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Contributors

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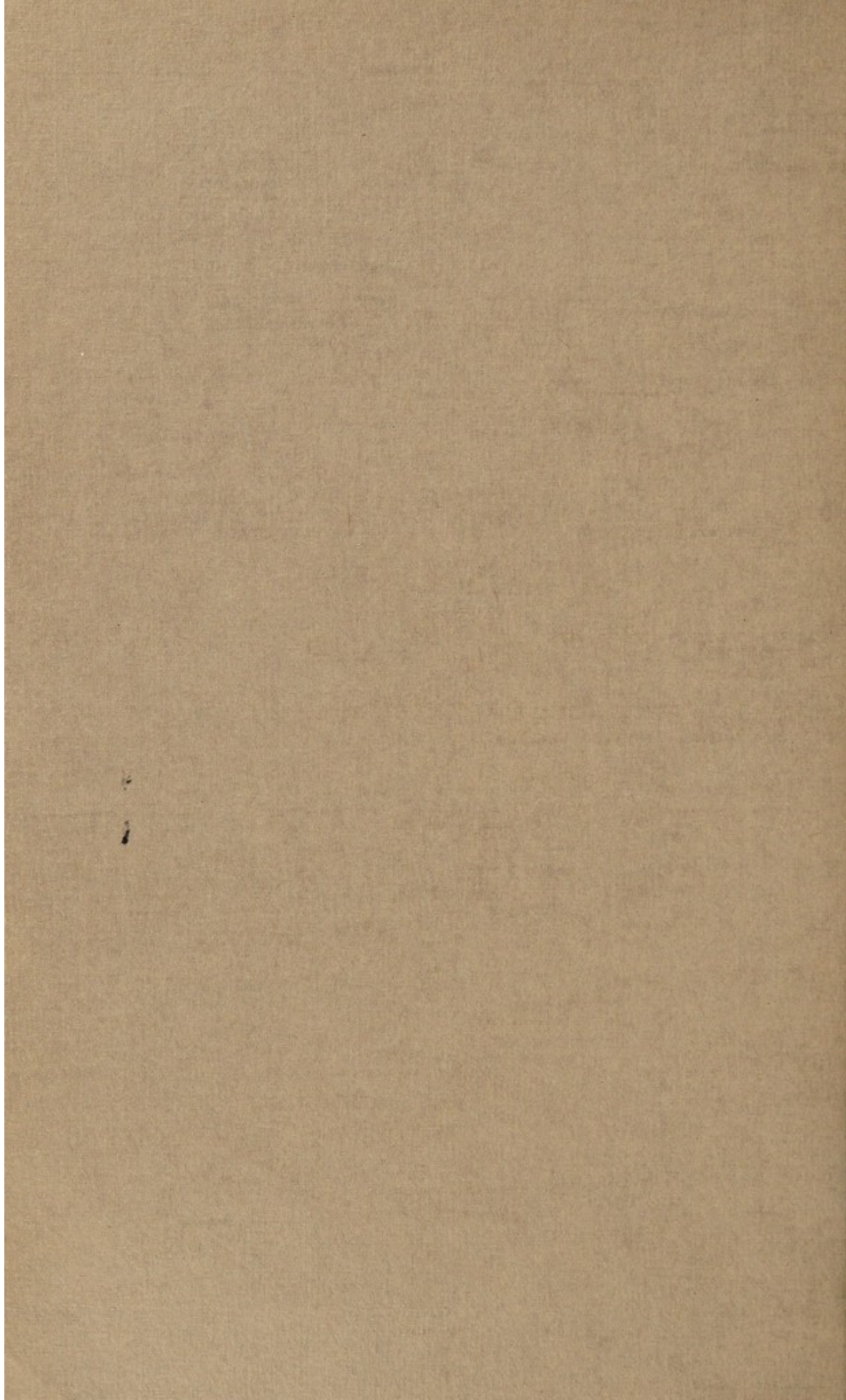
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Health
of the
School Children
of Smethwick
for the Year 1946.

HUGH PAUL, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.



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1945-1946.

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" MRS. M. KIMBERLEY.			MRS. C. FINCHER.

Chief Education Officer:

G. F. BENNETT.

SCHOOL MEDICAL AND DENTAL STAFF.

School Medical Officer:

HUGH PAUL, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officers:

A. WILSON RUSSELL, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

ROBERT M. DYKES, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MARGARET E. McLAREN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

CHRISTINA J. McLEAY, M.B., Ch.B.

School Oculist: H. W. ARCHER-HALL, D.O. (Oxon)*School Dentists:*

MRS. M. I. HOGGINS, L.D.S.

W. ADDERLEY, L.D.S., R.C.S.

MRS. E. LINLEY, L.D.S. (Part-Time).

Superintendent Health Visitor:

MISS ETHEL WILLIAMS,

School Nurses and Health Visitors:

NURSE H. OWEN

NURSE E. A. ROBERTS

.. E. COLLINS (to 12.11.46)

.. J. HIGH

.. J. E. ACKERS

.. E. O. CORNS

.. M. P. O'KEEFFE

.. G. I. EVANS

.. R. TAYLOR

.. D. GRAINGER (from 11.2.46)

.. S. F. DAVIES (to 28.2.46)



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The School Health Service

During 1946.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Smethwick
Education Committee.*

Mr. Chairman, Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The year 1946 was the first complete year of peace, and brought in the trail of war all the difficulties of peace-time. The medical services of the Committee suffered in the same way as every other branch of activity, municipal and private, because of the great shortage of staff and materials, a disability from which we are likely to continue to suffer for some considerable time.

The momentous Education Act of 1944 was in operation for the whole of the year, and some unspectacular but steady progress was made towards its implementation. This Act is an important milestone in the history of public health in this country, and the wide vision which was manifest in its conception seems to be well matched in the statesman-like way in which the Ministry is endeavouring to carry out its provisions. It will be many years before its full fruits are gathered, but no time is being lost in the husbandry, and there can be no doubt that the harvest will be a rich one.

The critics of the Act complain that it is visionary, and incapable of being worked. The first part is true; it is visionary. The second part is only partly true; it is incapable of being brought into full operation at once, but at least it has the great merit of setting a target at which to aim. There can be little doubt that given national prosperity, it should be possible, with good will and enthusiasm, to carry out its provisions in full in a very few years. Should national prosperity not return as rapidly as is hoped, then the Act should be brought into full operation even sooner.

In general, the scheme of the School Health Service in Smethwick is based on sound lines, and required to be developed rather than altered in its essentials. It is a matter for congratulation that the Committee has good and efficient facilities for delicate children (at the Open Air School) for rheumatic children (at the Hollies) and for speech therapy. The School Camp at Bewdley, although not a medical establishment in any way, does much to enhance the health of the children attending it. An increase in size is, I understand, under consideration, and this should be a welcome addition to our health services.

THE HANDICAPPED CHILD.

(i) *The Blind.*

The problem of the care of the blind is not a difficult one, and the Smethwick scheme, which is based on usage of the Birmingham institutions is a sound one. The number requiring care and attention is small.

(ii) *The Deaf.*

Again the Smethwick scheme is based on Birmingham institutions, and is satisfactory. The ascertainment and treatment of the partially deaf, however, is incomplete, and the purchase of an audiometer, which the Education Committee sanctioned in 1939 has not yet been made. It is hoped that it will soon be possible to obtain delivery of at least one. The appointment of a school aurist, who commenced duties in April, 1947, is a step forward, and enables those children who are known to be partially deaf, and those children who are suffering from some condition which predisposes to partial deafness, to be examined and suitably treated. All cases of enlarged tonsils and adenoids recommended for operation are now sent first to the school aurist, as well as those children who have a defect of the ear, nose or throat, which cannot be conveniently and easily be treated at the routine minor ailments clinic.

Most partially deaf children can with advantage attend the ordinary schools, and require merely a forward position in the class. A certain proportion of the more serious types of partially deaf will require to be treated at schools for the deaf.

(iii) *Delicate Children.*

In the main, the provision is adequate in Smethwick, although an extension of the Open Air School would be an advantage. A very small number of delicate children require residential treatment for brief periods, but the number is so small that provision could only be made in conjunction with other local authorities.

The number of cardiac cripples is small. The usual estimate of the number of such cases is about one for every two thousand school children. I feel this figure is rather on the low side, but no difficulty arises in Smethwick. Some of them can be taught in the Open Air School as day children, while those who require residential care (continuous or intermittent) can be accommodated in the Hollies and receive education at the Open Air School.

(iv) *The Educationally Subnormal.*

The provision for the education of those educationally subnormal pupils who are able to attend a day school is reasonably satisfactory, although a larger special school would allow better classification and care. The provision of residential accommodation for those not suitable for a day school is totally inadequate. The Education Committee has no institution of its own to which to send such cases, and it is almost impossible to secure a place even for the most urgent case. The County Borough is too small to provide such a residential school, and any provision contemplated will require to be made in conjunction with other local authorities. It is estimated that in South Staffordshire, there is at present only one place for every three required. The minimum size for a residential special school of this type is about 100 places.

(v) *Maladjusted Children.*

There is practically no provision whatever in Smethwick for the care and treatment of maladjusted children, and the need is urgent. Most of these children are maladjusted because of their home circumstances, and therefore it follows that their treatment must frequently involve complete separation from the family. It is little use trying to cure such a child while the underlying cause, the home conditions, are unchanged. The number of places required in a special boarding school or hostel for these children is very small, probably about nine or ten in all in Smethwick, and these places could only be provided by a number of authorities joining together to provide the necessary residential accommodation.

(vi) *Physically Defective Children.*

The problem of teaching children who are more or less crippled is mainly one of transport, as most of them could benefit by ordinary education if they could be brought to school. A certain number of these children, especially cardiac cripples, are cared for in the Hollies, and this could conveniently be extended.

NUTRITION.

During a period of international food shortage, the state of the nutrition of children must always be an important one. Almost daily, we are told in the press that we are wretchedly fed in this country, that we are the worst fed country in Europe, and even that we are on the verge of starvation. If this were so, the first effects would be visible in the children. But the truth is that the nutrition of the school children is at least as good as it was before the war; indeed, if one may judge from numerous physical examinations it is better. My own opinion is that the average child in this country is better fed now, both qualitatively and quantitatively, than before the war.

Many of us in the adult group are fed less interestingly!

It is a great strain on one's credulity when one is asked to believe that the citizens of this country are suffering from actual hunger, when there are a number of foods, such as potatoes, which are cheap, unrationed, and except for occasional brief periods, plentiful.

This report on the health of the school children in Smethwick touches on many aspects of the work of the Education Committee which do not come strictly within the range of the School Medical Service, and are not under my direction. It is true to say, however, that much of the work of the Chief Education Officer is most effective in raising the standard of physique of the children, and that such services as the School Camp, physical training instruction, and the Open Air School do more for the health of the children than all the work of the School Medical Staff.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the help given to me by the Chairman and members of the Education Committee and its officers. I would particularly like to thank Mr. G. F. Bennett, the Chief Education Officer who has just retired (April 1947) after over 43 years' service to the Borough. His many friends in the town will wish him long life and happiness in his well earned retirement; his work for education in Smethwick will long be remembered.

To my own staff for their forbearance and tolerance, I would also express my thanks.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

HUGH PAUL, M.D., D.P.H.,

School Medical Officer.

May, 1947.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"THE UPLANDS,"
HALES LANE,
SMETHWICK.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN SMETHWICK.

Primary.

		Average Attendance	Accom- modation
Abbey Road Junior .....	.....	435	480
Abbey Road Infants .....	.....	248	450
Bearwood Road Junior .....	.....	369	550
Bearwood Road Infants .....	.....	253	394
Brasshouse Lane Junior .....	.....	362	424
Brasshouse Lane Infants .....	.....	223	527
Cape Junior .....	.....	339	500
Cape Infants .....	.....	300	350
Corbett Street Junior and Infants .....	.....	255	
(Not opened till September, 1946)			
Crocketts Lane Junior .....	.....	392	300
Crocketts Lane Infants .....	.....	325	300
Devonshire Road Junior .....	.....	511	480
Devonshire Road Infants .....	.....	326	510
Oldbury Road Junior and Infants .....	.....	443	350
St. Matthew's Junior and Infants .....	.....	291	290
St. Phillip's Mixed .....	.....	164	180
St. Phillip's Infants .....	.....	69	80
Uplands Junior .....	.....	463	450
Uplands Infants .....	.....	310	450
Waterloo Road Junior and Infants .....	.....	280	450

Secondary.

	Average Attendance	Accom- modation
Park Girls' Modern (Crocketts Lane)	243.4	440
Shireland Boys' Modern (Waterloo Road)	342	360
Shireland Girls' Modern (Waterloo Road)	235	360
Smethwick Hall Boys' Modern.....	344	480
Smethwick Hall Girls' Modern	218	480
Uplands Boys Modern.....	269	440
Uplands Girl's Modern.....	300	440
Holly Lodge Boys' Grammar	361	400
Holly Lodge Girls' Grammar	361	375
James Watt Technical School	395.2	390

Others.

Edith Sands' Nursery .....	.....	100
Firs Open Air	111	140

PRACTICAL CLASSES.

Instruction in Domestic Science and Handicraft is included in the curriculum of Secondary Grammar, Secondary Technical and Secondary Modern Schools.

EVENING INSTITUTES.

At Crocketts Lane and Waterloo Road—For Juniors only,
14 - 16 years of age.

At Abbey Road and Holly Lodge—For women and girls only
—not under 16 years of age.

A variety of subjects may be taken including Keep Fit classes.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

No change during 1946.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.**UNCLEANLINESS**

During the year, the school nurses made 16,720 inspections of children in the schools, and of these 2,595 individual children were found unclean. It was not found necessary for any notices to be served under Sec. 87 of the Education Act, 1921.

Cleansings carried out during the year:—

	The " Firs "	Cape Clinic	Total
New Cases	214	186	400
Treatments given	607	668	1,275

In the early part of the year difficulty was experienced in obtaining staff for the work.

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

The number of children found to have unhealthy tonsils and/or adenoids requiring treatment was 130. In addition 11 children were found to have abnormal conditions of the nose or throat which did not require operative treatment.

SKIN DISEASES.

Fifty-three children found to be suffering from skin disease were referred for treatment. Comparison with findings of the previous four years is as follows:—

	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
Number inspected	4,366	3,564	2,114	1,994	2,794
Ringworm (all forms)	—	1	—	—	1
Scabies	48	29	24	17	19
Impetigo	5	6	4	5	4
Other conditions	40	25	23	14	16
	<hr/> 93	<hr/> 61	<hr/> 51	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 40
Percentage	2.13	1.7	2.4	1.8	1.43

DEFECTIVE VISION, INCLUDING SQUINT.

The number of children found to show defective eyesight was 209, all of whom were referred for refraction. In addition, 25 cases of squint were referred for treatment. The percentage of defects under this heading was 5.3.

EAR DISEASES AND HEARING.

The number of children found with defects under this heading was 59 or 1.58% of the total number inspected.

DENTAL DEFECTS.

The figures in detail for 1946 during ROUTINE inspections are:—

Perfect dentition (no visibly decayed teeth)		.....	.....	3,562—81.5%
Fair dentition (less than four decayed teeth)		.....	.....	626—14.3%
Bad dentition (four or more decayed teeth)		.....	.....	178— 4.07%
	Entrants	Second Age Group	Third Age Group	Other Routine Insp.
Perfect	..... 1,053 76.9%	837 80.4%	1,119 86.3%	553 83.6%
Fair	..... 213 15.5%	159 15.2%	165 12.7%	89 13.4%
Bad	..... 84 7.5%	44 4.2%	12 0.9%	19 2.8%

EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL.

The following Table shows the reasons for 779 exclusions from school:—

Skin :	{	Ringworm—Scalp	—
		—Body	—
	{	Scabies	63
		Impetigo	53
Blepharitis			5
Conjunctivitis			24
Otitis Media			5
Tonsillitis			77
Cervical Adenitis			5
Scarlet Fever			1
Shingles			3
Bronchitis			22
Chorea			3
Nits and Pediculosis			242
Rheumatism			47
Nephritis			3
Jaundice			1
Debility			37
Chickenpox			12
Mumps			7
Whooping Cough			—
German Measles			3
Miscellaneous			166
			<hr/> 779 <hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were only 11 cases of Diphtheria in school children, with two deaths of unimmunised children.

During the year, 813 school children were immunised against diphtheria and on 31st December, 1946, it was estimated that 91% of the school population was protected. In addition 1,090 pre-school children were protected at the various Infant Welfare Centres, the Nursery School, etc., during the year.

Ninety-two cases of scarlet fever were notified and there were no deaths. Sixty-four cases occurred in 1945 and sixty-one in 1944.

There were 43 cases of measles and 98 cases of whooping cough during the year compared with 305 of measles and 73 cases of whooping cough in the previous year.

There was an increase in chickenpox during the year, but the number of cases of mumps coming to the notice of the department decreased considerably.

	1946	1945	1944
Chickenpox	278	194	394
German Measles	7	24	77
Mumps	54	354	20

WORK OF THE SCHOOL NURSES.

<i>At the Schools</i>	1946	1945	1944	1943
Assisting School Medical Officer	284	215	181	174 sessions
Examination of heads for nits, ringworm, etc.	16,720	19,133	26,304	29,336

At the School Clinics

Inspection Clinics	153	138	154	155
Treatment Clinics	748	690	730	498
Eye Clinic	104	87	81	80

At the Skin Clinic

Treating children on	255	302	376	358
Number of children treated	233	284	511	602
Number of baths given.....	1,491	1,717	2,038	4,137

Visits to Houses

Defects and "Following Up"	146	509	413	781 visits
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MEDICAL TREATMENT.

No change has been made in the methods available and employed for the treatment of defects from that described in previous reports. Particulars of the treatment received are given in the tables appended to this Report.

Attendance at Treatment Clinics (excluding Inspection Clinics, Eye Clinics and Baths) :—

1946	1945	1944	1943
21,724	22,605	26,538	25,129

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases of Tuberculosis are referred for diagnosis and treatment to the Chest Clinic, and are often kept under prolonged observation. During the year 197 children of school age came under the observation of the Chest Clinic, including "contacts" of known cases.

	Pulmonary	Other Forms
Number found Tuberculous	18	1
Number suspected	28	—
Number found Non-Tuberculous	150	—

X-ray examinations are made where indicated as an aid to diagnosis.

DEFECTIVE VISION

Mr. H. W. Archer-Hall, D.O. (Oxon), Honorary Surgeon to the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital, Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Smethwick Education Committee, reports that during the year 1946 the following cases were examined and treated at the "Firs" Clinic.

Total number of School Children examined	.....	638
Total number of Spectacles prescribed	.....	377
Total number of treatments	.....	92
New cases	.....	320
Spectacles ordered	.....	202
Referred to hospital	.....	2
Re-examinations	.....	318
Spectacles ordered	.....	175
Referred to hospital	.....	8
Treatments :—		
Group 1. New cases	.....	68
Referred to hospital	.....	12
Re examinations	.....	24
Referred to hospital	.....	1
Group 2. New cases	.....	—
Referred to hospital	.....	—
Re-examinations	.....	—
Referred to hospital	.....	—
Prescriptions <i>not</i> made up	.....	—
Spectacles <i>not</i> collected	.....	—
Toddlers examined	.....	17
Spectacles ordered	.....	14
Spectacles collected	.....	14
Spectacles collected in 1946 from prescriptions in 1945	.....	2

CRIPPLING DEFECTS.

The Secretary of the Smethwick Orthopædic Clinic (Miss R. Green) provides the following report.

The number of children who attended this Clinic during 1946 was 813, of which 426 were girls and 387 boys, as per the attached list.

There were 44 children admitted to Woodlands and 17 to Forelands during the year.

As the number of patients continues to increase it has become necessary for Mr. F. Wilson Stuart to attend every Wednesday afternoon, instead of three times per month as in 1946.

Diagnosis	Girls	Boys
Bells Palsy	1	—
Bowlegs	16	20
Callosities	1	—
Claw Feet	3	3
Contracted Finger	3	—
Cubitus varus	1	—
Deformed Thumb	1	1
Deformed Toes	3	3
Eversion of Feet	1	—
Exostosis	2	1
Flat Feet	121	151
Funnel Chest	1	—
Ganglion	2	—
Hallux Rigidus	2	—
Hallux valgus	17	3
Hammer Toes	8	6
Hemiathrophy	—	1
Various Injuries	7	5
Intoeing	3	2
Knock Knee	57	50
Kyphosis	45	21
Kypho-lordosis	3	4
Kypho-scoliosis	9	9
Lordosis	4	1
Muscle Weakness (thigh)	—	2
Osteomyelitis	—	1
Overlapping Toes	4	4
Perthe's Disease	1	2
Pigeon Chest	2	4

CRIPPLING DEFECTS—*continued.*

Diagnosis	Girls	Boys
Poliomyelitis	7	7
Poor Posture	16	19
Rheumatism	2	—
Rickets	—	2
Scoliosis	44	18
Slipped Epiphysis	2	1
Spastic	1	1
Various Strains	1	3
Talipes equino varus	9	17
Torticollis	12	12
Winged Scapulæ	7	12
T.B. Hip	5	1
T.B. Spine	1	—
Congenital Dislocation of Hip	1	—
	<hr/> 426	<hr/> 387

HANDICAPPED PUPILS.

All handicapped pupils are sent to Institutions on a report being forwarded by the School Medical Officer to the Chief Education Officer that such action is desirable. At the present time the Education Authority has children at the following Institutions :—

Blind and Partially Sighted.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind	2	2	4
Whitehead Road School for Partially-Sighted Children (Birmingham)	2	1	3

Deaf.

Royal School for Deaf child- ren (Birmingham)	2	1	3
Gem Street School for the Deaf (Birmingham)	—	2	2
Mary Hare Grammar School for the Deaf	—	1	1

Educationally Sub-normal.

Monyhull Colony, Birmingham	2	—	2
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Maladjusted.

Holly House, Chesterfield	1	—	1
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Corbett Street Special School

(for Educationally Sub-normal Children).

	Boys	Girls	Total
Number on Register, December			
31st, 1945	45	22	67
Admitted during the year 1946.....	6	4	10
Discharged during the year 1946	11	5	16
Number on Register, December			
31st, 1946	40	21	61
Of those who left :—			
Reached the age limit	5	4	9
Allowed to leave before attaining age limit	2	—	2
Excluded from School	1	—	1
Left District	1	1	2
Deceased	1	—	1
Number examined	37	18	55

Number certified :—

(a) for admission to Special School	5	5	10
(b) for admission to Residential School	2	2	4
(c) Incapable of receiving education at School	3	2	5
(d) Dull or backward	18	9	27
(e) Under observation	9	—	9

OTHER SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

The Edith Sands' Nursery School has accommodation for 100 children from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 years of age.

The Open-Air School has accommodation for 140 children.

"The Hollies," a residential institution for rheumatic and physically sub-normal children (30 beds) admitted a total of 40 children of school age during the year.

SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE.

Meals have been provided throughout the year at the under-mentioned Canteens :—

Lunches supplied to children at Canteens				
		Paid	Free	Total
Abbey Road .....	.....	53,510	3,571	57,081
Bearwood Road .....	.....	23,708	2,055	25,763
Brasshouse Lane .....	.....	22,105	1,621	23,726
Cape Hill .....	.....	20,270	2,871	23,141
Church Lane.....	.....	19,383	2,702	22,083
Devonshire Road .....	.....	39,301	1,968	41,269
Oldbury Road .....	.....	12,303	1,473	13,776
St. Matthew's .....	.....	10,914	1,873	12,787
St. Philip's .....	.....	12,509	458	12,967
Smethwick Hall .....	.....	26,879	998	27,877
Uplands .....	.....	65,391	13,800	79,191
Waterloo Road .....	.....	32,972	3,726	36,698
Corbett Street .....	.....	3,910	—	3,910
Holly Lodge Boys' .....	.....	34,202	1,313	35,515
Holly Lodge Girls' .....	.....	39,432	1,749	41,181
James Watt Technical .....	.....	46,793	557	47,350
Firs Open Air .....	.....	16,129	2,798	18,927
Edith Sands' Nursery .....	.....	17,505	20	17,525
Corbett Street Special.....	.....	6,719	361	7,080
		503,935	43,914	547,849

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

The Bye-laws under the Children and Young Persons' Act of 1933 are in force in the Borough.

The number of certificates granted during the year was 158, 148 for boys and 10 for girls. Certificates were refused in 59 instances on medical grounds. The view of the medical officer is that education is a whole-time occupation and that only exceptional circumstances should subject a child to the strain of carrying out additional duties.

Nature of proposed employment :		Boys	Girls
Delivering Newspapers .....	.....	119	44
„ Milk .....	.....	1	1
„ Firewood .....	.....	1	—
„ Grocery .....	.....	3	1
„ Meat .....	.....	—	—
„ Bread .....	.....	1	—
Errands .....	.....	23	8
		148	54

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

During the year 3,549 parents were present out of a total of 4,366 primary and modern children examined at routine examinations, being a percentage of 81.2.

CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.

The co-operation of the teachers in the work of school medical inspection and treatment during the year has been most helpful. They have always been ready to give assistance and they have continued to confer with the medical officers and nurses in connection with the health of individual children, and have taken a great deal of interest in the physical welfare of their scholars.

CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS.

There is mutual co-operation between the nurses and the school attendance officers. Absentees from school who are found to be having no treatment are referred to the clinics by the attendance officers, who in turn are notified of the names and addresses of those children whose treatment has been completed. Absentees from the clinics are visited by the School Nurses.

CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

The Smethwick Orthopædic Clinic and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children have given help in a number of cases during the year.

COSTS.

The approximate cost of the School Medical Service for 1946-47, as well as those Education services which are associated therewith, is as follows :—

	Amount
School Medical Service	£22,645
School Camp	£5,090
" The Hollies "	£198
Victoria Special School	£2,205
Firs Open Air School	£4,435
Nursery School	£2,650
Provision of Meals	£23,490
	<hr/>
	£60,713
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APPENDIX "A"

DENTAL DEFECTS.

Report by Mrs. M. I. Hoggins, L.D.S.

From examination of the aggregated statistics for the year 1946-47, there is ample evidence of an all round improvement in the general dental health of the community served by the Borough's dental clinics.

Although the numbers of children inspected were approximately the same as in the previous year, the actual figures of those receiving treatment showed a fall of over 1,000 representing 11% (approx.) of the total. It is felt that this represents a dividend for the sound work put in during previous years.

The number of conservations performed on permanent teeth show a proportionate rise over the previous year's total figures, whilst the extraction of permanent teeth shows a noticeable fall, both these facts indicating a tendency towards the ideal at which the School Dental Service aims.

There has been a marked rise in the number of general anæsthetics administered, 763 in actual fact, which points to the popularity which this form of anæsthesia for tooth extraction is gaining. The department has one of the latest models of intermittent-flow machines on order, which will help to deal with this increasing demand for nitrous oxide oxygen anæsthesia even more efficiently.

The requests for orthodontic treatment are still growing which is a gratifying sign, as it indicates the maintained interest which parents are showing towards the dental health of their children.

The one feature where no real improvement can be reported, is the continued failure in certain quarters, of patients to attend for treatment when appointments have been made—this being quite apart from the unavoidable absences incurred during recent arctic conditions. The wastage of the dental officers' valuable time so caused, is a loss to those who are keen to have their treatment completed. It is hoped that some improvement in this respect will be found during the coming year.

It is highly satisfactory to note the further increases in attendance of ante and post natal patients for dental treatment, showing not only appreciation on their part of the importance of dental care during this phase, but also the whole hearted co-operation of the Staffs of the clinic concerned.

It would be fitting to end on this note by expressing the thanks and appreciation of the Dental Staff for the ever ready help of their Medical Colleagues and the Nursing Staff, and to the Headmasters and Headmistresses of our many schools for the kind ways in which they assist us and make the carrying out of our duties the less arduous.

MARY I. HOGGINS,

L.D.S. (U. Birmingham).

APPENDIX " B "

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

This is included in the school curriculum and conducted in accordance with instructions, etc., contained in the Ministry of Education official publications *re* Physical Exercises, copies of which are in the possession of each members of the teaching staff.

The Report of the Physical Training Officer is given below :

" In the year 1946, the standard of Physical Education in the Borough was maintained and in some sections progress was effected. Physical Education is not at a standstill; the perfect scheme has not been found; experiment and research are constantly being carried out in attempts to find better schemes for school children, and answers to the problems set by these children when they leave school.

Modern Secondary Schools.

Each of the three Modern Secondary Boys' Schools has a specialist or semi-specialists conducting the Physical Education in the school. No standard scheme has been drawn up because of the difference in facilities for P.E. in these schools. Schemes of work peculiar to each school are being experimented with.

In Uplands Boys' School where there is a fully equipped gym, the scheme of P.E. comprised a series of tables in which the first part was a short programme of free standing exercises and the second part consisted of activities using gymnastic apparatus.

Shireland Modern Secondary School being in the unfortunate position of not possessing a gym is carrying on with a Senior School scheme of P.E. using portable apparatus only.

The other Modern Secondary School—Smethwick Hall—too, although possessing a gym, had in the first part of the year no fixed apparatus and was conducting a similar scheme to that of Shireland. Now, however, the gym is being fitted with the fixed apparatus and as soon as it is completed a scheme will be put into operation using fixed and portable apparatus and containing a fair amount of progressive training in Basket Ball as boards for this game have now been erected in the gym.

The work in all these schools could be improved if every boy could change into P.T. shorts for the lesson. There is no means of compelling the boys to supply own shorts and the only way of ensuring that each boy has a pair to wear during the P.E. lesson is to supply them on loan.

Under the present conditions, the poor state of the P.T. strip counteracts beneficial results gained by the performance of exercises. Similarly in the case of schools provided with adequate showering facilities, the provision of a towel for each child would greatly ease the question of showers being taken. Showering is an essential part of the P.T. lesson and is one of the best ways of getting over to the boys lessons in hygiene.

Grammar and Technical Schools.

These schools have every facility with regard to P.E. and both in Holly Lodge and the James Watt Technical School fullest advantage is taken of them.

Primary Schools—Junior Department.

In these schools the 1933 Syllabus of Physical Training is still in operation. It has been adapted for use in Smethwick and alterations made in table form and content. There is a need for more apparatus in the Junior Departments, besides the small articles such as hoops, skipping ropes, skittles and bean bags. This apparatus is used extensively and much good is derived from their use. The children of this age, however, have adventurous spirits and this should be given scope in the P.E. lesson. The instinctive desire of children for climbing, balancing, leaping and swinging, etc., should be gratified, and for this, apparatus such as climbing nets, trapezes and the Essex agility apparatus are needed.

Whenever possible the children strip to the waist for their lesson and change into plimsolls, the supply of which is constantly being made to schools. The objections to changing for the P.E. lessons are mostly received from parents who apparently do not realise the hygienic value of this procedure. The children's cold, etc., are aggravated by the keeping on of clothes during the P.E. lesson and having to return and sit in the classroom hot and perhaps perspiring and having no extra clothes to put on to keep in the body heat.

Teachers' Courses.

Refresher P.E. Courses of the Lecture-demonstration type were held for qualified teachers during the year and towards the latter end a practical course for the younger temporary untrained teachers.

Organised Games.

This aspect of P.E. is again forming a big part of the total scheme and each school has the use of a playing space, although for the latter part of the year, Uplands Boys have been prevented from using the pitch at Guest, Keen & Nettlefold's playing fields by an order from that firm. Most of the schools use, of course, space in the public parks or Londonderry Playing Fields, but the amount of time we are allowed on this latter space is severely restricted by the Parks Committee.

In December arrangements were made for inter-school matches between the schools of Smethwick and West Bromwich to take place in 1947.

In July the first Athletic Sports since the beginning of the War was held and this proved a successful meeting. The standards attained were quite satisfactory and the rivalry between the schools was sportsman-like and healthy. The sports was confined to Senior children and for the first time entries were received from the Grammar School (Girls).

Swimming.

Although the number of attendances at the Swimming Baths were less than in 1945 (accounted for by the shorter season and the inclement weather in 1946) yet the total attendances were still high. At the Thimblemill Baths, reserved for school use in mornings only 17,316 attendances were made and at Rolfe Street Baths used by schools morning and afternoon 22,679 attendances were made, making a total of 39,995 attendances in the Summer period. This total plus approximately 3,000 attendances made for Life Saving Instruction in the Winter months makes a grand total of 42,995 for the year.

Evening and Youth Institutes.

Success has attended the efforts made in this section in 1946. The number of classes was increased and a wide variety of activities presented. Classes in advanced gymnastics, vaulting and agility, football training, general games, and recreation and Basket Ball were held at the Crocketts Lane Gym, and both the Crocketts Lane Evening Institute and Waterloo Road Evening Institute held classes at Crocketts Lane, Uplands and Smethwick Hall Gyms. The Basket Ball training classes at Crocketts Lane were particularly successful and three members of the Advanced Class, held on Tuesday evenings were chosen to play for England in the European Championships. They travelled to Geneva to do so. The Smethwick Junior Team, which was made up of members of the Junior Basket Ball Class held on Friday evenings were runners-up in the National Junior Championship, whilst the Smethwick Senior team composed of members from the Senior Classes was placed second in the Midland District League.. Although no games were played in the Parks, demonstrations and games for the public at various times were organised, and took place at the Drill Hall.

P.T. Organiser.

This is the last Report for which I shall be solely responsible, Miss M. J. Bouch having taken up her duties as Woman P.T. Organiser for Smethwick and West Bromwich on 1st January, 1947."

Signed, V. S. DAVIES.

TABLE I.
MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(1) Number of Inspections:				
Entrants	.....	.....	.....	1,369
Second Age Group	.....	.....	.....	1,040
Third Age Group	.....	.....	.....	1,296
			Total	<u>3,705</u>
(2) Number of other Routine Inspections				
				<u>661</u>
			Grand Total	<u>4,366</u>

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections	6,149
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TABLE II.
CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED
DURING THE YEAR IN THE ROUTINE AGE GROUPS.

Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly Sub- normal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
4,366	1,033	23.6	3,178	72.7	151	3.6	4	0.09

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, 4,134.

Group II.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	.....	.....	.....	631
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	.....	.....	.....	—
			Total	<u>631</u>

Number of Pupils for whom spectacles were

(a) Prescribed	.....	.....	.....	377
(b) Obtained	.....	.....	.....	379

Group III.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Received Operative Treatment	.....	.....	285
Received other forms of Treatment	.....	.....	25
Total Number Treated	.....	.....	<u>310</u>

TABLE IV.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

- (1) Number of Pupils inspected by the Dentist:
- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| (a) Routine age-groups | ..... | 8,238 |
| (b) Specials | ..... | 1,026 |
| (c) Total (Routine and Specials) | ..... | <u>9,264</u> |
- (2) Number found to require treatment, 5,056.
- (3) Number actually treated, 3,220.
- (4) Attendances made by pupils for treatment, 8,357.
- (5) Half days devoted to Inspection, 54; Treatment, 1,020; Total, 1,074.
- (6) Fillings, Permanent teeth, 3,223; Temporary teeth, 118; Total, 3,341.
- (7) Extractions, Permanent teeth, 738 Temporary teeth, 4,063;
Total, 4,801.
- (8) Administrations of general anæsthetic for extractions, 2,594.
- (9) Other operations, Permanent teeth, 1,980; Temporary teeth, 896.
Total, 2,876.

TABLE V.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

- (i) Total number of examinations of pupils in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised person, 16,720
- (ii) Number of individual pupils found unclean, 2,595

