight decrease in the number of cases of scables receiving clinic treatment, 802 against 1,042 in 1942. The prevalence of scables seems to be due to wartime conditions and to the fact that there are other members of the household, apart from the school children, who do not seek treatment.

Special Examinations. Examinations in respect of the following were made at the Clinic during the year:—Remand Home and Approved School cases, probationers, deaf and dumb, and blind children, candidates for juvenile employment, and teachers. The number seen was 351.

Welfare Centre Children. Cases of otorrhœa in pre-school children referred from the Infant Welfare Centre numbered ten, making sixty attendances. One case of impetigo made eight attendances.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Taken on the whole the incidence of infectious disease was low during 1943. There was an increase in the numbers of scarlet fever, whooping cough, and chickenpox, compared with 1942. Only twenty-two school children were reported as suffering from diphtheria.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA. During the year, 2,537 injections were given and 1,410 children completed the course of two injections. The decrease in the immunisation figures for children of school age may be due to the fact that many of the new admissions to school have already been done at the Welfare Centre.

EVACUEES.

The hostels are still fully occupied. Cases formerly at 14, The Crescent have been transferred to "Oakdene," Wellingborough Road. "Rostrevor" is used as a hostel for children who are not suited to a billet for one reason or another, and as a temporary hostel for toddlers whose mothers have to go for confinement. "Lowood" is still retained for the treatment of skin cases though the actual number requiring hostel treatment continues to fall rapidly.

The amount of work done by the matrons and their staffs in connection with the evacuee children under their care deserves special mention.

The Assistant School Medical Officer paid 260 visits to the hostels and made 3,958 examinations.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

These schools have continued the good work done in the past.

Seventeen visits were paid to the Wellington Place and Kettering Road Schools and sixty-seven examinations made: thirty-two children were examined at the routine medical inspection.

The Open Air Recovery School was visited on twenty-one occasions and forty-nine routine and 305 other examinations made. The nurses paid 198 visits, did 2,170 treatments and 326 inspections.

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

132 routines were examined and 264 special inspections or reinspections made at the Clinic.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Tables relating to Secondary School scholars are appended to this report.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER.

SCHOOL CLINIC, KING STREET,

NORTHAMPTON.

FEBRUARY 7TH, 1944.

To the School Medical Officer.

SIR,

I present below the report on the work accomplished in my section of the School Medical Department for the year 1943.

The Tables required by the Board of Education are submitted and are comprised in Table IV. on pages 18 and 19 and Table IV. (S) on page 21.

I wish to record my thanks to the Education Authorities and the teachers for their co-operation, and to my colleagues and the dental attendants for their loyal support.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES P. WILSON,
School Dental Officer.

REPORT OF DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT FOR THE YEAR 1943.

The dental staff (all whole-time officers) comprised one senior dental officer and one assistant dental officer, together with two dental attendants. The number of sessions allocated to the administration of the school dental service, and to dental inspection and treatment, was 777. In addition, treatment is provided for patients referred under the maternity and child welfare scheme.

| Number of Sessions devoted to:— | Mr. J. P. Wilson. | Miss M. C. Cox. |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| (1) Administration | 10 | _ |
| (2) Inspection | 14 | 15 |
| (3) Routine Treatment | | 446 |
| (4) Maternity and Child Welfare Dental Work | | 2 |
| Totals | 397 | 463 |

Sessions included under administration are those devoted to the preparation of the annual report, the attendance of meetings, and the giving of lectures.

INSPECTION.

The dental inspection of routine cases is conducted at the schools, where all children up to the age of eight years are inspected each year, whether previously accepting or refusing treatment. All children above this age, who have refused treatment, are not re-inspected at school, although they may obtain treatment if they apply for it.

Only 949 scholars were inspected in school during the year. 778 were referred for treatment for decay, leaving 171 or 16.4 per cent. who were free from dental decay.

The number of specials, which includes scholars inspected at the Clinic and casuals, seen during the year was 2,364, of which number 2,094 scholars were referred for treatment for decay.

It will be observed that for the second successive year routine inspections were carried out on only a small scale. The reasons were the same in each year, with the additional factor in 1943 of a reduced staff due to the failure to re-open the Weston Favell Dental Clinic, vacated by the Willesden Authorities in December, 1942. The Dental Staff is now back to pre-war strength, but the school population is slightly greater mainly owing to the continued presence of about 1,200 evacuees. The other factors common to both years are illness of staff, an increase in reference of patients by the medical staff, an increased demand for conservative treatment and an expansion of the dental scheme of treatment for Infant Welfare patients. An effort will be made in 1944 to increase the number of routine inspections.

SUMMARY OF TREATMENT AT CLINICS.

| No. Treated | | | | .2,332 | (3,506) |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|
| No. Completed | | | | .1,574 | (2,064) |
| Fillings in | Permanent Teeth Temporary Teeth | 3,828 | * (6,269) (156) | 3,828 | (6,425) |
| Silver Nitrate Treatment to | Permanent Teeth Temporary Teeth | 578 2,386 | (675) (3,217) | 2,964 | (3,892) |
| Extraction of | Permanent Teeth Temporary Teeth | 959 3,637 | (1,639) (6,500) | 4,596 | (8,139) |
| " Other Operations " | Dressings, etc | | | | (2,894) (5,412) |

^{*}Figures in brackets denote corresponding figures for previous year.

Average work done per half-day session during 738 sessions:— New patients 3.7, attendances of patients 11.5, fillings 5.2, silver nitrate to 4 teeth, teeth extracted 6.2, local anæsthetic cases 4.3, dressings, etc. 3.8.

Table IV. on page 18 gives the summary of treatment given to children attending elementary schools, and Table IV. (S) on page 21 gives the details of treatment given to children attending secondary and junior technical schools. Treatment was also carried out for children attending nursery and M.D. special schools as follows:—

| Schools | No. Seen | Re- ferred | Partly Treat. | Com- pleted | Atten- dances | Fill- ings | Extrac Temp. | | Anæs- thetics | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|------|------------------|----|
| Nursery | 13 | 13 | 4 | 8 | 26 | _ | 24 | _ | 17 | 68 |
| M.D. Special | 14 | 12 | 8 | 4 | 29 | 7 | _ | - 10 | 7 | 18 |
| Totals | 27 | 25 | 12 | 12 | 55 | 7 | 24 | 10 | 24 | 86 |

In examining the treatment figures in the foregoing tables allowance must be made for the decrease in staff.

The high proportion of conservative dentistry is due to the everincreasing desire of scholars to leave school with sound dentitions. The average work done per half-day session thereby shows an increase in every particular aspect except in the number of extractions performed.

TREATMENT FOR INFANT WELFARE PATIENTS.

The following tables are particularly interesting and bear close examination:—

| | Extractions. | Fillings. | Dentures and Repairs. |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Average treatment for | | | |
| mothers, 1933-1940 | . 135 | 32 | 15 |
| Treatment 1941 | . 330 | 43 | 25 |
| for 1942 | . 739 | 80 | 47 |
| Mothers 1943 | . 703 | 83 | 66 |
| | | | Silver |
| | | actions. | Nitrate. |
| Average treatment for childre | en, | | |
| 1933–1940 | 4 | 04 | 492 |
| Treatment (1941 | 3 | 38 | 584 |
| for 1942 | 2 | 94 | 734 |
| Children 1943 | 1 | 59 | 782 |

Prior to 1942, two sessions of two hours duration each week were sufficient to maintain this service. During the last two years, two or three sessions of three hours duration each week became necessary to keep pace with the extra demand for treatment. Despite the voluntary increase in the hours of the School Dental Officer this work encroached upon the time devoted to school dentistry, and an attempt is being made this year to obviate this by asking the Assistant School Dental Officer to perform one Infant Welfare session each week.

SPECIAL TREATMENT.

Although a decrease in the incidence of dental decay is to be expected in wartime, due to sugar and sweet rationing, there is still a very high incidence. One cause of this is a general acid condition known as acidosis. In order to combat this condition Nutritive Salts, put up in tablet form by Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co., have been administered to several patients, chiefly under eight years of age and with widespread dental decay.

It is early to gauge the effectiveness of this measure, but in addition to an apparent arrest of dental decay in each child where these tablets have been given, there has been a striking recovery in the general health of two of these children. One, a sufferer with asthma, has been restored to practically normal health; the other has made a complete recovery from general debility.

The number of cases of gingivitis (i.e., general inflammation of the mouth) and "trench mouth" (i.e., a general ulcerative condition of the mouth) has remained fairly constant during the war years. The lack of certain foodstuffs and their contained vitamins has caused the incidence of these diseases to be much higher than under normal conditions. The treatment consists of scaling and the constant application of T.C.P. in gingivitis, and the application of Mapharside, an arsenical preparation, in "trench mouth." In the latter condition usually only one application of such a drastic drug is necessary.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS.

Year ended 31st December, 1943.

TABLE I.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

A .- ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

| (1) No. of Inspections:— Entrants Second Age Group Third Age Group | 1,390 1,232 | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| Total | | 3,977 |
| (2) No. of Other Routine Inspections | | |
| Grand Total | | 3,977 |
| B.—Other Inspections. | | |
| No. of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections | | 18,760 |

TABLE II.

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

| Number of Children | (Exce | llent) | (Nor | B (Normal) | | htly rmal) | D (Bad) | |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|-------|---------------|-----|---------------|------------|---|
| Inspected | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 3,977 | 243 | 6.1 | 3,521 | 88.5 | 213 | 5.4 | - | _ |

TABLE III.

GROUP I.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS (excluding uncleanliness).

| Total Number of 1 | Defects | treated or | under treatment | during | |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| the year unde | er the | Authority's | Scheme | | 4,600 |

| | ler the |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | heme. 566 |
| Total | 566 |
| Autl | der the hority's heme. |
| No. of Children for whom spectacles were (a) Prescribed | 489 450 |
| GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT. | der the |
| Autl | nority's heme. |
| Received other forms of Treatment | 27 |
| Total number treated | 316 |
| TABLE IV. DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT. | |
| (1) Number of Children inspected by the Dentists:— (a) Routine age-groups (b) Specials | 949 2,156 |
| (c) Total (Routine and Specials) | 3,105 |
| (2) Number found to require treatment | 2,689 |
| (3) Number actually treated | 2,160 7,724 |
| (5) Half-days devoted to:— Administration | 10 |
| Inspection | 29 738 |
| Total | 777 |
| (6) Fillings:— Permanent Teeth Temporary Teeth | 3,131 |
| Total | 3,131 |

| (7) Extractions :— Permanent Teeth Temporary Teeth | 865 3,565 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total | 4,430 |
| (8) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions | _ |
| (9) Other Operations:— Local Anæsthetics Permanent Teeth Temporary Teeth | 3,076 2,995 2,316 |
| Total | 8,387 |
| TABLE V. | |
| VERMINOUS CONDITIONS. | |
| (i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised persons | 5.7 |
| (ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons | 23,357 |
| (iii) Number of individual children found unclean | 1,498 |
| (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 | <u>-</u> |

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 relates to all such children (including evacuees) resident in the Authority's area.

| | At a Public Elementary School | At an Institution other than a Special School | At no School or Institution |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Blind Children | 11 - 2019 | _ | - 2 |
| Deaf Children | _ | | 1 |

SECONDARY AND JUNIOR TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS.

Year ended 31st December, 1943.

TABLE I. (S).

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING SECONDARY AND JUNIOR TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Routine Inspections:-

| | | 65 |
|-----------|-------|---------|
| Other ent | rants | 217 |
| 12 years | | 107 |
| 13 years | | 60 |
| 14 years | | 132 |
| 15 years | | 151 |
| | | 52 |
| | Total | 784 |

99

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections 1,169

TABLE II. (S).

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

| Number of Children Inspected | A (Excellent) | | B (Normal) | | C (Slightly subnormal) | | D (Bad) | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------|---------------|-------|------------------------------|------|------------|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 784 | 188 | 23.98 | 558 | 71-17 | 38 | 4.85 | - | _ |

TABLE III. (S).

GROUP I.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS (excluding uncleanliness).

Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme

| | Under th Authority Scheme |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.) | 1 |
| in Group I.) | |
| No. of children for whom spectacles were (a) Prescribed (b) Obtained | |
| GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT. Received Operative Treatment | |
| Total number treated | . 5 |
| TABLE IV. (S). DENTAL TREATMENT. | |
| (1) Number of children seen by the Dentists | . 158 . 148 |
| (5) Fillings (all in Permanent Teeth) (6) Extractions:— Permanent Teeth Temporary Teeth (7) Other Operations:— 84 48 | 120 |
| Dressings, etc. 319 Anæsthetics (local) 112 | 431 |
| TABLE V. (S). | |
| VERMINOUS CONDITIONS. Number of visits made to Schools during the year by the School | |
| Nurses | . 2 |
| Number of examinations of children | |





