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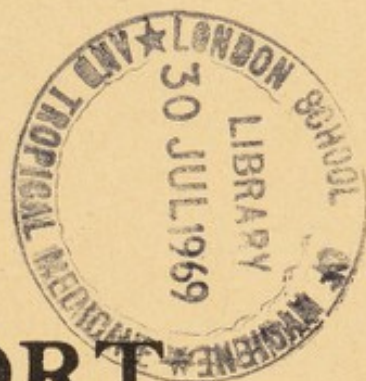
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1944

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

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 Report on the work of the School Medical Service during the year 1944. In accordance with the recommendation of the Ministry of Education, this Annual Report is again very brief and consists mainly of statistical information.

With the exception of a period of six weeks in the autumn when we had the assistance of a temporary Medical Officer, the assistant medical staff continued at the reduced war-time number of four. By careful organisation it was, however, found possible during the year to carry out 2,510 more routine medical examinations of children in the schools than in 1943. In spite of war-time conditions the health of the school children in the County during the year was well maintained, and in fact the figures showing the state of nutrition appear to indicate some improvement.

The year was notable for the passing of the Education Act, 1944, the main provisions of which came into operation on the 1st April, 1945. This Act makes major changes in our educational system and in the School Medical Service, but these changes will be dealt with in the Annual Report for 1945.

I should like to express my appreciation of the help I have received in the preparation of this report from Dr. Crawford, my Deputy, and from Mr. Lee, Senior Clerk in the County Health Department.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM TAYLOR,

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICES,
COLLEGE HILL,
SHREWSBURY,

November, 1945.

Annual Report for the Year 1944.

GENERAL.

The area covered by the Salop Education Authority comprises 861,800 acres, and has an estimated population of 259,830.

The Borough of Shrewsbury, the area and population of which are included in these figures, was during 1944 an independent Authority for Elementary Education. As a result of the Education Act, 1944, however, the Shrewsbury Borough Council on the 1st April, 1945, ceased to be a separate Elementary Education Authority, and its responsibility in this respect passed to the County Council.

At the end of 1944 there were in the County of Salop outside the Borough of Shrewsbury, 275 elementary schools containing 300 departments, and 25,592 children were on the register, comprising 24,321 Shropshire children, 453 "private" evacuees and 818 official evacuees.

The staff of the School Medical Service during 1944 consisted of:—

The School Medical Officer.

The Deputy School Medical Officer.

Six Assistant School and Child Welfare Medical Officers (two being away on War Service).

Four Dental Officers (one on War Service).

Four Dental Attendants (one on War Service).

One whole-time School Nurse.

Fourteen Health Visitors undertaking School Nursing.

Forty-three District Nurses undertaking School Nursing.

One Nurse working independently.

The following Departmental Staff changes occurred during the year:—Dr. William Stewart, Deputy School Medical Officer, left on the 12th August, 1944, and Dr. F. J. H. Crawford, who was appointed to succeed him, took up his duties on the following 4th December. Dr. D. I. Buckby joined the staff in a temporary capacity on the 11th September, and terminated her service on the 26th October. Several changes also took place among the whole-time Health Visitors and among the District Nurses assisting in the School Medical Service.

EVACUATION SCHEME.

Some 12,000 children were sent to this County in 1939 under the Government Evacuation Scheme for unaccompanied children, and although many of them returned home during the following months, a second evacuation to this County took place in the summer of 1940. No mass return immediately followed, but considerable numbers of these children gradually departed, and at the beginning of 1944 only 1,712 remained in Shropshire. During the year the number of evacuees diminished slightly until in the Autumn "enemy air activity in the South of England" caused a slight increase in the number of evacuees in the County, the number rising to 2,008 at the end of September. By the end of the year the number had again fallen, and on the 31st December there were only 1,271 evacuees remaining in the County.

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

Although during the year there were only four Assistant Medical Officers available to undertake the work in the schools, the number of routine medical examinations carried out was 9,594, as compared with 7,084 during 1943, and the number of schools unvisited during the year was only 55, as compared with 93 during the previous year.

Cleanliness.—The School Nurses continued to carry out the ordinary inspections of children in elementary schools for verminous infestation, making following-up inspections of those who were found to harbour lice or nits. In 1944, when a total of 92,273 head examinations were made these resulted in the finding of 2,492 verminous children, a percentage of 9.1. Thus the improvement in cleanliness reported in 1943 when the percentage of children found verminous was 8.4 (the lowest rate recorded during the War) was not maintained. The most important cause of this increase in verminous infestation amongst school children (which is not confined to this County) is probably the increased employment outside the home of mothers who consequently have less time available to devote to the care of their children. It is possible also that difficulty in procuring such articles as fine-toothed combs has been partly responsible.

On the other hand it is gratifying to record that the incidence of scabies in the schools during the year fell once again as compared with the previous year, the number of cases of this disease reported by the teachers during 1944 having been 212, as compared with 239 during the previous year.

Nutrition.—The nutrition of a child is an excellent index of the state of general health, and for the purpose of the School Medical Service the Ministry of Education recommend that in this respect the children shall be divided into four groups according as their nutrition is considered to be "excellent," "normal," "slightly sub-normal," or "bad." The assessment of nutrition in each case depends very largely on the individual judgment of the examining Medical Officer, and although many efforts have been made in the past to devise some standardised method for the estimation of nutrition which would exclude or reduce the errors caused by this personal factor, no such test has as yet been devised. The four Medical Officers from whose findings the table below is prepared have, however, all held their present posts in the County since before the War, and it is justifiable to assume that their individual standards of nutrition have remained constant and consequently that their figures for one year may be compared with those for previous years. The variation in the percentages of children in the nutritional groups are therefore not the result of changes in the medical staff, but can be regarded as reflecting actual changes in the nutritional standard of the children examined.

It is interesting, therefore, to note the variations in the four nutritional groups during the seven years from 1938 to 1944, and it will be seen from the figures given below that although the percentages of those considered "excellent" have decreased somewhat during the War, the percentages of those in the "slightly sub-normal" group have decreased substantially; and that the percentage of children in the combined group of those of "excellent" and "normal" nutrition reached in 1944 a higher level than ever before, thus tending to give the impression that in spite of War-time conditions the general health of the children has on the whole been well maintained and has even improved.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN NUTRITIONAL GROUPS.

Grades of Nutrition.	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Excellent	12.06	9.26	8.93	6.66	5.22	8.36	8.04
Normal	75.16	75.91	79.85	83.10	84.65	81.56	85.87
Slightly Sub-normal ..	12.61	14.62	11.14	10.17	9.96	9.95	6.07
Bad	.17	.22	.09	.07	.17	.13	.02

The reason for the steady improvement in the nutrition of the school population during the War years is probably mainly an economic one. Employment having been maintained at a high level there is more money available for food, and the rationing system has meant that this food has been fairly distributed. In addition, the Milk in Schools Scheme and the provision of schools meal have been factors concerned.

Milk in Schools Scheme.—An enquiry made at the end of the year showed that 71.0 per cent. of the children in attendance at the elementary schools were receiving milk at school under the Milk in Schools Scheme as compared with 73.3 per cent. on the corresponding days in 1943. It is regrettable that this reduction should have occurred for one of the most important factors in maintaining a high level of nutrition in childhood is the drinking of milk.

School Canteens.—Canteens served 45 schools in 1943, but at the end of 1944 as many as 78 schools with an attendance of 11,117 children, that is nearly 50 per cent. of the total number of children attending elementary schools in the County, were served by these Canteens. However, owing either to apathy or lack of appreciation on the part of many parents of the benefits to be derived from the consumption at a school canteen of a well-balanced mid-day meal, only 6,283 of these children took advantage of this service.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The primary responsibility for the immunisation of children against diphtheria rests with the Local Sanitary Authorities. Since 1942, however, the County Council has assumed concurrent responsibility with the District Councils for this work, and except in the Borough of Shrewsbury, which has a very complete scheme of its own, much the greater part of the diphtheria immunisation in the County is now carried out under the County Council Scheme by the Assistant Medical Officers.

Indeed, during 1944, out of a total of 676 children between 5 and 15 years of age who were immunised, 485 were dealt with under the County Council Scheme, 103 were immunised under the Scheme for the Borough of Shrewsbury, and 88 were dealt with under arrangements made by the other District Councils. On the 31st December, 1944, the position with regard to diphtheria immunisation of school children in the County of Salop was as follows :—

Of children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, 85.9 per cent. had been immunised against this disease. This percentage includes those children now of school age who were protected against diphtheria before attaining the age of five years.

IMMUNISATION STATISTICS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE COUNTY.

Local Authority Area.	Number Immunised from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1944.	Percentage Immunised at 31st Dec., 1944.
Shrewsbury Borough	103	83
Ellesmere Urban	12	95
Ellesmere Rural	8	94
Oswestry Borough	41	90
Oswestry Rural	45	93
Wem Urban	4	96
Wem Rural	53	66
Whitchurch Urban	13	84
Dawley Urban	10	88
Market Drayton Urban	24	92
Drayton Rural	12	90
Newport Urban	4	64
Oakengates Urban	14	76
Shifnal Rural	11	70
Wellington Urban	15	91
Wellington Rural	39	85
Bridgnorth Borough	57	73
Bridgnorth Rural	33	92
Atcham Rural	71	92
Bishop's Castle Borough	0	95
Church Stretton Urban	1	86
Clun Rural	22	85
Ludlow Borough	12	92
Ludlow Rural	44	90
Wenlock Borough	28	90
Whole County	676	85.9%

The following table gives the number of immunisations of children between 5 and 15 years of age carried out under the County Council Scheme in each year since it came into operation in 1942, and shows that a total of 4,739 school children have been immunised by the Assistant Medical Officers. It will be seen that the number of these children immunised during 1944 fell from 2,729 to 485 as compared with the previous year. The success of the Immunisation Campaign in previous years provides a partial, if not complete, explanation of this fall, as the number of susceptible children of school age has now been so much reduced that the number to be immunised each year falls correspondingly.

SCHOOL CHILDREN IMMUNISED UNDER COUNTY COUNCIL SCHEME SINCE, AND INCLUSIVE OF 1942.

Year	5—15 years of age.
1942	1525
1943	2729
1944	485
Total (3 years) ..	4739

The effects of the Immunisation Campaign are demonstrated by statistics showing the incidence of Diphtheria and the number of deaths from this disease among persons of all ages in the County during the past 10 years. These figures, including those for the Borough of Shrewsbury, are set out below :—

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA SINCE 1934.

Year	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Notifications	191	223	301	206	185	133	236	237	121	53	25
Deaths	9	20	20	7	19	13	11	9	6	6	1

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 I.—ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

TABLE I.—A—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed groups :—

	<u>1944</u>	<u>1943</u>
Entrants	3,810	2,523
Intermediates	3,489	2,390
Leavers	2,295	2,171
Total ..	<u>9,594</u>	<u>7,084</u>

Number of other Routine Inspections

—

—

TABLE I.—B—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

	<u>1944</u>	<u>1943</u>
Number of Special Inspections	4,420	5,039
Number of Re-Inspections ..	4,260	5,218
Total	<u>8,680</u>	<u>10,257</u>

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	3711	299	8.06	3197	86.15	214	5.77	1	.03
Second Age-group	3429	261	7.61	2922	85.21	245	7.14	1	.03
Third Age-group	2263	196	8.66	1955	86.39	112	4.95	—	—
Other Routine Inspections ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total for 1944 ..	9403	756	8.04	8074	85.87	571	6.07	2	.02
.. .. 1943 ..	7084	592	8.36	5778	81.56	705	9.95	9	.12

TABLE III.

GROUP I.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS.

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

<u>1944</u>	<u>1943</u>
4406	5486

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 under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	No. of children for whom spectacles were	
		Prescribed under the Authority's Scheme. (3)	Obtained under the Authority's Scheme. (4)
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	928		
Other Defect or Disease of the Eye	21		
Total	949	730	716

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

Number of Defects—		
Received Operative Treatment under the Authority's Scheme in Clinic or Hospital. (1)	Received other forms of Treatment. (2)	Total number treated. (3)
362	10	372

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	
Totals ..	439	2360	2886	2968	3088	2909	2837	2557	2389	2275	355	2	25119†

† Includes 54 evacuees of unspecified ages.

Specials	199	TOTAL (Routine and Specials) ..										25,318
Number found to require treatment												12,763
Number actually treated												9,269*
Attendances made by children for treatment												9,773
Half-days devoted to :—												
	{		Inspection	245	{		Total	1,251				
	{		Treatment	1,006	{							
Fillings :—	{		Permanent Teeth	4,265	{		Total	4,691				
	{		Temporary Teeth	426	{							
Extractions :—	{		Permanent Teeth	1,009	{		Total	11,109				
	{		Temporary Teeth	10,100	{							
Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions												none
Other operations :—	{		Permanent Teeth	1,144	{		Total	2,247				
	{		Temporary Teeth	1,103	{							

* Includes 690 children referred for treatment in 1943.

TABLE V.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(1) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised persons	7.50
(2) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by the School Nurses	92,273
(3) Number of individual children found unclean	2,492
(4) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	none
(5) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	none
(b) Under School Attendance Bye-Laws	18

TABLE VI.—BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.

	At a Public Elementary School.	At an Institution other than a Special School.	At no School or Institution.
Blind Children	0	0	1
Deaf Children	1	0	0

SECTION 2.—SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Number of Children.	Excellent.	Normal.	Slightly Sub-normal.	Bad.
2,644	274 10.36%	2,318 87.67%	52 19.67%	0 0

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

Routine Age Groups Inspected.

Age	Under 7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18 & Over	Total.
Totals ..	86	33	58	181	578	763	993	997	588	291	127	12	4707

Specials	8	Total Routine and Specials				.. .. .	4,715
Number found to require treatment	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	2,115*	
Number actually treated	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	361†	
Attendances made by children for treatment	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	464	
Half-days devoted to :—	{	Inspection	..	43	}	Total	103
		Treatment	..	60			
Fillings :—	{	Permanent teeth		400	}	Total	400
		Temporary teeth		0			
Extractions :—	{	Permanent teeth		109	}	Total	154
		Temporary teeth		45			
Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	none
Other operations :—	{	Permanent teeth		60	}	Total	82
		Temporary teeth		22			

* 587 free place holders, 1,528 fee payers.

† This figure includes 10 children referred for treatment in 1943.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF THE EMPEROR OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

FROM THE YEAR 1800 TO 1810

1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810
1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810

1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810
1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810

1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810
1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810
1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810
1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810
1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810
1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810
1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810
1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810
1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810
1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810

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