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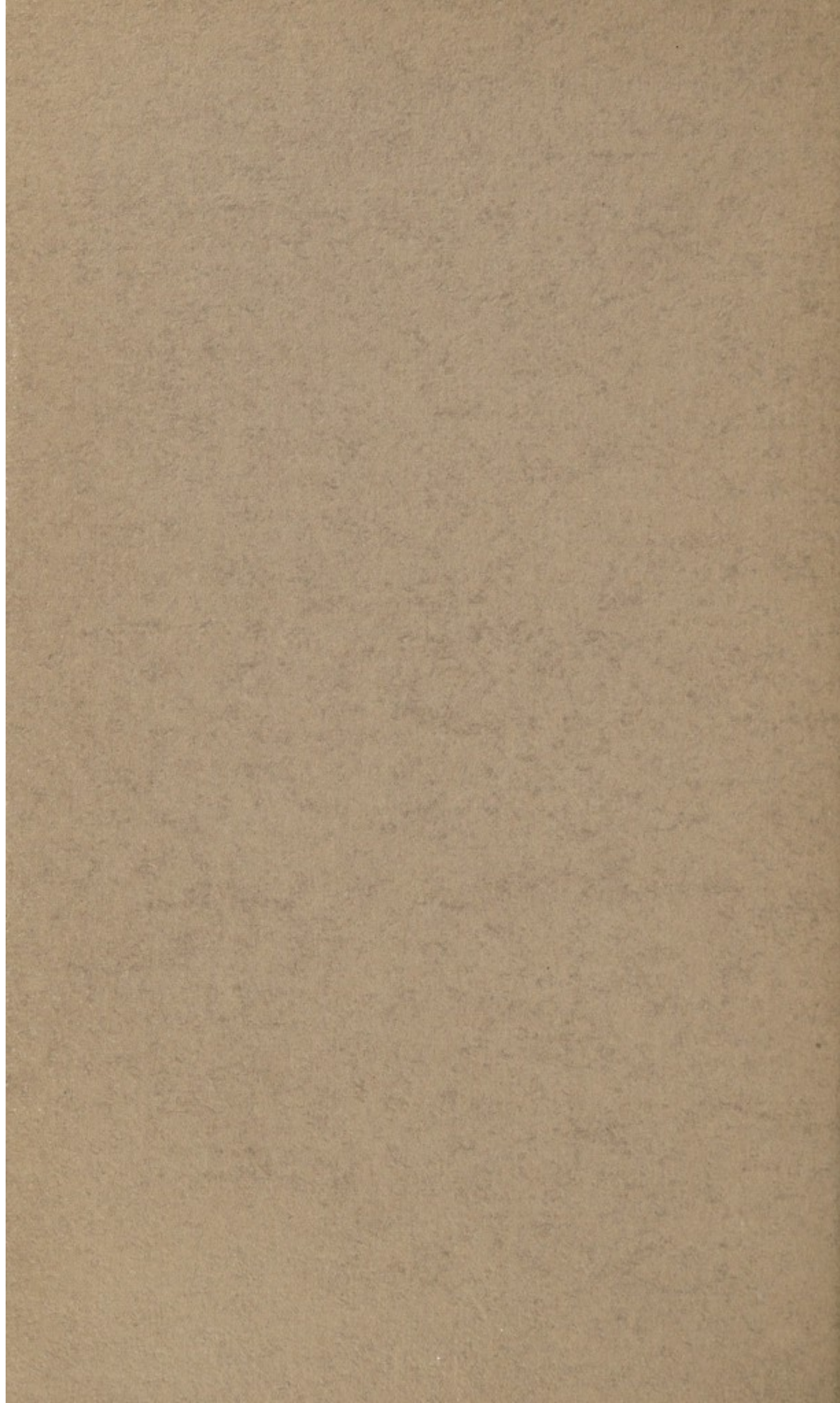
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARK ROAD,
OXFORD

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Health
of the
School Children
of Smethwick
for the Year 1949.

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



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

Assistant School Medical Officers:

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

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

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MISS E. WILLIAMS.

School Nurses and Health Visitors:

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NURSE M. P. O'KEEFE

„ W. M. CAVE (Part-time)

„ H. OWEN

„ G. E. CLARKE

„ E. A. ROBERTS

„ D. GRAINGER

„ B. E. SMITH (Part-time).

„ J. HIGH

„ M. TAYLOR

„ M. JOSE (from 5.9.49).

„ M. WAINWRIGHT

NURSE H. M. WARNER



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The School Health Service
during 1949

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

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is little to note in 1949 in the School Health Service. The Education Act of 1944 has been in operation sufficiently long to enable the new service to settle down, and to reach a stage of development which it is not likely rapidly to exceed until more prosperous times. There is, on the other hand, nothing to deplore in the health of the children. They continue to be sturdy, vigorous, and of good nutrition and physique, and compare more than favourably with the pre-war product.

Additional nursing staff has enabled us to carry out more cleanliness inspections, and incidentally to set a higher standard amongst the children. The position as regards cleanliness, however, is immensely better than a few years ago, and better than the figures suggest. Gross uncleanness is now uncommon, and this is due partly to an improved standard of care by the parents, and partly to the remarkably lethal effects of DDT and similar products on the head louse.

One of the results of the National Health Service Act of 1946 has been that during 1949 we have at last had access to a Child Guidance Clinic, and have received a very substantial amount of help from the psychiatric centre at Solihull. Unfortunately this clinic is so overcrowded that it can no longer receive Smethwick patients, and at the present time efforts are being made to get somebody to take an interest in the psychology of our children.

It would be easy either to over-estimate or to under-value the usefulness of a Child Guidance Clinic. There is little doubt that a very great amount of suffering is experienced by a small number of school children because of maladjustment to their environment, particularly when the home life is discordant or unhappy. When the child's condition is due to a genuine inability on the part of willing parents to understand the psychology of their child, especially when his make-up is substantially different from the average run of children, the child guidance team can work wonders; and their greatest usefulness lies probably in their ability to interpret to parents the mental needs of their children. When, however, the maladjustment of the child or, as it would have been called a generation ago, the naughtiness or wickedness of the child is brought on by negligence, deliberate cruelty, drunkenness, or social instability in the home, and when these conditions are allied with a complete lack of affection for the erring child, the clinic can point the way but can do no more, and the way in these cases is obvious to the veriest layman. The number of children in this latter group is seldom large, and the remedy available is usually the policy of failure, namely, the complete removal of a child from the care of its parents, and his adoption by new parents or admission to an institution. It cannot be too strongly stressed that Approved Homes are merely mirrors of our social failure to meet the needs of the child.

The birth rate in this country has been declining for more than a generation, although during the past five or six years the rate has been considerably higher than between the two World Wars. At the other end of life the number of dependant persons aged sixty and over in the case of women and sixty-five in the case of men, is steadily and inexorably increasing, and it has been estimated in the White Paper on National Insurance that in 1970 there will be 32 persons over pensionable age for each 100 contributors. This means that the children for whose care we are now responsible will have to care for a larger number of dependents at the twilight end of life, together with a larger number of dependents in the dawn of life, for it must be remembered that the school leaving age is due to be increased to sixteen years in the future. At the present time these two dependent groups in the dawn and twilight of life are not together as many as they have been

in the past, nor so many as they will be in the future, because the falling birth rate has not yet been compensated in numbers by the increase in the aged. It would, therefore, appear sound common sense and good economics to ensure that the children for whose care we are now responsible should receive the best possible attention, and that every effort should be made to ensure that as far as it is humanly possible, they will be perfect specimens of manhood and womanhood when they enter the labour market. Their burden will be greater than any community in this country has ever shouldered in the past.

This is neither sentiment nor sentimentality. The hard bitten industrialist with his valuable lathes and machine tools will take great care that *they* are not neglected, that they do not rest in the open, or that they fail to receive the constant attention which keeps them at the highest pitch of efficiency. The industrialist, however, buys his steel tools; he hires his human ones, but in the end he pays the full cost for both, and the human tool on first entering industry is the most expensive tool to produce in most factories, and its production the most prolonged. In spite of the multiplying advances in science which have bewildered us during the past 250 years, since first we began to sink into our modern civilisation, it has never been found possible and it never will be found possible to produce a human tool in less time than was necessary a million years ago.

It has been known for many years that the standard of nutrition, physique and sturdiness of the Public School child has been greater than that of the average elementary school child and it is equally obvious that it is an economic proposition for the country to ensure that the rising generation of children from whatever grade of society they spring, shall be provided with everything that is necessary to enable them to attain the maximum degree of health and sturdiness which is at present available to the most sheltered group. Successive Ministries of Food have done more to further this object than the entire medical profession, and the rationing system which was brought into operation in this country in the early months of the war has laid the foundation of dietary habits which one trusts will long continue in use when the war has been forgotten.

The idea to which we wish to work in the School Health Service is to render our services unnecessary. Only a generation ago most of the work of the School Health Service was carried out by doctors and school nurses. Now the most important part is carried out by other members of the Education Committee's staff, and we look forward to the time when the Supervisor of Meals, the Physical Training Instructors, and the Superintendent of the School Camps will be the chief agents by whom we maintain the health of our children in its optimum form. When that day arrives perhaps school nurses will be unnecessary, and

school medical officers merely advisory, and we shall be able to say, like the gladiators in Rome on entering the arena for mortal combat, as they saluted the Emperor, "*Te morituri salutamus.*"**

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee, to my colleagues the chief officials, and to the members of my own staff for their encouragement and assistance during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

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

School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
HALES LANE,
SMETHWICK.

May, 1950.

* We who are about to die salute you.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION.

There are 20 primary schools and 10 secondary schools in the Borough, the latter including 2 grammar schools and a technical school. In addition there is a nursery school, an open air school, and a special school for educationally subnormal children:—

The average attendance during the year and the number on the registers at the end of the year are as under.

Primary Schools.

	Attendance Average	No. on Register at end of year
Abbey Road Junior	356	414
Abbey Road Infants	265	323
Bearwood Road Junior	343	390
Bearwood Road Infants	235	247
Brasshouse Lane Junior	358	412
Brasshouse Lane Infants	279	298
Cape Junior	349	379
Cape Infants	310	381
Corbett Street Junior and Infants	280	304
Crocketts Lane Junior	228	245
Crocketts Lane Infants	224	253
Devonshire Road Junior	526	574
Devonshire Road Infants	393	432
Oldbury Road Junior and Infants	442	504
St. Matthew's Junior and Infants	270	278
St. Philip's Mixed	165	191
St. Philip's Infants	69	71
Uplands Junior	423	453
Uplands Infants	365	404
Waterloo Road Junior and Infants	338	361

Secondary Schools.

	Attendance Average	No. on Register at end of year
Park Girls' Modern	288	351
Shireland Boys' Modern	344	390
Shireland Girls' Modern	329	374
Smethwick Hall Boys' Modern.....	398	494
Smethwick Hall Girls' Modern	284	339
Uplands Boys' Modern.....	354	406
Uplands Girls' Modern.....	317	378
Holly Lodge Boys' Grammar	414	435
Holly Lodge Girls' Grammar	401	434
James Watt Technical	345	392
<i>Others.</i>		
Edith Sands' Nursery	82	104
Firs Open Air	116	137
Corbett Street Special	96	113
Total	9,986	11,261

NURSERY CLASSES.

Nursery classes are held at Abbey Road, Cape, Crocketts Lane, Oldbury Road and the Uplands schools, with accommodation for 30 children in each case.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.**UNCLEANLINESS**

During the year, the school nurses made 17,289 inspections of children in the schools, and of these 956 individual children were found unclean. It was not necessary to serve any notices under Sec. 54 of the Education Act, 1944.

Cleansings carried out during the year :—

	The Firs Clinic	Cape Clinic	Total
New Cases	291	485	776
Treatments given	585	621	1206

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

The number of children found to have unhealthy tonsils and/or adenoids requiring treatment was 63. In addition 13 children were found to have other abnormal conditions of the nose or throat requiring treatment, and 352 children were found to have nose or throat defects requiring observation only.

SKIN DISEASES.

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

	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Number inspected	3,593	3,636	3,398	4,366	3,564
Ringworm (all forms)	—	—	—	—	1
Scabies	7	6	12	48	29
Impetigo	—	1	1	5	6
Other conditions	29	23	35	40	25
	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 93	<hr/> 61
Percentage	<hr/> 1.0	<hr/> 0.8	<hr/> 1.4	<hr/> 2.1	<hr/> 1.7

DEFECTIVE VISION, INCLUDING SQUINT.

The number of children found to show defective vision was 207, of whom 127 were referred for refraction. In addition, 41 cases of squint were referred for treatment. The percentage of defects under this heading was 6.9

EAR DISEASES AND HEARING.

The number of children found with defects under this heading was 149 or 4.1% of the total number inspected. Of these 56 were referred for treatment.

DENTAL DEFECTS.

All school children are now submitted to periodic examination by the dental officers, and details of findings and treatment provided are given in the appendix to this Report, Table IV. At the periodic examinations in school, teeth are inspected by the medical officers, but only the most urgent cases are referred to the dentists for treatment, thus to quote figures purporting to represent the finding of the doctors would be misleading.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was only one case of diphtheria among the school population during the year, compared with three last year, five in 1947, and 11 in 1946. There were no fatal cases during the last three years, but there were two deaths in 1946.

During the year, 939 school children were immunised against diphtheria and 718 received secondary or reinforcing injections. It was estimated on 31st December, 1949 that approximately 90% of the school population was protected. In addition, 1,029 pre-school children were protected at the various Welfare Centres, the Nursery School, and by private medical practitioners during the year.

There were 59 notifications of scarlet fever in respect of school children, compared with 65 in 1948, 49 in 1947 and 92 in 1946. There were no fatal cases during the last four years.

Measles cases numbered 303 but 277 of these were received during the March quarter and represented the end of the previous year's epidemic.

Whooping cough was much less prevalent, as also was chickenpox; the number of cases of mumps was the lowest for many years.

The following table gives comparative details of infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the last three years. In the case of the non-notifiable diseases, the figures are obtained from the Schools.

	NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS		
	1949	1948	1947	1949	1948	1947
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	1	1	6	—	1	1
Acute Pneumonia	10	14	6	—	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chickenpox	207	389	246	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	3	5	—	—	—
Dysentery	4	—	—	—	—	—
German Measles	14	179	86	—	—	—
Measles	303	358	289	—	—	—
Mumps	29	368	412	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	6	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	59	65	49	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	53	124	47	—	—	—

WORK OF THE SCHOOL NURSES.

<i>Schools</i>	1949	1948	1947	1946
Assisting School Medical Officer	259	278	239	284 sessions
Examination of heads for nits, ringworm, etc.	17,289	14,894	9,837	16,720 exams
<i>School Clinics</i>				
Inspection Clinics	170	162	158	153 sessions
Treatment Clinics	700	693	672	748 sessions
Eye Clinics	86	84	77	104 sessions
<i>Skin Clinic</i>				
Number of Sessions	143	199	225	255
Number of children treated	33	58	101	233
Number of baths given.....	329	712	879	1,491
<i>Visits to Houses</i>				
Defects and "Following Up"	283	43	67	146 visits

EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL.

One hundred and ninety-one certificates were issued during the year excluding children from attendance at school for the following reasons :—

Chickenpox	.....	.....	.....	4
Ringworm	.....	.....	.....	4
Scabies	.....	.....	.....	2
Impetigo	.....	.....	.....	5
Pediculosis	.....	.....	.....	23
Blepharitis	.....	.....	.....	2
Conjunctivitis	.....	.....	.....	20
Otitis Media	.....	.....	.....	15
Otorrhoea	.....	.....	.....	6
Sore Throat	.....	.....	.....	10
Tonsillitis	.....	.....	.....	22
Adenitis	.....	.....	.....	4
Bronchitis	.....	.....	.....	8
Coryza	.....	.....	.....	3
Influenza	.....	.....	.....	2
Injuries	.....	.....	.....	5
Septic Conditions	.....	.....	.....	9
Chorea	.....	.....	.....	3
Rheumatism	.....	.....	.....	15
Debility	.....	.....	.....	17
Pyrexia	.....	.....	.....	3
Other conditions	.....	.....	.....	9
				<hr/>
				191
				<hr/>

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

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

MINOR AILMENTS.

All minor ailments are treated by the School Nurses at treatment clinics, held at "The Firs," Cooper's Lane and at Cape Hill. Full details of defects treated at these clinics during the year are provided in Table III appended to this Report.

Attendances at the clinics (excluding Inspection Clinics, Eye Clinics and Baths) were as follows :—

1949	1948	1947	1946
12,718	19,893	17,068	21,724

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases of Tuberculosis are referred for diagnosis and treatment to the Chest Clinic, and are kept under prolonged observation. X-ray examinations are made where indicated as an aid to diagnosis.

During the year 245 children of school age, including "contacts" of known patients, came under the observation of the Chest Clinic for the first time. The findings in these cases were as follows :—

	Pulmonary	Other Forms
Number found Tuberculous	60	1
Number under observation	4	—
Number found Non-Tuberculous	180	—

The total attendance of school children at the clinic was 2,472.

The Light Clinic was open from January to April and from October to December, special cases being treated also during the summer months. The number of children treated during the year was 118 and 1,407 attendances were made.

The chief conditions referred for light treatment were adenitis, bronchitis, frequent "colds" and catarrh, post-whooping cough, and contact cases of tuberculosis.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

Mr. H. W. Archer Hall, D.O. (Oxon), Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital and the Smethwick Education Committee, reports as follows :—

The working of the Eye Clinic has gone on very smoothly during the year. Attendances have been well maintained and I understand the waiting period for glasses is lessening.

As in previous years, I have operated upon about sixty children from the Smethwick area for squint (18) and for other conditions of the eye, requiring operation.

The following cases were examined and treated at the Clinic during the year :—

Total number of Children examined	.....	.....	558
Total number of Spectacles prescribed	.....	.....	379
Total number of treatments	.....	.....	58
New cases	.....	.....	274
Spectacles ordered	.....	.....	176
Referred to hospital	.....	.....	16
Re-examinations	.....	.....	284
Spectacles ordered	.....	.....	203
Referred to hospital	.....	.....	18
Treatments :—			
New cases	.....	.....	36
Referred to hospital	.....	.....	3
Re-examinations	.....	.....	22
Referred to hospital	.....	.....	—
Toddlers examined	.....	.....	10
Spectacles prescribed	.....	.....	10

Information is not now available regarding spectacles supplied or not collected, as since the 5th July, 1948, in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, this service has been provided by the Local Executive Council.

CRIPPLING DEFECTS.

On the 5th July, 1948, the administration of the Smethwick Orthopaedic Clinic became the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, but there has been no change in the treatment and advice available. The Secretary of the Clinic (Miss R. Green) provides the following information.

The number of children who attended this Clinic during 1949 was 743 of whom details are given below :—

Type of defect	Girls	Boys
Arthritis	4	7
Rheumatism	22	10
Deformities	321	334
Injuries	5	9
Paralysis	1	8
Poliomyelitis	6	6
Others	6	4
	<hr/> 365	<hr/> 378

There were 39 children admitted to Woodlands and Forelands during the year.

SPEECH DEFECTS.

The post of Speech Therapist remained unoccupied until the appointment of Miss Stella Mason, L.C.S.T. Miss Mason took up her duties at the beginning of September, 1949, and the whole of that month was taken up by her in touring schools and interviewing pupils. The routine work of the clinic commenced early in October, and the figures shown in the following table relate to rather less than three months' work.

	Stammering	Dyslalia	Cleft Palate	Total
No. of children referred to the Speech Therapist	42	174	5	225
No. of children interviewed by the Speech Therapist.....	42	174	5	221
No. of children admitted to the Clinic	13	45	5	63
No. of children discharged from the Clinic:—				
(i) No further treatment necessary	1	2	—	3
(ii) No improvement likely	—	1	—	1
No. of children referred to the School Medical Officer	2	9	2	13
No. of children referred to the School Dental Officer	4	1	1	6
	104	406	18	528

HANDICAPPED PUPILS.

Handicapped pupils are sent to Special Schools where a report from the School Medical Officer to the Chief Education Officer states that such action is desirable. The examinations carried out during the year 1949 resulted in recommendations being submitted as follows:—

	Boys	Girls	Total
<i>Blind</i> —Residential School for Blind	—	1	1
<i>Partially Sighted</i> —Special School.....	1	2	3
<i>Deaf</i> —Special School	—	1	1
<i>Delicate</i> —Firs Open Air School	36	33	69
“The Hollies”	25	21	46

Educationally Subnormal :—

Ordinary School with Special Education	8	2	10
Special School (Day)	13	15	28
Special School (Boarding)	1	—	1
Ineducable—Mental Deficiency Acts Report	1	1	2
Supervision—Mental Deficiency Acts Report	—	1	1

Maladjusted :—

Ordinary School with Special Education	1	—	1
Special School (Day)	—	1	1
Special School (Boarding)	—	1	1
Child Guidance Clinic	8	8	16
Special School (Boarding)	2	1	3

Speech Defect :—

Speech Centre	10	4	14
---------------------	----	---	----

At the present time the Education Authority has children at the following Institutions and Schools :—

Blind and Partially Sighted.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind	3	3	6
Whitehead Road School for Partially-Sighted Children (Birmingham)	3	1	4

Deaf.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Royal School for Deaf children (Birmingham)	1	1	2
Gem Street School for the Deaf (Birmingham)	—	1	1

Educationally Sub-Normal.

Besford Court, Worcester	2	—	2
Croydon Hall Residential Special School	—	1	1

Maladjusted.

Holly House Hostel, Old Whittingham, Nr. Chesterfield	—	1	1
Lindens Hostel, Penarth	1	—	1

Other Special Schools.

Carlson House School for Spastics, Harborne, Birmingham	2	1	3
Surgical Home for Boys, Banstead, Surrey	1	—	1
Baskerville Residential Special School, Harborne, Birmingham	1	—	1
Warwickshire Orthopædic Hospital, Coleshill	—	1	1
West Wickham Hospital for Heart Diseases, West Wickham, Kent	—	1	1
National Children's Home, Chipping Norton, Oxon.	1	—	1
Forelands Hospital School, Bromsgrove	1	—	1
John Greenwood Shipman Convalescent Home	1	—	1

Corbett Street Special School

Number on Register, 1st January, 1949	65	39	104
Admitted during the year	9	11	20
Discharged during the year	14	2	16
Number on Register, 31st December, 1949	60	48	108
Of those who left :—			
Reached the age limit.....	7	1	8
Returned to former School	2	—	2
Admitted to Approved School	1	—	1
Admitted to Institution	1	—	1
Left District	—	—	—
Discharged by Medical Officer	3	1	4

Other Special Schools.

The Firs Open-Air School has accommodation for 150 children. There were 137 children on the register 31st December, 1949.

"The Hollies," a residential institution for rheumatic and physically sub-normal children (30 beds) admitted a total of 46 children of school age during the year, who were maintained for a total of 3,827 days.

SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE.

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

	Paid	Free	Total
Abbey Road	63,569	3,915	67,484
Bearwood Road	32,910	2,153	35,063
Brasshouse Lane	28,445	3,533	31,978
Cape Hill	41,497	3,572	45,069
Church Lane.....	20,311	2,427	22,738
Devonshire Road	57,745	5,714	63,459
Oldbury Road	28,628	2,688	31,316
St. Matthew's	11,223	1,381	12,604
St. Philip's	16,003	1,623	17,626
Smethwick Hall	41,187	5,332	46,519
Uplands	93,160	22,803	115,963
Waterloo Road	61,356	7,828	69,184
Corbett Street	26,736	3,480	30,216
Firs Open Air	19,544	1,606	21,150
Corbett Street	26,736	3,480	30,216
Edith Sands' Nursery.....	15,887	294	16,181
Holly Lodge Boys	43,805	1,285	45,090
Holly Lodge Girls	50,410	1,462	51,872
James Watt Technical.....	26,495	1,196	27,691
Crocketts Lane Infants	15,854	1,203	17,057
	<hr/> 721,501	<hr/> 76,975	<hr/> 798,476

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 162, 157 for boys and 5 for girls. Certificates were refused in 5 instances on medical grounds. The view of your medical officers 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	116	4
Errands	41	—
Clerical Work	—	1
	<hr/> 157	<hr/> 5

COSTS.

The appropriate cost of the School Medical Service and associated Services during 1949-50 is as follows :—

	Amount £
School Medical Service	15,245
School Camp	5,425
Corbett St. Special School	3,860
Firs Open Air School	4,255
Nursery School	3,255
Provision of Meals	37,590
	<hr/> £69,630 <hr/>

REPORT OF THE SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER.

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the School Dental Service for the year ended 31st December, 1949. The equivalent of 3.1 full-time officers have been employed devoting 1,470 sessions to treatment, school inspections, anaesthetics, clerical and administrative work. A total of 9,256 children were inspected of whom 5,140 (55.5%) were referred for treatment.

	1949	1948
No. Inspected	9,256	7,206
No. sound	3,065 33.1%	2,199 30.5%
No. defective but not referred	1,051 11.3%	821 11.4%
No. referred for treatment	5,140 55.5%	4,186 58.0%
No. accepting treatment	3,059 59.5%	2,428 58.0%

The average number of inspections per session was 145. The total number of attendances at the Clinics was 7,848 of which 6,683 were for treatment.

Half-days devoted to Inspection	64
Half-days devoted to Treatment	1,231
Half-days devoted to Administration of General Anaesthetics by Dental Officers	103
Half-days devoted to Clerical and Administrative duties	72

	1949	1948
Average number of Attendances per treatment session	6.4	6.5
Average number of Fillings per treatment session	3.0	2.7
Average number of Extractions per treatment session	4.8	4.3

Orthodontic treatment has been maintained at about the same level as last year. The amount of time necessary for this specialised branch of dentistry is considerable so that the number of sessions devoted to this work and hence the number of cases which can be undertaken has to be limited if the other work of the Clinics is not to suffer. At the end of the year there were 26 cases under treatment, 27 appliances were supplied and there were 261 attendances for their fitting and adjustment. Again I have to thank Mr. Walpole-Day and Mrs. Davis of the Orthodontic Department of the Birmingham Dental Hospital for their continued help and advice.

During the year 17 dentures were supplied to replace front teeth lost through accident or gross caries. In one case, a girl of 14 years was supplied with a full upper denture. She had recently come to reside in the Borough and was found on examination to have 5 teeth remaining in the upper jaw, 2 of which were carious. Repairs were carried out to 5 dentures.

A Kingsway X-Ray unit has been installed at the Cape Hill Clinic, and although only 2 patients were found to require X-Ray examination, the resultant diagnosis enabled the appropriate treatment to be given without delay. It will prove a valuable diagnostic aid in cases where the dental condition cannot be assessed accurately by clinical examination alone.

There is little evidence that many school children are receiving regular dental treatment through the General Dental Services under the National Health Service Act, although in a small number of cases, emergency treatment has been given. In general, the private practitioner prefers to refer children to the Clinics. There has been a slight drop in the number of Specials or Casuals sent to the Clinics during the year—1,216 against 1,385 in 1948, but the reason is more likely to be the increase in the number of school inspections rather than any great drift to the private practitioner.

In conclusion, I again should like to express the thanks of the Dental Officers to the Medical, Nursing, and Clerical staffs of the School and Public Health Services and to Head Teachers and their staffs for the valuable help and assistance they have given during the year.

GEO. J. S. LITTLEFIELD,
Senior Dental Officer.

REPORT OF THE ORGANISER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

During the year 1949, the work in Physical Education has made further advances, and changes have been made to bring the schemes in the schools in line with modern developments. These schemes drawn up for the pupils in all schools, provide for an all-round harmonious development of the children. That is, they are constructed to include activities that offer training not only for the physical side of the children, but also of the mind. They offer scope for inculcating in the minds of the children, courage, confidence, self reliance, sportsmanship, the will to help others and a hygienic outlook on life.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The new scheme is well under way in these schools, and the children are evidently enjoying it more than the previous method of giving them formal exercises to perform, and activities must be enjoyed to be beneficial.

Most Primary Schools are now equipped with some agility apparatus, for jumping, balancing, and low hanging activities, plus a large variety of small apparatus, such as balls, hoops and canes, etc.

The Primary Sub-Committee attended a demonstration of the higher climbing apparatus in Tamworth and expressed themselves as being delighted with what they saw. The amount of exercise the children received on this apparatus, their enjoyment and show of initiative were features of the demonstrations, which were given by three classes ranging from 7-11 years of age. As a result of this, one climbing frame is being set up as an experiment at Oldbury Road Junior and Infants' School. Such apparatus will fill in the gap between infancy and adolescence when it has been found that the child gradually loses the strength of its arms and upper trunk, through want of appropriate exercise. It will provide facilities for all kinds of hanging, heaving and climbing movements, so that by the time the child is 11 years of age and ready to be transferred to the Secondary School its arms and upper trunk will be strong enough to carry on with the more strenuous activities suitable for children of that age.

Such a scheme coupled with Organised Games and swimming provides the Primary School children with a very full programme of Physical Education; a scheme that gives full scope to their natural instincts and guides into the right channels the great store of energy which young children have at their disposal.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

These schools include in their scheme of Physical Education, all the activities of the Primary Schools and also Athletics, Boxing, Basket Ball and Life Saving, etc. That is, they carry the Primary scheme to a more advanced stage and also add activities that are suited to the physique of older children. They are supplied with gymnasiums and apparatus that lend themselves to stronger movement and more complicated activities.

It is hoped that instruction in Canvas Camping will soon be part of the P.E. scheme. Much discussion has already taken place on this subject and although no practical action has yet been made, there is every possibility that in the near future this neglected but most beneficial aspect of P.E. will be part of the curriculum of some schools.

For the Smethwick children living as they do in a very closely built-up industrial area, this activity presents an ideal way of living, exercising, working and holidaying in surroundings that are healthy and totally different from the town in which they live.

PLAYING FIELDS.

The urgent need for Playing Fields for Smethwick school-children is receiving more and more attention and efforts are continually being made to acquire land for this purpose.

The work of repairing the field at the Uplands School is still going on and until the time comes when the children can be accommodated on their own School Playing Fields, the schools take full advantage of the facilities granted by the Estates Committee, in the Public Parks. Despite the generous allowance made by this Committee, however, the facilities fall very, very far short of the schools' requirements.

SWIMMING.

Most Secondary Schools and this year some Primary Schools attended the baths for swimming or Life Saving instruction throughout the Winter. There is an ever increasing demand from schools for facilities at the baths and although facilities in the Borough are among the best in the country, still more is needed to meet the demand and accommodate every child who is physically fit to receive instruction and is of the age to start. Some Primary Schools send children from the first year group, that is 7-8 years of age. This is a good thing, as the younger they start the quicker they learn to swim and like the water. Children at this age usually do not show as much fear of the water as do older children.

During this year the swimming at the schools' galas was uniformly of a very high standard and is to be attributed to the excellent instruction the children receive, the facilities they enjoy and the fact that more and more schools are utilising these facilities *throughout* the year.

The number of attendances made by the schoolchildren at the Swimming Baths in school time from January 1st, 1949—December 31st, 1949 is as follows:—

	Boys	Girls	Totals
Thimblemill Baths	7,038	7,047	14,085
Rolfe Street Baths	24,258	20,124	44,382
			<hr/> 58,467 <hr/>

This is an increase of 8,220 over the year 1948.

For the fifth year in succession Smethwick Hall S.M. Boys' School won the "Geoffrey Lloyd" Shield for Life Saving with a record number of points; second and third places were occupied by the Uplands S.M. and Shireland S.M. Schools respectively.

Park S.M. Girls, despite a very good increase in the number of Life Saving Awards, were again second in the competition for the "Dorothy Cadbury" Shield; Uplands S.M. and Shireland S.M. Girls' Schools were third and fourth.

The total number of awards gained by the schools in the Borough placed Smethwick at the head of the list of Education Authorities in the Midlands, with a majority of 1,400 points.

The number of Life Saving awards gained by all the schools during the year is as follows:—

Elementary	152
Unigrip	142
Intermediate	178
Bronze Medallion	121
Bar to Bronze Medallion	52
Bronze Cross	53

Swimming forms a big part of the Physical Education of the school child in Smethwick. This is as it should be, firstly because it is of paramount importance that every child should possess the ability to swim, and secondly as an exercise it is bettered by no other physical activity. It is an activity that is clean, healthy and most hygienic, and can be carried on throughout life.

V. S. DAVIES,

Organiser of Physical Education.

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION STATISTICS.

TABLE I.

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(1) Number of Inspections:			
Entrants	—	—	1,493
Second Age Group	—	—	1,090
Third Age Group	—	—	677
		Total	3,260
(2) Number of other Periodic Inspections	—		333
		Grand Total	3,593

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	—	—	2,975
Number of Re-inspections	—	—	1,233
		Total	4,208

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

GROUP	For Defective Vision (excluding Squint)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA.	Total Individual pupils
Entrants	13	398	410
Second Age Group	67	136	200
Third Age Group	29	68	95
Total	109	602	705
Other Periodic Inspections	18	31	49
Grand Total	127	633	754

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

DEFECT OR DISEASE	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
	No. of Defects		No. of Defects	
	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
Skin	36	33	151	14
Eyes— <i>a.</i> Vision	127	80	24	4
<i>b.</i> Squint	41	48	4	—
<i>c.</i> Other	21	29	39	1
Ears— <i>a.</i> Hearing	5	23	12	—
<i>b.</i> Otitis Media	10	31	38	5
<i>c.</i> Other	41	39	48	4
Nose or Throat	76	352	121	25
Speech	20	17	1	1
Cervical Glands	11	168	24	3
Heart and Circulation	4	37	10	2
Lungs	32	124	26	2
Developmental—				
<i>a.</i> Hernia	8	14	—	1
<i>b.</i> Other	17	141	1	2
Orthopaedic—				
<i>a.</i> Posture	51	61	1	—
<i>b.</i> Flat foot	95	97	4	7
<i>c.</i> Other	122	158	41	12
Nervous System				
<i>a.</i> Epilepsy	2	2	4	—
<i>b.</i> Other	16	34	10	4
Psychological—				
<i>a.</i> Development	—	17	—	—
<i>b.</i> Stability	5	21	2	2
Other	60	86	397	46

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS
INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS.

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A	B	C
		(Good)	(Fair)	(Poor)
		No. %	No. %	No. %
Entrants	1,493	620—41.5	854—57.2	19—1.2
Second Age Group	1,090	373—34.2	701—64.3	16—1.4
Third Age Group	677	269—39.7	403—59.5	5—0.7
Other Periodic Inspections	333	167—50.1	159—47.7	7—2.1
Total	3,593	1,429—39.7	2,117—58.9	47—1.3

TABLE III.
INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

(i) Total number of examinations in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons	17,289
(ii) Number of individual pupils found to be infested	956
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944)	—
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	—

TABLE IV.
TREATMENT TABLES.

GROUP I.

MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness)

(a)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year
Skin—	
Ringworm—Scalp—	
(i) X-Ray Treatment	1
(ii) Other Treatment	4
Ringworm—Body	14
Scabies	36
Impetigo	72
Other Skin Diseases	308
Eye Disease	302
(External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to hospital)	
Ear Defects	332
(excluding serious diseases of the ear)	
Miscellaneous	2,136
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	
Total	3,205

(b) Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinics	12,718
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GROUP II.

DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments).

Errors of Refraction (including Squint).....	558
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	—
Total	558
Number of Pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	379

GROUP III

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Received Operative Treatment:—		
(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	164	
(b) for other nose and throat conditions	14	
Received other forms of treatment	37	
Total	215	

GROUP IV

ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals or hospital schools	39
(b) Number treated otherwise, <i>e.g.</i> , in clinics or out-patient departments	743

GROUP V.

CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT AND SPEECH THERAPY.

Number of pupils treated:—	
(a) under Child Guidance arrangements	38
(b) under Speech Therapy arrangements	62

TABLE V.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) Number inspected by the Dentist:	
(a) Periodic age-groups	9,256
(b) Specials	1,216
(c) Total (Periodic and Specials)	10,472
(2) Number found to require treatment	6,295
(3) Number actually treated	3,791
(4) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	6,683
(5) Half days devoted to Inspection, 64; Treatment, 1,231; Total	1,295*
(6) Fillings, Permanent teeth, 3,667; Temporary teeth, 112; Total	3,779
(7) Extractions, Permanent teeth, 745; Temporary teeth, 5,124; Total	5,869
(8) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	2,061
(9) Other operations, Permanent teeth, 1,197; Temporary teeth, 60; Total	1,257

* In addition 103 half-days were devoted by a Dental Officer to the administration of general anaesthetics only.

† Includes 17 dentures and 27 orthodontic appliances supplied.



