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# CITY OF OXFORD

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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### REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER, 1942

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the School Medical Service for the year ended December 31st, 1942.

The report is confined to a short statement as requested by the Board of Education, and the statistical tables.

#### THE GENERAL EFFECT OF THE WAR ON THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELFARE OF THE CHILDREN

The results of the School Medical Inspections show that the nutrition and general physique of the children have not been adversely affected by the war.

The comparable figures with 1941 are as follows:—

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Slightly Subnormal</i>	<i>Bad</i>
1941	12.71	80.91	5.96	.02
1942	11.84	84.22	3.93	.01

#### SCHOOL MEALS AND MILK

The following particulars relate to the number of children in attendance and the number of meals provided on a single day in the first fortnight of October 1942. A day in the middle of the week was chosen, when the school attendance was normal.

##### *Elementary Schools*

Number of Children on Books, City Elementary Schools	..		11,530
" " " Evacuated Schools	..	..	900
Elementary Schools providing meals	..	..	20
" " " milk	..	..	.. all schools

##### *Meals*

City Children receiving meals free	..		277
" " " on payment	..	..	1521
Evacuated " " " "	..	..	249
Total	..	..	2,047

*Milk*

City Children receiving milk free	...	...	...	...	757
"    "    "    on payment	...	...	...	...	8077
Evacuated "    "    free	...	...	...	...	74
"    "    "    on payment	..	..	..	..	628
					<hr/>
Total	..	..	...	..	9,536
					<hr/> <hr/>
Secondary Schools providing meals on payment	...	...	...	...	3
"    "    "    milk "    "	...	...	...	...	3
No. of Children receiving meals	...	...	...	...	737
"    "    "    milk	...	...	...	...	498

## MENTAL WELFARE

With the continued co-operation of the London Child Guidance Training Centre it has been possible to see more cases during the year. Since large numbers of the evacuated children have returned to London most of the new cases have been Oxford children. This does not imply that the War has increased the number of neurotic and psychotic children but rather that with greater facilities and staff it has been possible to give more intensive and sustained treatment.

## STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1942

TABLE A

1. Total number of sessions	...	...	...	Oxford Clinic	75
				C.G.T.C.	377
					<hr/>
					452
					<hr/> <hr/>
2. Total number of cases seen				<i>New</i>	<i>Old</i>
Oxford Clinic	..	..	..	99	62 = 161
C.G.T.C.	..	..	..	169	88 = 257
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				268	150 = 418
				<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
3. Total number of attendances					
Oxford Clinic	...	...	...	...	510
C.G.T.C.	..	..	..	..	1753
					<hr/>
					2263
					<hr/> <hr/>



TABLE B

*Analysis of causes for which children were referred*

	O.C.	C.G.T.C.	Total
1. Dull and backward only (to varying degrees)	37	18	55
2. Behaviour difficulties only (truancy, etc.)	8	29	37
3. Vicious and moral defects (lying, etc.) ..	14	6	20
4. Emotional disturbances (fears, etc.) ..	25	42	67
5. Enuresis only .. .. .	6	15	21
6. Retardation and emotional disturbances ..	1	6	7
7. Retardation and vicious tendencies ..	1	3	4
8. Speech defects and stammering only ..	6	8	14
9. Squint (ref. from Eye Hosp. ? nervous) ..	—	8	8
10. Advice only (vocational, management, etc.)	1	34	35
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	99	169	268
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

TABLE C

*Results of Treatment*

1. Still on register for further treatment, inclusive of cases attending the Observational school, or receiving special coachings, speech treatment or play-therapy.							
Oxford .. .. .						68	
C.G.T.C. .. .. .						135	
Total .. .. .						—	203
<i>Cases closed during the year</i>							
Oxford .. .. .						85	
C.G.T.C. .. .. .						130	
Total .. .. .						—	215
These cases are classified as follows:—							
(1) Improved, no further treatment recommended at present.							
Oxford .. .. .						36	
C.G.T.C. .. .. .						60	
Total .. .. .						—	96
(2) Not improved, left area or failed to attend when summoned.							
Oxford .. .. .						16	
C.G.T.C. .. .. .						29	
Total .. .. .						—	45
(3) Attended for psychological examination, advice and opinion and for whom no treatment was recommended.							
Oxford .. .. .						27	
C.G.T.C. .. .. .						36	
Total .. .. .						—	63

(4) Referred to Education Office for examination by Notifying Officer.		
Oxford .. .. .	6	
C.G.T.C. .. .. .	5	
Total .. .. .	—	11

#### VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

The number of children found to be verminous shows a considerable decrease. In 1941 792 individual children were found to be unclean whereas in 1942 the figure was 445, including 101 evacuees attending City schools.

A special Nursing Assistant was appointed in October to supervise the work of the other nursing assistants at the school clinics, and to inspect the schools at regular intervals. The new arrangement is working very well, and it relieves the school nurses for other duties.

#### SCABIES

The new scheme of treatment which was outlined in the Report for 1941 was developed throughout the year. The basic principle of the scheme was the treatment of the family rather than the individual, and the majority of families which came under treatment were detected primarily by the attendance of infected children at the School Clinics

This led to further investigations and visits by the Matron and Out-patient Sister at Cold Arbour, as a result of which all infected persons in the family received treatment. But in the course of subsequent observation of these, it became obvious that contact with infection may spread beyond the family boundary and that very often investigation of related families, neighbours, and fellow-workers was also required. Thus, during the course of the year, the tendency has been to extend the operation of the scheme beyond the household limit and to trace the infection as thoroughly as possible throughout the patient's whole environment.

The figures shown in the tables do not necessarily bear any relation to the true incidence of the disease since scabies is not notifiable. The increase in numbers of attendances can be described satisfactorily because it indicates that the improved facilities for treatment have been organised to meet a real need.

General Practitioners who were circularised about the Scheme have willingly co-operated both by notifying the Medical Officer of Health of any patient with scabies who comes to their notice, and by referring doubtful cases to the Scabies Clinics for diagnosis and treatment.



TABLE I

Total number of attendances at Clinics	..	..	..	—	3060
„ „ „ visits made	..	..	..	..	936
„ „ „ contacts investigated	..	..	..	..	2939
„ „ „ out-patient treatments	..	..	..	..	743
„ „ „ admissions to hospital	..	..	..	..	720

TABLE II

## Monthly records of Scabies (City)

					<i>School Children</i>	<i>Pre-School</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	..	..	..	..	71	20	91
February	..	..	..	..	69	28	97
March	..	..	..	..	102	42	144
April	..	..	..	..	58	29	87
May	..	..	..	..	36	13	49
June	..	..	..	..	40	13	53
July	..	..	..	..	44	16	60
August	..	..	..	..	22	12	34
September	..	..	..	..	72	18	90
October	..	..	..	..	34	7	41
November	..	..	..	..	62	16	78
December	..	..	..	..	34	13	47
					644	227	871

In addition to these there were treated 41 children of school and 3 of pre-school age from the County.

## CHANGES IN STAFF

Considerable changes have had to be made.

1. *Medical Staff*

Dr. W. J. Moir was appointed 1.1.43 vice Dr. J. Robertson, resigned 19.12.42.

Dr. Joan Kent was appointed 12.10.42 vice Dr. M. Brander, resigned 10.10.42.

Dr. W. Hoffman was appointed 30.11.42 vice Dr. E. Singer, resigned 28.11.42.

2. *Remedial Gymnasts*

Mrs. S. Rigden was appointed 1.4.42 vice Mrs. I. B. Licence, resigned 31.3.42.

## SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

On consideration of Circular 1559 dated 16th July 1941, the following alteration was made in the procedure to be adopted for school medical inspection.

School entrants and leavers are seen by the School Medical Officers as heretofore.

The age group 7+ is now inspected by the School Nurses prior to the visit of the School Medical Officer to the school. She refers any children whom she thinks should be seen by a Medical Officer to the next routine inspection at the school, unless the matter is more urgent, when the child is referred to the School Clinic. The parents are notified when the children are to be seen by the Medical Officer.

The new arrangement appears to be working very well.

## MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS

TABLE I

## Medical Inspections of children attending Public Elementary Schools

## A. ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

(1) No. of Inspections:							
Entrants .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1856
Second Age Group ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1163
Third Age Group ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1247
TOTAL							<u>4266</u>
(2) No. of other Routine Inspections ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	828
GRAND TOTAL	..	..	..	..	..	..	<u>5094</u>

## B. OTHER INSPECTIONS

No. of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	20,965
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TABLE II

## 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.	%
5094	603	11.84	4290	84.22	200	3.93	1	.01

TABLE III

GROUP I.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS (excluding uncleanliness).	
Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme .. .. .	6735
GROUP II. TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.	
Errors of Refraction (including squint) .. .. .	Under the Authority's Scheme 913
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	Nil.
Total .. .. .	<u>913</u>
No. of children for whom spectacles were	
(a) Prescribed .. .. .	581
(b) Obtained .. .. .	581
GROUP III. TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.. ..	
Received Operative Treatment .. .. .	<u>378</u>
Received other forms of treatment .. .. .	37
Total number treated .. .. .	<u>415</u>

TABLE IV

## Dental Inspection and Treatment

(1) Number of children inspected by the Dentist	
(a) Routine age groups .. .. .	10796
(b) Specials .. .. .	671
(c) Total (Routine and Specials) .. .. .	— 11467
(2) Number found to require treatment .. .. .	7554
(3) Number actually treated .. .. .	6001
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment .. .. .	9606
(5) Half-days devoted to:	
Inspection .. .. .	89
Treatment .. .. .	1202
Total .. .. .	— 1291
(6) Fillings:—	
Permanent Teeth .. .. .	9310
Temporary Teeth .. .. .	378
Total .. .. .	— 9688
(7) Extractions:—	
Permanent Teeth .. .. .	1094
Temporary Teeth .. .. .	6928
Total .. .. .	— 8022
(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions .. .. .	9
(9) Other Operations:—	
Permanent Teeth .. .. .	422
Temporary Teeth .. .. .	105
Total .. .. .	— 527



TABLE V  
Verminous Conditions

(i)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised persons .. .. .	3
(ii)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons .. .. .	26096
(iii)	Number of individual children found unclean .. .. .	445
(iv)	Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921 .. .. .	Nil.
(v)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—	
	(a) Under the Education Act, 1921 .. .. .	Nil.
	(b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws .. .. .	Nil.

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.

	1	2	3
	At a Public Elementary School	At an Institution other than a Special School	At no School or Institution
Blind Children .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaf Children .. .. .	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE VII  
School Medical and Dental Staff

NAME OF OFFICER	Proportion of whole time devoted to	
	S.M.S.	P.H.
S.M.O.—Dr. G. C. Williams .. .. .	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$
A.S.M.O.s—		
Dr. J. Robertson .. .. . Resigned 19.12.42	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$
Dr. N. Archer .. .. . Resigned 10.10.42	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$
Dr. M. Brander .. .. . appointed 12.10.42	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$
Dr. E. Singer .. .. . Resigned 28.11.42	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$
Dr. W. Hoffman .. .. . Appointed 30.11.42	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$
Senior Dentist—J. A. Smyth .. .. .	10½ sessions per week	½ session per week
Dentists—		
Mrs. M. B. Deverell .. .. .	Ditto	Ditto
Miss M. Williams .. .. .	Ditto	Ditto

School Nursing Staff  
(excluding Specialist Nurses such as Orthopaedic Nurses)

	No. of Officers	Aggregate of time given to S.M.S. work in terms of whole time officers
School Nurses .. .. .	11	3
District Nurses .. .. .	Nil.	Nil
Nursing Assist.* .. .. .	3	2½
Dental Attendants .. .. .	3	3 (1½ sessions per wk. for Pub. Health.)

\* This term refers to the untrained assistants described in paragraph 3 of Circular 1604

## REPORT FROM THE ORGANISER OF PHYSICAL TRAINING

### GENERAL

Owing to the requisitioning by the Military authorities of Cowley Marsh playing field, progress in organised games has been handicapped in the schools of that area and, what is perhaps more regrettable, many children are missing healthful recreation.

The closure of Cowley Bath from November to April has resulted in fewer children becoming proficient swimmers, and records show that over 900 fewer certificates were issued this year.

The allocation of plimsolls made by the Board of Education during the year was inadequate, and in consequence many children had of necessity to carry out physical training in shoes and boots. Foot defects are all too common and many exercises cannot be properly carried out on a hard surface in thick soled shoes, and some exercises are dangerous when wearing nailed boots.

Remedial treatment for postural and other minor defects has been extended by the appointment of an additional teacher, and two new centres have been opened.

A peripatetic woman teacher is continuing to do good work in the boys' schools where teachers have been withdrawn for service in H.M. Forces.

### EQUIPMENT

*Apparatus.* So far, schools are able to carry on with the apparatus available though there is a shortage of balls for infants. It is hoped that the Board of Education will be able to give another general allocation in the near future.

### TEACHERS' CLASSES

*Women.* A course of 20 lessons for teachers responsible for the instruction of senior girls has been arranged, and the attendance at the class is good. The course is taken by Miss M. Caudwell.

### SWIMMING

*Girls.* The number of certificates gained during the year was 999 as against 1,425 last year, the reduction is mainly due to the closing of Cowley Bath for the autumn and winter months.

*Boys.* The number of certificates gained was 628 as against 1,206



the previous year. For reasons of paper economy and printing the schedule of results is not appended.

Life Saving classes were held for boys and girls, the attendance at the boys' class was disappointing.

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS SWIMMING ASSOCIATION FOR GIRLS

The annual competitions were held at the Hinksey Baths on July 23, 1942, when nine schools entered for the Senior events and ten for the Junior. Temple Cowley Council School were the winners of the Shield gaining 14 points, Holy Trinity Convent second ( $6\frac{1}{2}$  points), West Oxford Council third (6 points). SS. Mary & John School won the trophy for the Juniors with  $6\frac{1}{2}$  points, Donnington second (4 points), Headington C. of E. third (3 points).

There was a high standard of swimming in all events, and thanks are due to all teachers for their active interest in the furtherance of swimming. The Shield for the Seniors and Picture for the Juniors were kindly presented by Councillor H. C. Ingle.

#### PLAY CENTRES

The Play Centres Sub-Committee decided to open three Saturday morning centres as last year, and these were held from October 1942 to January 1943. The centres were closed at the end of January owing to the low attendance.

The average attendance at the centres was as follows:—

<i>Centre</i>					<i>Autumn Term</i>	<i>Spring Term</i>
Headington	..	..	..	..	45	24
St. Clement's	..	..	..	..	45	—
New Marston	..	..	..	..	53	25

There is no doubt that the Saturday morning centres have not the attraction for children as those conducted during the evenings in normal times. In order to economise on staffing, children in attendance at a centre held in the same premises for the care of children of women in employment were admitted to the centres.

#### COWLEY MARSH PLAYING FIELD

In the latter part of the year this field was requisitioned by the military authorities. The field accommodated seven schools and several Youth Clubs, and the loss of it is a serious handicap to the progress of organised games.

Arrangements have been made for one school to use pitches at Manor Road and for another to attend at Temple Cowley Council School. Up to the present time the remaining schools are without accommodation.



RECREATIONAL CLASSES IN PHYSICAL TRAINING FOR THOSE NO LONGER  
IN ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

*Organised games, dancing, etc.* The attendance at the open classes arranged by the Schools of Technology, and classes in connection with Evening Institutes and Clubs has been considerably higher this year. The games evenings for boys and girls held once weekly on Manor Road playing field has proved very popular.

A training course for Junior Leaders was commenced in September with over 20 prospective Leaders, and week-end courses have been held for boys.

E. C. TERRY,  
*Organiser of Physical Training.*

