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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER


TO

The Education Committee

OF THE

SALOP COUNTY COUNCIL
1940.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, M.D., D.P.H.



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To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1940.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Board of Education, the Report is on a much less comprehensive scale than in former years, but the routine work of the department has been fully maintained and has been extended to include the evacuees.

I wish to express my indebtedness to Dr. Eastwood under whose general supervision the Report has been prepared.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM TAYLOR,

School Medical Officer.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICE,
COLLEGE HILL,
SHREWSBURY,
May, 1941.

GENERAL.

The area covered by the Salop Education Authority comprises 861,800 acres, and has an estimated population of 241,000. This includes the area represented by the Borough of Shrewsbury, which is an independent Authority for Elementary Education.

At the end of 1940, there were 272 Elementary Schools, comprising 299 departments and 27,991 children were on the register.

The Staff consisted of the School Medical Officer, the Deputy School Medical Officer, six Assistant School and Child Welfare Medical Officers and four Dental Officers.

Changes occurring during the year were the departure for Military Service of Dr. Moore and Mr. Evans, L.D.S. These vacancies were filled early in 1941 by the appointment, on a temporary basis, of Dr. E. M. McKendrick and Mr. N. I. Smith, L.D.S.

In addition to the Medical Officers and Dental Officers above mentioned, the staff during the year consisted of :—

- 4 Dental Attendants.
- 1 Whole-time School Nurse.
- 13 Health Visitors undertaking school nursing.
- 43 District Nurses undertaking school nursing.
- 2 Nurses working independently.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

Despite the disturbances caused by the war, medical inspection and treatment have continued with no appreciable curtailment. This has been possible owing to the appointment of an additional Assistant School Medical Officer shortly before the war began, an addition which enabled the service to be largely maintained in spite of the sudden increase in the school population caused by evacuation.

There were no changes in the arrangements for medical, dental and cleanliness inspections and no substantial alterations in the arrangements for the various forms of treatment or the provision of solid meals or milk.

The number of officially evacuated children in the County at the commencement of the year had fallen to a fraction of the number which arrived in September, 1939, and it continued to decline until late in 1940 when official evacuation was resumed. Medical Inspection of evacuees was carried out exactly on the same lines as for local children, and the facilities for treatment were made equally available, 284 children being treated, 258 for eye defects, 5 for ear and 20 throat defects; also 1,213 evacuated children received dental treatment.

Cleanliness inspection, carried out on the pre-war standard, revealed that the evacuated children were brought practically to the same standard of cleanliness as local children.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

No distinction is made between children ordinarily attending schools in the area and children who have transferred to the area as a result of evacuation.

SECTION 1.—ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Table I.—A—Routine Medical Inspections.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed groups :—

	1940	1939
Entrants	3,600	2,777
Intermediates	3,859	3,019
Leavers	2,871	2,626
Total ..	10,330	8,422

Number of other Routine Inspections .. — —

Table I.—B—Other Inspections.

	1940	1939
Number of Special Inspections	5,362	5,237
Number of Re-inspections ..	10,286	9,798
Total ..	15,648	15,035

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

Age Groups.	Number of Children Inspected.	A. (Excellent).		B. (Normal).		C. (Slightly Subnormal).		D. (Bad).	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	3600	300	8.33	2943	81.75	356	9.89	1	.03
Second Age-group	3859	323	8.37	3030	78.52	501	12.98	5	.13
Third Age-group	2871	299	10.41	2275	79.24	294	10.24	3	.10
Other Routine Inspections ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total for 1940 ..	10330	922	8.93	8248	79.85	1151	11.14	9	.09
.. .. 1939 ..	5007	472	9.26	3869	75.91	745	14.62	11	0.22

TABLE III.

GROUP I.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS.

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFECTS TREATED OR UNDER TREATMENT DURING THE YEAR UNDER THE AUTHORITY'S SCHEME :—

1940	1939
5155	4886

GROUP II.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects included in Group I.)

Defect or Disease. (1)	No. of Defects dealt with.			No. of children for whom spectacles were			
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Otherwise. (3)	Total. (4)	Prescribed. (1)		Obtained. (2)	
				(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)
				Under the Authority's Scheme.	Other-wise.	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Other-wise.
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	1142	69	1211				
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes	7	4	11				
Total	1149	73	1222	953	57	939	55

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

Number of Defects—			
Received Operative Treatment.		Received other forms of Treatment.	Total number treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme in Clinic or Hospital. (1)	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)		
280	41	9	330

TABLE IV.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

Age ..	ROUTINE AGE GROUPS INSPECTED.												Total.
	Under 5	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Total ..	315	1991	2567	2735	2877	3094	2992	2684	2505	2405	435	14	24614

TABLE IV.—continued.

Specials	315	TOTAL (Routine and Specials) ..						24,929
Number found to require treatment .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,109*
Number actually treated .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,358
Attendances made by children for treatment ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,089
Half-days devoted to :—	{	Inspection ..	..	250	}	Total	1,399
		Treatment ..	..	1,149			
Fillings :—	{	Permanent teeth	..	5,280	}	Total	5,819	
		Temporary teeth	..	539				
Extractions :—	{	Permanent teeth	..	2,096	}	Total	14,424	
		Temporary teeth	..	12,328				
Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other operations :—	{	Permanent teeth	..	1,583	}	Total	2,137	
		Temporary teeth	..	554				

* Includes 1,187 children referred for treatment in 1939.

TABLE V.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(1) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses ..	7.39
(2) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by the School Nurses..	96,065
(3) Number of individual children found unclean	2,610
(4) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	0
(5) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	0
(b) Under School Attendance Bye-Laws	5

TABLE VI.—BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.

	At a Public Elementary School.	At an Institution other than a Special School.	At no School or Institution.	Total not receiving suitable education.
Blind Children	0	0	0	0
Deaf Children	0	0	2	2

Nine Mentally Defective Children were notified during the year by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928.

SECTION 2.—SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Number of Children.	<i>Excellent.</i>	<i>Normal.</i>	<i>Slightly Sub-normal.</i>	<i>Bad.</i>
2,372	361 15.22	1,932 81.45	79 3.33	0 —

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

Routine Age Groups Inspected.

Age	Under 7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Over 18	Total.
Total ..	51	50	36	112	295	416	496	597	404	167	73	29	2726

Specials	10	Total Routine and Specials	2,726
Number found to require treatment .. ..	..	..	1,433*
Number actually treated .. ..	..	..	468
Attendances made by children for treatment .. ..	..	..	574
Half-days devoted to :—	{ Inspection 26 Treatment 75		Total 101
Fillings :—	{ Permanent teeth .. 530 Temporary teeth .. 0		Total 530
Extractions :—	{ Permanent teeth .. 207 Temporary teeth .. 87		Total 294
Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions .. ..	..	..	Nil.
Other operations :—	{ Permanent teeth .. 87 Temporary teeth .. 0		Total 87

* 716 free place holders, 717 fee payers.

