COUNTY BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND

FORTY - SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1955

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PELAW-ON-TYNE:
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1956.

Education Committee

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Vice-Chairman :

Alderman J. TWEDDLE.

School Health and Welfare Sub-Committee

Chairman :

Alderman J. COHEN, O.B.E., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor Mrs. M. E. GRUNDY.

——

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION :

Mr. WILLIAM THOMPSON, M.Ed., B.Sc., J.P.

Staff

Principal School Medical Officer :

A. S. HEBBLETHWAITE, M.C., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Senior School Medical Officer :

JESSIE R. WATSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

School Medical Officers :

MARION L. BAINBRIDGE, M.B., CH.B. (Part-time).

SYBIL A. B. WARD, M.B., B.S.

GEOFFREY C. SLADE, M.B., B.S.

EDITH P. GILBERTSON, M.B., B.S.

Principal School Dental Officer :

W. J. PROUD, L.D.S.

School Dental Officers :

JOYCE FRASE, L.D.S.

PETER W. GIBSON, L.D.S.

EILEEN A. SUFFIELD, L.D.S.

MICHAEL MCCREE, L.D.S.

Speech Therapist :

Mrs. J. H. TURNER.

Assistant Speech Therapist :

Post vacant.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :

GERTRUDE B. LEIGH, M.B., CH.B. (Part-time).

Organisers of Physical Education :

Miss P. M. PETERS. Miss A. GRAY (Assistant).
Mr. P. J. GILLESPIE.

School Nurses :

Mrs. D. WILKINSON.
Mrs. A. FAIRCLOUGH.
Mrs. M. DONKIN.
Mrs. D. MCHUGH.
Mrs. V. DOWNEY.
Miss M. MCCROSSAN.
Mrs. A. CHEAVINS.
Miss F. KEAVENY.
Mrs. C. CHARLTON.
Miss D. ROBSON.
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Miss E. BIGLAND.
Mrs. L. PIGG.
Miss M. BRENNAN.

Clerks :

Mrs. D. DRAPER (Sen. Clerk).
Miss M. I. THOMPSON.
Miss E. BELL.
Miss M. HENLEY.
Miss M. GRAY.
Miss M. ATKINSON.

Dental Attendants :

Miss J. JOHNSON.
Miss L. HALLIDAY.
Miss E. CLEMENT.
Mrs. N. WATSON.

Bathing Attendants :

Mrs. N. VOSPER. Mrs. M. RUTHERFORD.
Mrs. I. HUTCHINSON.

Child Guidance Clinic

Psychiatrist :

W. HINDS, M.B., B.S., D.P.M. (Part-time).

Pædiatrician :

Miss J. R. WATSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Psychiatric Social Worker :

Post vacant.

Educational Psychologist :

Miss I. R. STIRLING, M.A.
Post-graduate Diploma—Social Science. Diploma Mental Health.

Clerks :

Miss L. M. HAMMOND. Miss P. M. MCCONNELL.
Miss M. DAVISON.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND.

FORTY-SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Annual Report of the work of the School Health Service for the year 1955 is submitted in accordance with the instructions of the Medical Branch of the Ministry of Education.

The total number of children examined by the School Medical Officers for the year was 9,338, compared with 9,297 in the preceding year, and for Dental Officers 13,284, compared with 13,996 for the previous year.

Nutrition.

Of the total number of children inspected during the year, namely, 9,338, 8,890 were classified as good or fair. This is equal to 95·2 per cent., comparing favourably with the previous year. The following table shows the complete classification as compared with the Year 1954.

	No. of Pupils In-spected	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Year 1954 ..	9,297	5,801	62·40	3,202	34·44	294	3·16
Year 1955 ..	9,338	6,463	69·21	2,427	25·99	448	4·79

Cleansing Station.

Arrangements for the examination and cleansing of infested pupils, also the treatment of scabies, is carried out at Smyrna Place Clinic, and the following table shows the number of cases and attendances paid during the year.

SCHOOL CHILDREN—	
Scabies	93 cases paid 677 visits.
Eczema Capitis	55 cases paid 673 visits.
Pediculus Capitis....	286 cases paid 1,917 visits.
ADULTS—	
Scabies	10 cases paid 27 visits.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

124 children of school age received complete protective doses, compared with 173 of the previous year ; 36 children attended for one dose only, compared with 69 in the previous year ; and 121 children failed to attend.

After five years of protection it is considered necessary to give an additional inoculation in order to prolong the protection. During the year 378 of these injections were administered, compared with 501 in 1954.

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

George Street Nursery has continued to take children between the ages of two and five years. During the year 51 children have been admitted and 30 children discharged.

St. Columba's C.E. Nursery accommodates children between the ages of three and five years, and during the year 24 children have been admitted and 24 children discharged.

Havelock Nursery has continued to take children between the ages of three and five years, and during the year 66 children were admitted and 54 children discharged.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

Fordhall School. There are at present 209 educationally sub-normal children in attendance, with 57 children on the waiting list.

Barbara Priestman School. Provision for the education of partially Blind, Deaf and Dumb, and Semi-Deaf children is made at this Special Day School. There are 58 children in attendance at this school.

Provision for the education of Blind children is made at Residential Schools. There are four children in attendance at such schools.

Thornfield Open-air Day School. Dr. SLADE reports :—

" This school has remained full throughout the year, and there is an increase in the number on the waiting list compared with the previous year.

Admissions during the year	24
Discharged back to previous schools on health recovery	15
Leavers during the year	11
Waiting list	14

There has been a slight decrease in the number of respiratory diseases in the school, and this can be attributed, to a large extent to the success achieved in Nurse Donkin's class for remedial breathing exercises and postural drainage of the lungs.

The Ultra Violet Ray Clinic remains valuable for pupils who are suffering from varying degrees of malnutrition and debility, and these courses held twice weekly have continued to be well attended.

The number of pupils in attendance at the end of the year was grouped as follows :—

Cardiac Diseases	14
Nervous System	27
Respiratory System	48
Bone Diseases	4
Others	27 "

The Oakwood School, Croft Spa, has continued to do good work. During the year 66 children were admitted and 60 children discharged. Regular visits are paid by your medical staff.

Milton Hall Special School. Forty boys have been in residence at this school throughout the year, and they have benefited greatly by their environment.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

The scheme for B.C.G. Vaccination of selected groups of school children, initiated in 1954, was continued in 1955. The vaccinations were carried out by School Medical Officers in the schools, after parents had signed a consent form.

A Tuberculin Test (Mantoux) was first carried out, and three days later the School Doctor returned to note the result and carry out B.C.G. vaccination where necessary. Two weeks later another visit was paid to the school to inspect the vaccination, and again in about six to eight weeks to carry out a post-B.C.G. Mantoux test.

All children who were originally Mantoux positive were later asked to attend the Mass Radiography Unit along with other members of the family.

The following table gives details of B.C.G. vaccination during the year :—

1,998 children were Mantoux tested.
1,352 children were found to have a negative reaction and were given a B.C.G. vaccination.
499 children were found to be Mantoux positive.
25 children were found to be doubtful.
499 children were notified to attend Mass Radiography Unit for X-ray.
263 children attended and one child was found to have active pulmonary tuberculosis.
226 contacts attended Mass Radiography Unit for X-ray and one was found to have active pulmonary tuberculosis.

DENTAL SERVICE.

The following table shows the number of children inspected and treated during the year, as compared with the preceding year :—

	Number Inspected	Number Treated
1954	13,996	8,885
1955	13,284	9,971

Mr. PROUD, Principal School Dental Officer, reports as follows :—

" The staffing position improved a little during the year when an additional full-time dental officer was appointed and commenced duty in the second surgery which was opened at the Southwick Clinic in August. The total staff now consists of five full-time dentists, and there are three treatment centres. Arrangements for the provision of a further centre at Villette Road Clinic are progressing satisfactorily.

In the Central and Hylton Road areas the number of pupils to each dentist continues in the proportion of one dentist to approximately 8,000 children, and as a result of this unfavourable ratio only emergency treatment is possible for the majority. The position, however, has improved considerably in the Southwick area, where the provision of a second surgery enables two dentists to be employed to attend to a total of approximately 6,000 pupils.

The incidence of dental disease shows no sign of diminishing, and the demand for emergency treatment is as high and as insistent as ever it was. Although the need for emergency treatment is usually traceable to lack of oral hygiene, it is nevertheless a matter for regret that staffing problems render it impossible, except in a small number of cases, to give conservative treatment to the temporary dentition, and therefore large numbers of saveable teeth are subsequently lost. The main reason for a request for emergency treatment is toothache, but treatment does not necessarily stop with the removal of the offending teeth. In many cases further appointments are made and complete treatment of the mouth is undertaken.

Requests for orthodontic treatment are on the increase. The number treated is governed by staff limitations and represents only

a fraction of the total needing treatment. The cases under treatment are mainly of the simpler type of irregularity and well within the ability of the average dentist. In order to increase the amount of orthodontic treatment, a scheme is being prepared in conjunction with the Regional Hospital Board in which an orthodontic specialist service will become available for advice on and treatment of the more complex cases. The specialist centre for Sunderland will form part of the pilot dental scheme to be established at the General Hospital."

Mr. Proud, who has been Senior Dental Officer for a period of 31 years, will be retiring in July, 1956. During this time he has supervised the Dental Services of the Committee in a very able manner.

SPEECH THERAPY.

Mrs. TURNER, Speech Therapist, reports :—

" During the year 1955, 216 children were treated for speech defects and disorders at the Speech Clinic, 23, Mowbray Road, and at the Southwick Branch Clinic.

The most common cases were those of dyslalia, stammering, cleft palate, dysphonia, and spastic. Unfortunately, the majority of these children could only be treated fortnightly as the post of Assistant Speech Therapist still remains vacant. However, in a few severe cases, weekly treatment was carried out.

A good deal of time has been spent on interviewing new cases for the waiting list for treatment. At these interviews it has been possible to advise the parent on how to cope with the problem during the interim before treatment. With the case of the dyslalic child, a preliminary set of typed exercises was given to each parent and this has proved most beneficial.

As usual, good co-operation has been maintained throughout the year with the School Medical Service, Child Guidance Clinic, Remedial Coaching Department, schools staff, Miss Morley (Children's Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle), and the Ear, Nose and Throat Department of the Sunderland Royal Infirmary.

Number of patients treated	216
Number of patients discharged	48
Number of patients on supervision (after treatment)	24
Number of patients on supervision (not receiving treatment)	10
Number of patients referred	109
Number of appointments made for new patients to be interviewed	135
Number of new patients interviewed	110
Number of patients awaiting treatment after interview	56
Number of patients awaiting interview	44 "

Cleanliness.

During the year 31,015 children were examined for cleanliness, and of these only 12·33 per cent. were found unclean. This shows a slight decrease compared with the year 1954, when 13·55 per cent. were similarly declared unclean.

Orthopædics.

Specialists have continued during the year to see Orthopædic cases submitted to them at the Sunderland Orthopædic and Accident Hospital. Eighteen children were referred for advice and treatment.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

As requested by the Ministry, the following information gives the location of the School Clinics, and the sessions held at each :—

Hylton Road Branch Clinic. This clinic serves the west area and is situated at No. 44, Hylton Road. Sessions are held every morning and Tuesday and Friday afternoons, when a School Nurse is in attendance. A School Medical Officer is in attendance on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings. Dental treatment is also carried out at this clinic—sessions are held every morning and afternoon.

Villette Road Branch Clinic. This clinic serves the south area. Sessions are held every morning and Monday afternoons, when a School Nurse is in attendance. A School Medical Officer is in attendance on a Monday afternoon.

Southwick Branch Clinic. This clinic is situated at No. 9, The Terrace, Southwick, and serves the north area. Sessions are held every morning and Monday and Thursday afternoons, when a School Nurse is in attendance. A School Medical Officer is in attendance on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Dental treatment is also carried out at this clinic—sessions are held every morning and afternoon. Ultra Violet Ray treatment is given at this clinic on two sessions a week, also the Speech Therapist holds two sessions a week.

Hendon Clinic. This clinic serves the east area and is situated in Smyrna Place, Hendon. This is a Minor Ailments and Cleansing Clinic. A School Nurse is in attendance every morning, also Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. Two Bathing Attendants are in attendance every morning and afternoon. A School Medical Officer attends on a Thursday morning.

Thorney Close Clinic. This clinic is held in the Girls' Department of Thorney Close School and serves the outlying estates in the west area. Sessions are held every morning, when a School Nurse is in attendance. A School Medical Officer is in attendance on a Thursday morning.

Central Clinic. This clinic is situated at No. 15, John Street. Special cases only are seen at this clinic by appointment, e.g., Ophthalmic cases, educationally sub-normal, &c. Infra Red Ray treatment is also given at this clinic on five afternoons a week. Dental treatment is also carried out—sessions being held every morning and afternoon.

Child Guidance Clinic. This clinic is situated at No. 23, Mowbray Road, where cases are seen by appointment. Speech Therapy is also carried out at this Clinic—seven sessions a week being held by the Speech Therapist.

STAFF.

A complete list of the staff is set out on pages 4 and 5.

An additional Dental Officer, Mr. Michael McCree, was appointed in August. Nurse S. Young resigned in January, and Nurse M. Brennan was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of stating my appreciation of the activities of my Senior School Medical Officer, Dr. J. R. Watson, and the School Medical and Dental Officers, who, together with the Nursing and Clerical staff, have helped me in the work of School Medicine throughout the years I have been School Medical Officer.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee, together with the Director of Education, I tender my sincerest thanks.

As this will be the last year I will have the honour of presenting to the Committee my Annual Report, I offer my sincerest thanks to the Chairman and Members for the very happy relationship which has existed between us during the past years.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. S. HEBBLETHWAITE,

Principal School Medical Officer.

Annual Report of the Organisers of Physical Education

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

Plimsolls.

5,179 pairs of plimsolls were delivered to schools. Of these, 3,982 pairs of laced shoes were supplied to schools with children aged 7 years and upwards, and 1,197 pairs of elastic strap shoes were supplied to schools with children aged 5 to 7 years.

231 dozen extra pairs of laces were supplied.

Storage of Plimsolls.

Fourteen storage lockers were supplied to secondary modern schools and 62 storage lockers were supplied to primary schools. Nineteen of the lockers provided for primary schools were of a small size for use in Infant Departments.

Small Gear and Games Apparatus.

The supply of apparatus to all secondary modern and primary schools has been well maintained, all reasonable requisitions having been met.

Agility Apparatus—Primary Infant and Junior Schools.

Additional pieces of apparatus were supplied to eight infant schools and one junior school where there was no climbing apparatus.

Apparatus Trolleys in Infant Schools.

Having in mind the difficulty which small children have in carrying baskets and boxes containing apparatus, three schools have been provided with trolleys which contain four portable wire mesh baskets and have a space below suitable for storing mats or hoops. These trolleys are so much appreciated by teachers and children that it is hoped to supply further schools next year.

Inspection of Gymnasia.

The annual inspection of all gymnasia was carried out in October. At the same time the portable apparatus in a third of the schools which have only portable apparatus was inspected (it will be remembered that the portable apparatus is inspected every third year) and any special items in schools not scheduled for inspection this year were checked over.

In the majority of cases less repairs were necessary than in previous years and this is largely due to the fact that in these schools more care is being taken in the storage of the apparatus.

Portable Gymnastic Apparatus.

The majority of secondary modern and primary senior schools with suitable facilities are fairly well equipped and only a few additions and replacements have been necessary. An increased amount of apparatus has been sent to primary junior schools where there are members of staff qualified to use it.

School Sports.

In June and July, 70 school sports days were held : 43 were held at Spark Farm, Seaburn or Hylton Road Playing Fields ; 20 were held on the field belonging to the school concerned or to a neighbouring school ; and seven were held on either Southwick Welfare Field or Hendon Police Ground.

Sunderland Schools' Athletic Association.

The Second Annual Meeting took place at Bede School on Tuesday, 5th July. As there was a full programme, all heats had been completed previously, but most of the schools in the town which were eligible (i.e., schools with boys or girls aged 11 years and upwards) had at least one or two competitors in the finals.

The Organising Committee, under the leadership of Mr. B. Lawson, worked untiringly and, benefiting by the experience gained the previous year and helped by good weather, the programme went without a hitch.

A plaque was awarded to the winner of each individual event and a certificate to those who finished second and third. In order not to lengthen the programme, these awards and certificates for relay races were presented by the Mayor at the conclusion of each event.

Durham County Schools' Athletic Association.

This year, for the first time, the Sunderland Schools' Athletic Association took part in the Durham County Junior Meeting, which was held at Bishop Auckland on Wednesday, 29th June, 1955. A team of nine girls and twelve boys represented the Sunderland Association.

In competition with boys and girls from the whole of Durham County the following places were gained :—

Girls		Boys	
100 yards	.... 3rd place	440 yards	.... 4th place
High Jump	.... 6th place	High Jump	.... 3rd place
		Putting the Shot....	6th place

Boys' Senior and Intermediate Meeting.

This is organised as an Inter-Grammar School event.

Girls' Senior and Intermediate Meeting.

A small team was sent to represent the Association at the County Meeting, which was held at Houghton-le-Spring on Saturday, 25th June, 1955.

The following places were gained :—

Intermediate Girls		Senior Girls	
Hurdles	.... 3rd place	100 yards	.... 2nd place
High Jump	.... 1st place		
Relay	.... 5th place		

One competitor from Sunderland, Margot Johnson, High School (High Jump) gained a place in the County Team for the National Athletic Meeting in July.

Town Badges.

Town Badges were presented to all boys and girls who represented the town in athletics.

Schools' Badminton Association.

This Association is now in its second season. All play takes place out of school hours and each school meets its own expenses. The progress which the game has made in so short a time is due, in no small measure, to the enthusiasm of the teachers who give up their time during dinner hours and at night to coach and play with the children.

Mr. Buchanan, the Secretary, reports :—

" Two mixed schools, seven girls' schools and eight boys' schools are now playing regularly.

The boys and girls play together in the two mixed schools, and mixed games are also often played in three of the other schools.

In all the above schools the game is a regular activity and matches are played.

Three or four other schools are playing very little Badminton and it is hoped that in these and in other schools there will be further developments."

Schools' Dance Festival.

It has never been possible in the past for the parents to see any of the work, so it was decided this year that there would be no adjudicator but that the programme would be arranged to give as many parents as possible an opportunity of attending the session at which their own children were dancing.

Four parents' evenings were held in Bede Tower during the week commencing 14th March, 1955. Each evening a different 11 groups (350 children) of varied age groups performed, and it was possible to issue one parent's ticket to each performer, so that each evening the audience was made up of the parents of the performers.

Three weeks later an evening performance was arranged for members of the Education Committee, officials and teachers. As the demand for tickets was far in excess of the seating capacity of the hall a further performance was arranged. Therefore on 4th April 15 groups (400 performers) gave one performance at 4.30 p.m. and after tea, provided in the Training College Hostel, gave a second performance at 7 p.m.

Approximately 500 spectators saw these two performances. In all, 37 groups took part in the Festival ; they came from primary infant, primary junior, secondary modern and secondary grammar schools, and one group from an adult evening class. Work of all types was shown and some very satisfactory standards were reached, the standard of the secondary modern work being particularly good. The work was typical of that being done in the schools, and the programme for each performance was planned to show a variety of age groups and types of work.

No financial assistance was asked for, the parents paid 6d. each for admission and all expenses were met from the receipts, the main items of expenditure being transport and tea for the children on 4th April. After all expenses had been met, a donation of £3 6s. was handed to Middleton School Camp Committee.

The chief difficulties were that Bede Tower, whilst it is the best place available, is too small to accommodate a sufficient number of spectators and many had to be refused tickets ; the cloakrooms are not planned for such numbers and it was necessary to arrange a shuttle system to and from Clifton Villas Hostel in order to reduce the numbers in the cloakrooms but, in spite of this, the children, who had had no rehearsal in the hall, behaved well and were entertained during the waiting periods by their own teachers and by students from the Training College.

The co-operation and cheerful assistance of a very large number of teachers and others contributed to the smooth running of these evenings.

Some schools repeated their performances to parents in their own schools, and one group of five schools arranged four evening performances for parents and children.

GIRLS' GAMES.

Netball.

REPAIR OF NETBALLS.—In September head teachers were asked to send in all football cases which were in need of repair. Forty cases were collected and all except one were repairable. With the present high cost of balls this service should prove well worth while.

Schools' Netball.

The bad weather after Christmas made it necessary to cancel a great many games.

Three American Tournaments were held, in which 72 teams took part. The Senior Tournament was held at Grange Park as it was impossible to clear the deep snow at Thorney Close. The Lower Senior and Junior Tournaments were held at Thorney Close.

A record number of entries was received for the Junior Tournament and the standard of play was good.

Senior Tournament, 5th March.
1st team winners : Monkwearmouth Grammar School.
2nd team winners : Monkwearmouth Grammar School.

Lower Senior Tournament, 26th March.
1st team winners : Grange Park Girls' School.
2nd team winners : Grange Park Girls' School.

Junior Tournament, 30th April.
1st team winners : Havelock Junior School.
2nd team winners : Springwell Junior School.

Team Trials.

The week after the Senior Tournament, trials were held and the following teams were chosen to represent the Sunderland Schools' Netball Association :—

Cowan Terrace.
Grange Park. West Southwick.

Inter-Town Tournament.

This year the tournament was held at South Shields. There were three sections ; a team from Darlington, Newcastle, South Shields, Gateshead, West Hartlepool and Sunderland playing each section. The Sunderland team was successful in every section, each team winning all five games.

The final positions were :—

Winners	Grange Park.
2nd	West Southwick.
3rd	Cowan Terrace.

Town Badges.

The first award of town badges was made on Thursday, 30th June, when the Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee presented badges to all the boys and girls who had represented the town in netball, hockey, football, swimming and athletics.

The arrangements this year were made by the Sunderland Schools' Netball Association and it was generally agreed that the informal talks between the children and officials of the different associations and the guests present, which followed the presentations, provided a happy finish to a most enjoyable occasion.

Autumn Tournament.

In order to give those girls who were leaving school at Christmas an opportunity to play, an extra tournament was again held in December. Each school was invited to enter one or two teams, and the record number of 18 schools entered a total number of 34 teams for a tournament which was played at Thorney Close Girls' School on Saturday, 3rd December, 1955. The large number of courts at this school makes it an ideal place for holding such a tournament. On this occasion eight courts were used—four for first teams and four for second teams.

1st team winners .... Monkwearmouth Grammar School.

2nd team winners .... Grange Park S.M. Girls' School.

Post-School Netball.

Large numbers of girls continue to play netball when they leave school, and this season 34 organisations (Youth Clubs, Old Girls' Clubs and Factory Clubs) are playing twice a week.

Hockey.

The 1954–55 season was not a good season as very little play was possible after Christmas. Because of this it was decided not to hold an inter-school tournament.

The 1955–56 season started well and for the first time a few schools played inter-school matches.

Shinty.

An intensive programme is being carried out in one primary junior school. This is being tried because it is felt that an introduction to the rudiments of hockey before the age of 11 should help the work in the secondary school. The progress of these nine and ten-year-old girls has been so good that the experimental programme is to be tried out in a second school.

Padder Tennis.

Two more secondary modern schools are now playing padder tennis. This is the only means of leading up to tennis in most secondary modern schools and it is thought to be worth while because as a result more girls from these schools are now playing tennis on the public courts out of school hours.

It is hoped that, with these foundations, it will be possible for more of these schools to play tennis next season.

Rounders.

Rounders has been played regularly in primary junior schools but it has been played less in secondary modern and primary senior schools where more time has been given to athletics and padder tennis than in previous years.

The summer term is so short that it is left to teachers, having in mind the facilities available and the needs of the girls, to decide how it is best to allocate the time.

Rounders Tournament.

A most successful tournament was held at Seaburn Playing Field on Thursday evening, 14th July. Four pitches were used so that the 12 school teams taking part all played an adequate number of games.

Girls' Athletic Course.

During May, June and July groups of girls from 13 secondary modern and senior schools attended at Thorney Close School one evening a week for extra training. Due to the number of schools taking part it was only possible to allow each school to send eight girls. As this did not nearly meet the demand it is hoped to extend the training next season to two evenings a week. At least one teacher from each of the schools concerned was present on each occasion to carry out the training of her own group.

Playing Fields—Girls.

With the provision of jumping pits at Spark Farm and Seaburn Playing Fields and the greater interest now being taken in athletics, a greater variety of work is being taken. In previous years all the girls played rounders, but now they have the opportunity to practice rounders, athletics and, in a few cases, cricket.

Seaburn Playing Field.

All schools using Seaburn Playing Field have now been supplied with their own hockey sticks and a locker in the girls' changing hut in which to store all their field games apparatus. Each teacher keeps the key of her own school's locker, and the groundsman is thus relieved of the work of opening the lockers and checking the apparatus which, prior to this, was communal to all schools using this field.

BOYS' GAMES.

Association Football.

Every primary junior and secondary modern school (boys and mixed) now has at least one team in the Inter-Schools League. The annual task of allocating pitches was made easier by using fields attached to schools for the playing of inter-school games, thus reducing the pressure on the main playing fields.

It is proposed to revive, during this season, the representative side for juniors which was suspended two seasons ago.

It is expected that more teams will compete in the league next season, and arrangements to make available fields attached to schools will help to solve the problems of arranging games.

St. Aidan's Grammar School won the League Championship (1954–55) and the Cochrane Cup—their first successes. Springwell Junior School went through the season without defeat and won both Junior Trophies—the Championship and Watson Cup.

During the 1954–55 season the Sunderland Boys' team reached the semi-final of the English Schools' Trophy, losing to Manchester after two drawn games. The first game, at Roker Park, attracted 25,000 people ; total attendance at the three games exceeded 50,000.

The Children's Hospital Cup was won by Sunderland, who defeated Northumberland 5–2 in the semi-final and Derwent Valley 7–1 in the final. The Under-14 team—all eligible to play next season—won the Hartlepools Hospital Cup, defeating Darlington 5–3 in the final.

After reaching the semi-final of the English Schools' Trophy last season, Sunderland Boys had to find an entirely new team for the 1955–56 season ; this team reached the last 32 still competing for the trophy, being defeated by Medway after a drawn game.

Several boys gained honours : Stanley Winn, centre-forward, played four times for England Boys ; Brian Wright, right-half, played in North International Trial ; these boys, and James Swan, Gordon Oliver and Norman Jubb, all played for Durham County.

Since the beginning of the 1955–56 season two boys, Peter Simpson and Alan Lister, have played for Durham County, and John Turner and Robert Oliver played in the trial games. Peter Simpson has been chosen to play in the International Trial at Durham on 11th February.

Schools' Cricket.

Twenty-four senior schools, arranged in four divisions, compete in leagues and play " home " and " away " fixtures. Games are arranged between the winners of these divisions to decide the winner of the Swan Cup. The league winners were :—

North	St. Columba's
East	St. Aidan's
South	Hendon
West	Barnes Boys

In the Swan Cup semi-final, Barnes won against St. Columba's, and St. Aidan's against Hendon. St. Aidan's won the final game against Barnes.

Twenty-seven teams competed in the Junior Competition. Four leagues have been formed, instead of the usual three, since more teams entered. Junior league winners were :—

North	High Southwick
East	Hendon
South	Springwell
West	Barnes

Sunderland Boys won matches against Silksworth Juniors, Coast League and Gateshead. The Town team reached the final of the Durham Schools' Cup, losing to West Hartlepool by five runs.

Two boys, Hanson of West Park, and Howard of Hylton Road, were selected to represent Durham Boys against Yorkshire Boys and Lancashire Boys. Howard gained the distinction of being selected to play for North of England Boys against South of England Boys at Northampton.

Selected boys from Sunderland schools took part in summer coaching at Ashbrooke and Norton. Ten selected boys have been given winter coaching at Silksworth under Mr. A. Coxon and Mr. A. Watson.

Arrangements were made for schools to use Vaux's Sports Ground, Glenesk Road, for cricket. This concession is most valuable since the fields are made available not only during normal school field periods but also, sometimes, after school hours, for the playing of inter-school Cricket League games.

Schools' Rugby.

Rugby continues to be encouraged at Thorney Close Secondary Modern Boys' School and progress is being made. Regular games are played at Bede Boys' Grammar School, Villiers Street Technical School, West Park Boys' School, as well as at Thorney Close.

One boy from Bede Grammar School (Burt) was selected to represent Durham County on the " Under 15 " team, and two boys (Foster and Stacey) were reserves. Three senior boys from Bede School (Crompton, Thompson and Wilson) were selected to play for Durham County.

Wilson played in the International Trial which was held at Gateshead.

The availability of fields which are attached to schools has been of great help to all concerned, particularly to the Divisional Representatives, who are responsible for fixture lists.

The Secretary of Sunderland Schools' Cricket Association, Mr. T. Common, states " Artificial wickets are laid down at Spark Farm and Hylton Road and are proving a success in the teaching of cricket to schoolboys."

Swimming.

L.E.A. Proficiency Awards during 1955 were as follows :—

Preliminary Certificates	130
Third Class	432
Second Class	208
First Class	90
Advanced Certificate	5
	865

Sunderland Schools' Swimming Association continued to hold Life-Saving classes. Results obtained during the year were :—

Intermediate	12
Bronze	15
Bar to Bronze	3
Bronze Cross	9
Award of Merit	1
Unigrip	7

Instruction was given by Mr. A. Common, Mr. F. Whiting, Mr. C. Pullan, Mr. D. Elsdon and Mr. B. H. Lawson.

The Sunderland Schools' Life-Saving Competition was held in High Street Baths on 17th June. Results were :—

1st	Deptford Secondary Modern
2nd	Redby Secondary Modern
3rd	Monkwearmouth Grammar

Deptford competed in the final of the A. C. Cox Memorial Trophy Competition on 16th July, against winners from towns throughout Northumberland and Durham.

Sunderland Schools' Swimming Association held a successful gala, and galas were also successfully organised by Monkwearmouth Grammar, West Park Boys, Deptford and Bede Boys' Grammar Schools during 1955.

Mr. R. McBeath trained the first Life-Saving class to be formed at Thorney Close Modern Boys' School, with very good results ; 15 boys gained the Intermediate Certificate and 11 boys gained the Bronze Medallion. Mr. D. Elsdon gave much help in the arrangements for the examination of these boys.

Outstanding results in Life-Saving continue to be produced at Monkwearmouth Grammar, Deptford Modern and Thorney Close Modern Schools ; steady and consistent work of a high standard is being done throughout the year by those in charge of Life-Saving classes, i.e., Mr. B. Lawson, Mr. D. Elsdon and Mr. R. McBeath. A highlight of R.L.S.S. work is undoubtedly the results achieved at High Southwick Junior Boys' School in obtaining six elementary certificates of the Royal Life-Saving Society. This school is to be congratulated on seeing and seizing the opportunity of being the

first junior school to take R.L.S.S. examinations. This new venture has created history in that this is the first junior school to attempt these examinations.

Thirteen boys from various schools represented Sunderland in the Northumberland and Durham School Galas at Billingham and Gateshead, and acquitted themselves well. The outstanding feature was R. Manning's (Diamond Hall) win in the Open Breast Stroke Championship.

During the year David Knaggs (Bede) gained the Schools Medallist Award of the English Schools' Swimming Association and, with Michael Pemberton (Redby), gained the Advanced Award.

Three boys from Deptford gained the Schools Medallist Award of the English Schools' Swimming Association. Mr. C. Pullan, after regular attendance at the Teachers' Course, gained the Bronze Medallion.

Villiers Street Technical School entered a team in the English Schools' Team Championship, and the school is to be congratulated on its enterprise in preparing and entering a team.

Richard Manning, of Diamond Hall Boys' School, who won the All-England Schools' Breast Stroke Championship, is among the first to be nominated for the award of a Town Badge for Swimming.

Athletics.

At Bede Grammar School Athletic Meeting on 25th May two new records were established: (*a*) Hoskins, 440 yards (Junior), 62·5 secs.; (*b*) Brown, 880 yards (Intermediate) 2 mins. 16 secs.

Messrs. R. Frith, B. Lawson, A. S. Walton and D. Prestwich volunteered to assist Mr. J. Lawson, Youth Organiser, with arrangements for the Youth Athletic Meeting held in July. They attended meetings and were allocated duties by Mr. J. Lawson.

Inter-School Basket Ball.

Inter-school friendly games are now played by several schools in the town where there are facilities. Two age groups operate for these games: (*a*) Junior (under 15 years) and (*b*) Seniors (over 15 years). The game is increasing in popularity and will continue to do so as more facilities are provided. Several schools have facilities, and basket ball stands have recently been provided at Thorney Close Secondary Modern Boys' School.

An **Inter-Grammar School Basket Ball Tournament,** sponsored and arranged by the Basket Ball Group of the Men's Physical Activities Association, was held at Bede School on 25th February, 1955. Seven schools (South Shields, Darlington, Ryhope, Monkwearmouth, Wellfield, Pendower and Bede Grammar School)

competed for the annual trophy, presented by the Basket Ball Group of the Men's Association, and, after a most successful evening, the result of the competition was :—

1. Darlington.
2. Bede.

Provision of Facilities.

Favourable comment on the artificial cricket pitches at Spark Farm and Hylton Road indicate that the improved facilities for cricket coaching are welcomed. The provision of facilities for net practice will have further influence on cricket coaching.

The take-off areas for high jump and long jump at Thorney Close, Seaburn and Spark Farm, provided by the Education Authority, are well used and help to increase interest in Athletics.

Boys' Games Equipment.

An adequate supply of equipment is being made available each year, and the system of preserving stock at a declared level, on the lines of an imprest account, is operating successfully.

Playing Field Time-tables.

It was felt that more space was necessary for cricket games, and the fields at Spark Farm and Hylton Road now have two cricket pitches each, one grass and one artificial pitch. Schools are encouraged to employ boys on other activities in addition to the actual game of cricket, for example, stoolball, athletics and practices in the skills of the game. The scope will be increased when adequate net practice is possible. In order to effect these changes it has been necessary to recast the playing field time-tables at Hylton Road and Spark Farm.

Repair of Equipment—Soccer Balls.

The arrangements made in 1954 for the repair of soccer cases were found to be satisfactory. The economy achieved justified the continuance of this system.

Bede Condition Co-efficient.

The Director of Education has arranged for the mechanical calculator designed by Mr. H. Wilson to be produced in sufficient numbers for use in schools.

Included by Mr. T. Taylor, H.M.I., for discussion at a conference of Organisers of Physical Education held on 18th March, 1955, in Newcastle, which was arranged by and presided over by Mr. Taylor, the Bede Condition Co-efficient aroused much interest and comment. Many of those present were already familiar with the research being carried out in Sunderland.

The Director of Education has encouraged further investigation into the means of achieving close co-operation between the School Medical Officer and Physical Education specialists, and into methods of testing the validity of the Bede Condition Co-efficient. This is reflected in recent developments at Bede Boys' Grammar School. Dr. G. Slade, S.M.O., has granted continuous co-operation and guidance to Mr. D. R. Prestwich, master in charge of Physical Education, and the following position now obtains :—

(*a*) Under Dr. Slade's direction, special attention is given to boys who suffer from asthma. Special breathing exercises and other movements and activities which have beneficial effects on respiration are included in a scheme of training devised by Dr. Slade and Mr. Prestwich. The boys are invited to attend for a short period each day ; Mr. Prestwich directs the activities ; special medical examinations are carried out at short intervals and the S.M.O.'s assessment and remarks are recorded with the B.C.C.

(*b*) Some results are interesting and it would appear that there can, later, be beneficial effects.

(*c*) The investigation is still proceeding and, while results are, of course, incomplete, it is interesting to note the results so far obtained.

(*d*) The Director of Education, after consultation with Dr. Slade, has decided to introduce the means of bringing any benefits connected with this training and testing to boys (asthma cases) from other schools. This will also have the effect of widening the scope of the investigation.

(*e*) Results already obtained have been recorded.

Sunderland Education Authority—
Physical Education Coaching Series.

Progress has been made on the film on the teaching of the Handspring. It was felt that an instructional film of this type needed the addition of a spoken commentary. The commentary has been prepared and recorded on the tape-recorder, synchronising sound with film action. The result emphasises the advantages which will follow the addition of a sound-track of this film.

SUNDERLAND AND DISTRICT MEN'S PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION.

The following were arranged between January and December, 1955 :—

28th January	Lecture by G. Williams, Esq., M.A., Lecturer in Physical Education, Training College, Cardiff.
25th February	Inter Grammar School Basket Ball Tournament.
16th March	TABLE TENNIS. Coaching and exhibition play by Mr. Ken Stanley, International Table Tennis Player.

30th March	ATHLETICS. Lecture, demonstration and exhibition of coaching methods by Mr. Denis Watts, Official Coach, Amateur Athletic Association.
8th–9th October	Week-end Course at Bede Grammar School (Olympic Gymnastics, Medau Gymnastics, Badminton, Judo, Fencing), in co-operation with Central Council of Physical Recreation.
26th October	Visit of Mr. Cape and Mr. Newton, of H.M. Prison Commission.
9th November	"Focus on Badminton." Bede Grammar School. All those who took part were International players.
24th November	"Spotlight on Sport." New Rink, Sunderland. This is the second "Spotlight" organised in Sunderland. It was very successful and attracted a large audience.
15th December	Lecture and Cricket Film on the last Australian Tour by Mr. Bob Appleyard, Yorkshire and England.

Groups.

New groups have been formed and there has been considerable progress within the groups, with increase in activity and much widening in scope. The following noteworthy developments are worth recording :—

(*a*) An **Irish Dancing Group** has recently been formed and meets each Thursday evening at Bede Grammar School. Many members are ladies. This enjoyable activity is arranged by the Group Chairman, Mr. A. Hunter (Quarry View Junior School).

(*b*) The recently-formed **Fencing Group** meets regularly at the Technical College. Progress has been rapid ; teams have been formed and matches arranged. The group has many lady members and their ability is reflected in the results of a match with King's College, Newcastle, Fencing Team ; the ladies won 7–2 and the men drew 8–8.

(*c*) Led by Mr. A. Snell (Chester Road Modern) and Mr. G. Hamilton (Quarry View Junior), the **Soccer Group** organised a Soccer Coaching Course, which was made possible by the co-operation of Mr. J. B. Blenkinsop, Secretary, Durham County Football Association. An examination was held at the end of the course, on 20th April. Successful candidates will be awarded the Football Association Coaching Certificate. The course was not confined to members but was open to all who were interested. As a result, several non-member men teachers enjoyed the advantages created by the Soccer Group. Affiliated to the Durham Amateur Football Association, the team plays regular games in the N.E. Amateur League.

(*d*) The **Basket Ball Group** continues to develop. Recent activities include :—

(i) The organisation by the group officials of a Basket Ball Referees' Course. *This is the first time such a course has been held in Sunderland.* Schools will benefit, since most of the candidates for the examination were teachers. All nine candidates were successful.

(ii) A match has been arranged at York between the group teams (" Harlequins ") and York Basket Ball Club teams.

(iii) This group sponsored and arranged the Inter Grammar School Basket Ball Tournament held at Bede School on 25th February, 1955. The trophy was provided from personal subscription by members of this group.

It is interesting to note that Mr. D. R. Prestwich has gained the Coaching Certificate and has also been elected Secretary for the N.E. area.

A Ladies' Basket Ball section has been formed and meets each Friday evening at Bede School.

(*e*) **A Scottish Dancing Group** has been formed and meets each Thursday evening at Bede Grammar School.

(*f*) **Associate Members.** Ladies have, for a considerable time, taken part in suitable activities arranged by the Association, for example, Tennis, Badminton, Irish and Scottish Dancing, and have attended several lectures and demonstrations. At the Annual General Meeting held on 28th November, 1955, the position was regularised and, while the business part of the Association will continue to be carried out by the men, it was decided that ladies should be invited to accept Associate Membership, free to take advantage of all facilities offered, such as attendance at demonstrations, lectures, &c., and to become members of any of the groups, such as Tennis and Badminton. The subscription to be 3s. 6d. per year.

COURSES AND EVENING CLASSES FOR YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND ADULTS.

Teachers' and Leaders' Course—Physical Education—Men.

This course was held in Bede Boys' Grammar School from 13th October, 1954, until the examination on 9th March, 1955. Emphasis in training was on methods of standing-by, and a certificate, awarded by Sunderland Education Authority, was granted to those who were successful in the examination held at the end of the course. It may be worthy of note that two Leaders who travelled from Murton Colliery in order to attend the course both succeeded in obtaining certificates.

Soccer Coaching Course.

Several men teachers attended the Soccer Coaching Course, arranged by the Soccer Group of the Men's Association, held at Thorney Close Modern Boys' School from 28th February, 1955, until the examinations on 20th April (Theory) and 23rd April (Practical). Successful candidates will be awarded the Preliminary Certificate by the Football Association. The instruction given by Mr. G. Wardle, Football Association Official Coach, will benefit teachers and have a good effect on the work in schools.

Evening Classes and Courses.

FENCING CLASS.—The first Open Class in Fencing (Mixed), arranged by Sunderland Education Authority, to be held in Sunderland, started on 11th February, 1955, in the Technical College. The response was most enthusiastic. The class was so well attended—over fifty men and women—that it was necessary to divide the class and ask the instructor, Mrs. Western, of Newcastle, to attend on two evenings.

JUDO CLASS.—The Open Class in Judo, taken by Mr. A. Walker (Black Belt), continues. Interest is maintained and, with very few exceptions, members have provided themselves with correct Judo clothing.

GYMNASTICS.—An Open Class for youths and men in Gymnastics and Physical Recreation is held each Tuesday evening in St. George's House Gymnasium.

ATHLETIC COURSE—YOUTH.—An Athletic Course for youth, under the jurisdiction of Mr. J. Lawson, Youth Organiser, is held each Wednesday evening during the summer term at Thorney Close Modern School. Mr. Frith is in charge of the course but enjoys much voluntary help from several men teachers. Preliminaries for certain events in the Youth Athletic Programme are held at this course, just before the Youth Athletic Meeting arranged by Mr. J. Lawson in July.

The results of the coaching, particularly in field events, were reflected in the performances at the Youth Athletic Meeting held on 20th July at Bede Grammar School.

ATHLETIC COURSE—SCHOOLBOYS.—A special Coaching Course in Athletics has been arranged again this year. The aim is to provide instruction and practice for all boys over 12½ years of age who are interested in Athletics. The excellent facilities and the interest taken by the men teachers who attend as coaches prove attractive to many boys who seem to enjoy the work. The following volunteered to attend on Wednesday evenings from 6.30 to 7.30 :—

Messrs. M. Allard, B. Bagley, R. Frith, C. Griffiths, J. L. Jolly, B. Lawson, A. Mustard, D. R. Prestwich, A. S. Walton, and K. Witherington.

This enthusiasm and active help ensures the success of a course of this sort, and good work was done by these voluntary coaches, led by Mr. B. H. Lawson.

YOUTH COURSE.—This course continued during 1955. It is held each Thursday evening at Bede School and is directed by Mr. R. Frith, who has continued the system of Advanced Gymnastic Awards and has introduced training suitable for Junior Leaders. Three young men were presented with Junior Leaders' awards by the Director of Education at the " Spotlight on Sport " held at the New Rink on 24th November, 1955.

CLASSES IN PHYSICAL RECREATION have been arranged as follows :—

Thorney Close and Springwell Community Association Boys' Club.
Doxford's Apprentices.
Farringdon and Humbledon Community Association Boys' Club.

THE MEN'S ASSOCIATION CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES continue and are arranged as follows :—

(*a*) Soccer Coaching and Practice.—Thorney Close School, Monday evenings (Mr. A. E. Snell).

(*b*) Judo.—Bede Boys' Grammar School, Tuesday and Thursday evenings (Mr. J. Campbell).

(*c*) Gymnastics.—Bede Boys' School, Wednesday evenings (Mr. A. S. Walton and Mr. B. Bagley). This class terminated at the beginning of December.

(*d*) Irish Dancing.—Bede School, Wednesday evenings (Miss A. Walker).

(*e*) Scottish Dancing.—Bede School, Thursday evenings (Mr. A. Hunter).

(*f*) Table Tennis.—Commercial Road School, Wednesday evenings (Mr. S. Alderson).

(*g*) Badminton.—Bede School, Friday evenings (Mr. J. McArdle).

(*h*) Basket Ball.—Bede School, Friday evenings (Mr. B. H. Lawson).

(*j*) Basket Ball, Ladies.—Bede School, Friday evenings.

(*k*) Fencing.—Technical College Gymnasium, Friday evenings (Mr. B. Garner).

Home Office Course.

As in previous years, lectures on " Games and Dancing for Girls " were given to the women students attending the Home Office Course in April.

Evening Classes—Women.

All classes which started in September, 1954, continued from January to Easter.

A group from the Scottish Country Dance Class took part in the schools' Dance Festival which was held in Bede Tower in March.

The following classes started in September and will continue until Easter. In every class the attendance is most satisfactory :—

(1) Keep Fit and Dancing.

(2) Keep Fit and Dancing. This class, which is held in the afternoon for the benefit of married women, has given two demonstrations during the year to community associations and is to give further demonstrations next term. One member of this class has attended regularly for 29 years, and three others have been members for nearly as long.

(3) Scottish Country Dancing.

(4) Irish Dancing and Elementary Scottish Country Dancing.

Athletics Course—Teachers.

In July Mr. D. Watts, Official Coach to the A.A.A., conducted two one-day courses for Sunderland teachers. These were held at the Bede Grammar School.

(1) On 7th July the course was for men and women who had little or no knowledge of Athletics.

(2) On 8th July the course was arranged as a " follow-up " for those who had attended the three-day course taken by Mr. Watts in 1954.

It is now felt that those teachers who are responsible for the coaching of Athletics in Sunderland have a sound knowledge of the basic principles and the methods to be used.

General.

(1) Gymnastic Awards—Boys. Some schools are introducing a system of Gymnastic Awards based on the suggestions contained in the books provided by the Education Authority, " Physical Education—Boys " and " Suggestions on a Scheme of Work for Senior Boys." As the standard of gymnastics improves, the introduction of such an award encourages boys in their efforts to produce stylish work.

(2) A. Howey, past student of Bede Boys' Grammar School, has been awarded his Half Blue at Cambridge University for Athletics. Alan represented Cambridge and Oxford in the Pole Vault event in Sweden.

(3) A Focus on Physical Education was held at Thorney Close Secondary Modern Boys' School on 15th December, 1955. A full programme was planned, including Gymnastics, Boxing, Rugby, Cricket, Soccer, Athletics and Basket Ball. The demonstrations and games were designed to illustrate the ways in which physical

skills and activities are developed in the secondary modern school, with emphasis on the value of indoor training. A Basket Ball game was played between the school team and a staff team. Several members of staff co-operated with the Physical Education staff, each man controlling the activity in which he was particularly interested. The school is to be congratulated on the enterprise and hard work required to produce an instructive and enjoyable programme.

(4) TOWN BADGES were awarded to boys who represented the town in the following activities :—

Soccer	16
Athletics	12
Swimming	13
Rugby	1
	42

These are the first badges to be awarded and boys show interest and pleasure at this recognition of their efforts.

(5) Mr. E. BRAHAM, who is responsible for the organisation and administration of Physical Education in South Africa, visited this country during September and October, 1955, and visits to certain education authorities were arranged for him by the Ministry of Education.

The Director of Education gave his consent to a request for Mr. Braham to visit certain boys' schools in Sunderland on Friday, 30th September, 1955. Certain schools were visited, and queries from Mr. Braham were particularly concerned with :—

(*a*) The Bede Condition Co-efficient ;
(*b*) The scheme of work provided for senior boys ;
(*c*) Film-strips and films produced by Sunderland Education Authority.

Mr. Braham showed particular interest in the B.C.C. and asked for full details and for a specimen of the manipulator. Copies of the scheme of work were provided at Mr. Braham's request. Discussion on work in South Africa was interesting and rewarding.

* * *

Many of the boys' activities, courses and projects mentioned in this report are made possible by the readiness of many men teachers to undertake tasks in their own time. It may perhaps be permissible to record this fact and to emphasise the advantages to any Organiser who finds this willingness to help present in a fairly high proportion of those with whom he is required to work.

SWIMMING.

Swimming instruction has been given to 3,057 girls during the year. All schools with girls over 11 years of age offer swimming, along with 12 out of 31 primary junior schools. School groups vary in size from 20 girls with one teacher to 60 girls with three teachers.

Provision of Milk and Meals

Miss E. W. Cook, Organiser of School Meals, reports :—

" During the Easter holidays 996 children received free meals daily.

At Whitsuntide holiday 904 children received free meals daily.

During the summer vacation 959 free meals were served each day, with the exception of August Bank Holiday Monday.

Throughout the October holiday 800 children were provided with free meals each day.

The following table shows the number of children who received the mid-day meal during the year :—

January	8,677
February	8,702
March	9,001
April	9,017
May	8,935
June	8,945
July	8,835
August	996 (Free Meals only)
September	8,980
October	9,198
November	9,068
December	8,814 "

Mr. T. Nicholls, Superintendent Welfare Officer, reports :—

" During the year 1955 the permitted quantity of milk supplied to children attending school remained at one-third of a pint per child, with the exception of those attending Thornfield Open-air Day School and the Nursery Schools, who have two-thirds of a pint daily.

During the year the average attendance in all schools was 29,235, and an average of 27,807 bottles of milk were consumed each day. The percentage of school children taking milk was 95·1, compared with 97·2 in 1954."

Summary of Work

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

INSPECTION WORK IN SCHOOLS.

Medical Officers.

	1954	1955
Number of pupils examined at Primary and Secondary Schools	8,857	8,995
Number of pupils examined at Special Schools	440	343

School Dental Officers.

Number of pupils inspected	13,996	13,284

School Nurses.

Number of examinations for cleanliness....	31,000	31,015
Percentage of children found unclean	13·55%	12·33%
Number of houses visited for "following-up"	1,957	1,205
Number of visits to schools *re* infectious disease	47	35

WORK AT CLINICS.

Treatment.

Skin Department.

	1954	1955		
Number of cases treated	....	....	3,902	4,087
Hylton Road Clinic	720	654		
Villette Road Clinic	552	508		
Southwick Clinic	818	1,000		
Fordhall Clinic	209	214		
Smyrna Place Clinic	884	871		
Thorney Close Clinic....	719	840		

Ophthalmic Department.

Number of children with defective vision examined by the Ophthalmic Specialist	1,382	1,491
Number re-examined by School Nurse	1,097	767
Number of such children examined at the Clinics	208	201

	1954	1955
Hylton Road Clinic	39	20
Villette Road Clinic	44	51
Southwick Clinic	93	81
Fordhall Clinic	—	—
Smyrna Place Clinic	8	13
Thorney Close Clinic....	24	36

	1954	1955	1954	1955
Number of Eye Diseases treated			377	415
	1954	1955		
Hylton Road Clinic	50	90		
Villette Road Clinic	63	62		
Southwick Clinic	100	84		
Fordhall Clinic	16	13		
Smyrna Place Clinic	70	81		
Thorney Close Clinic....	78	85		

Aural Department.

Number of minor ear defects seen at the Clinics			569	466
	1954	1955		
Hylton Road Clinic	131	91		
Villette Road Clinic	61	47		
Southwick Clinic	92	66		
Fordhall Clinic	46	37		
Smyrna Place Clinic	96	79		
Thorney Close Clinic....	143	146		

Special Conditions.

Number of cases treated			1,810	1,819
Hylton Road Clinic	605	535		
Villette Road Clinic	239	261		
Southwick Clinic	343	352		
Fordhall Clinic	113	71		
Smyrna Place Clinic	121	164		
Thorney Close Clinic....	389	436		

Dental Treatment.

Number of cases treated			8,885	9,971
Number of attendances			14,054	14,843

Cleansing Clinic.

Number of children who attended for treatment of Scabies, &c.			434	434
Number of attendances			3,236	3,267

Ultra Violet Ray Clinic.

Number of cases treated			230	214
Number of attendances			3,236	2,865

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Number of cases immunised, one dose....			69	36
Number of cases immunised, two doses			173	124
Number of recurrent inoculations after five years			501	378
Number of attendances			916	662

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES AT THE ABOVE-NAMED CLINICS			73,428	73,508

Ministry of Education
Medical Inspection Returns

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

TABLE I.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (including Special Schools).

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Age Groups inspected and number of Children examined in each :—

Entrants	3,531
Second Age Group	2,782
Third Age Group	2,682
Total	8,995
Additional Periodic Inspections	343
Grand Total	9,338

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	1,661
Number of Re-inspections	—
Total	1,661

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

Group (1)	For Defective Vision (excluding Squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIa (3)	Total individual Pupils (4)
Entrants	6	406	410
Second Age Group	173	171	340
Third Age Group	179	135	311
Total	358	712	1,061
Additional Periodic Inspections ..	13	61	74
GRAND TOTAL	371	773	1,135

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

Defect Code No.	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
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4	Skin	135	20	20	7
5	Eyes—(*a*) Vision ..	358	112	44	35
	(*b*) Squint ..	109	52	24	24
	(*c*) Other ..	24	8	5	2
6	Ears—(*a*) Hearing ..	12	12	9	10
	(*b*) Otitis Media	24	32	6	8
	(*c*) Other ..	15	7	3	2
7	Nose or Throat ..	154	260	61	96
8	Speech	25	64	27	14
9	Cervical Glands ..	5	20	—	5
10	Heart and Circulation .	43	148	18	75
11	Lungs	88	160	24	55
12	Developmental—				
	(*a*) Hernia ..	4	11	1	4
	(*b*) Other	2	8	2	9
13	Orthopædic—				
	(*a*) Posture ..	3	55	5	9
	(*b*) Flat Foot ..	31	22	1	13
	(*c*) Other	31	29	3	16
14	Nervous System—				
	(*a*) Epilepsy ..	9	23	1	4
	(*b*) Other	8	22	—	10
15	Psychological—				
	(*a*) Development .	18	20	7	7
	(*b*) Stability ..	56	39	16	12
16	Other	234	60	43	22

TABLE II.

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

Age Groups	No. of Pupils Inspected	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ..	3,531	2,668	75·56	757	21·44	106	3·002
Second Age Group ..	2,782	1,956	70·31	678	24·37	148	5·32
Third Age Group ..	2,682	1,770	65·99	778	29·008	134	4·99
Additional Periodic Inspections	343	69	20·12	214	62·39	60	17·49
TOTAL ..	9,338	6,463	69·21	2,427	25·99	448	4·79

TABLE III.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

(i)	Total number of examinations in the schools by the School Nurses	31,015
(ii)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	3,825
(iii)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom Cleansing Notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944)	1,150
(iv)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom Cleansing Orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	—

TABLE IV.

TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

(including Special Schools).

GROUP I.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table III).

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year
Ringworm—(i) Scalp	2
(ii) Body	14
Scabies	93
Impetigo	416
Other Skin Diseases	1,149
Total	1,674

GROUP II.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

	Number of cases dealt with
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	615
Errors of refraction (including squint)	1,491
Total	2,106

Number of pupils for whom spectacles were—	
(*a*) Prescribed	1,250
(*b*) Obtained	—

GROUP III.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

	Number of cases treated
Received operative treatment	No record
(All operative treatment carried out by Regional Hospital Board)	
Received other forms of treatment	466

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

	Number of cases treated
(*a*) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals	Figure not available.
(*b*) Number treated otherwise; e.g., in clinics or out-patient departments	18 cases referred to Orthopædic Specialist.

GROUP V.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT.

Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics		401
Local Authority's Cases....	217	
Other Local Authorities	184	

GROUP VI.—SPEECH THERAPY.

Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapist	216

GROUP VII.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN.

(*a*) Miscellaneous minor ailments	4,317
(*b*) Other than (*a*) above (specify)—	
1. Ultra Violet Ray	214
2. Infra Red Ray	64
Total	4,595

TABLE V.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE AUTHORITY.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—	
(*a*) At Periodic Inspections	8,408
(*b*) Specials	4,876
Total (1)	13,284
(2) Number found to require treatment	10,494
(3) Number offered treatment	10,494
(4) Number actually treated	9,971
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	14,843
(6) Half-days devoted to—	
Periodic Inspection	40
Treatment	1,900
Total (6)	1,940

(7) Fillings—	
Permanent Teeth	2,797
Temporary Teeth	134
Total (7)	2,931
(8) Number of Teeth filled—	
Permanent Teeth	2,501
Temporary Teeth	134
Total (8)	2,635
(9) Extractions—	
Permanent Teeth	3,007
Temporary Teeth	10,690
Total (9)	13,697
(10) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction	7,835
(11) Other operations—	
Permanent Teeth	324
Temporary Teeth	1,328
Total (11)....	1,652

Appendix to the Annual Report

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE.

The Psychological Service has two distinct departments :—

(1) THE CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC, which deals with children who are showing problems of personality, behaviour or learning.

(2) PSYCHOLOGICAL WORK IN THE SCHOOLS, which deals with testing schemes and the examination and treatment of the dull and backward children.

The Staff.

PÆDIATRICIAN : Dr. Jessie Watson, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

PSYCHIATRIST : Dr. W. Hinds, M.B., B.S., D.P.M., Child Psychiatrist to Darlington Education Committee ; Specialist in Psychiatry to the War Office.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST : Miss I. R. Stirling, M.A.

EDUCATIONAL ADVISER : Mr. W. McKie, M.A.

PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER : Vacant.

CLERICAL STAFF : Miss L. M. Hammond, Miss P. McConnell and Miss M. Davison.

THE CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC.

In a recent number of the " British Medical Journal " it was deplored that, as to Child Guidance activity, the conurbation of Tyneside is represented by a solitary clinic at Sunderland. This being so, it can be readily understood that cases referred tend to increase, although every effort is made only to deal with urgent cases and those fulfilling the Child Guidance criteria, namely, children with average or over-average intelligence, requiring specialist treatment and not likely to benefit from any other form of treatment.

The congestion has been made worse this year because the Northumberland Remand Home has been closed down and all cases north of the Tyne, previously seen by the Hospital Service in Newcastle, now come to South Hetton Remand Home. Court cases, about one in five seen at the clinic, must be seen at once as remand is, for the most part, for 14 days, and in fortnightly courts cannot be altered. If the report is not forthcoming the child is brought to court again for further remand. Such frequent appearances of the child in court before a final decision is made, the team feel, is detrimental to the child, leading to increased anxiety in some cases and in others to a blasé attitude prejudicial to the function of the court.

Lack of staff and the increasing case load have made it necessary to drop the follow-up of cases, research and exploration of many forms of psychological experiment, possible only with a full and experienced team. Whatever happens, the clinic will continue to offer treatment as well as diagnosis because, after all, that is its *raison d'etre*.

The long-awaited Report of the Committee on Maladjusted Children has now been published. There are sections on Child Guidance and its sister service, the School Psychological Service. In it are recommendations that facilities be made available for the treatment of pre-school children and adolescents, and that very close liaison should be built up with schools, courts, children's organisations and the general public. These features have long been accomplished in Sunderland. Two of the recommendations have not so far been implemented here ; one relates to giving residential treatment and the other to staff : the number of staff required for our school population for the clinic and the School Psychological Service is one Psychiatrist, two Educational Psychologists and three Psychiatric Social Workers. The clinic, with a depleted team, has attempted to deal with the most urgent cases but, in spite of much overtime, the waiting list is still many months, which is not good for the child, the parent, school or clinic.

Psychiatric treatment in traditional Child Guidance fashion has been carried on as usual. In regard to encopresis or soiling, Dr. Hinds suggests that an apparent increase in the number of cases submitted to us may be due simply to the discovery by doctors and local authorities that the clinic does cope with such matters with fair success.

Remedial Coaching has again been carried out in selected cases during the year by Mr. McKie. This procedure has been invaluable experience to the clinic team, and much has been learned about the extent to which such specialised coaching can relieve a child's anxiety ; by building up his confidence so help to clear up the personality problems which so often, as cause or effect, accompany retardation in intelligent children. The experiment has been remarkably successful. The educational examination at the clinic is also used in school placement. There has been a move in Preparatory Schools to transfer, at the age of 11, the boys who are

not likely to be successful at 13 in the Common Entrance Examination. These and the seriously disturbed child are some of the placement problems dealt with.

Thursday afternoon is Mothers' Day at the clinic, when the mothers come without their children for treatment, and also without appointment to discuss their problems. Just why enuresis should respond best to this form of treatment is an academic problem, but a fact.

Visitors to the clinic, together with the lectures given by the staff, are a valuable means of propagation of the principles of Mental Health, especially in its preventive aspect. All kinds of visitors come on Tuesday morning to staff meeting—doctors, teachers, nurses and social workers. Many groups of students of various aims have had demonstrations specially arranged for them at the clinic.

The clinic was represented at the Child Guidance meetings in London and Leeds, but not this year at the British Psychological meetings—professional isolation in the North-East makes such meetings of special value to the staff.

There has been one change of staff during the year: Miss Tennison (now Mrs. Currie) left in August to take up a position near her home owing to illness in her family. Miss Stirling, who has long performed duties now assigned to the Educational Psychologist, namely, responsibility for the clinic, liaison with outside bodies and much school visiting, was appointed to this position at the beginning of October.

It is not the custom in this report to thank people, but we would like to acknowledge our debt to Dr. Hebblethwaite, whose support helped so much in the early days to make clear our function in a then sceptical community and who all along has been so ready to help us in all ways.

Numbers.

Carried forward unexamined from 1954....	70
Referred during 1955	329
Re-referred from previous years	22
	421

New cases seen during the year	276
Re-referred cases seen	22
Otherwise dealt with	39
Carried forward to 1956 unexamined	84
	421

Diagnostic Service.

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Medical and Social Advice	26	10	36
Educational Advice	4	5	9
Placement	27	22	49
Transferred to—			
School Medical Clinics	2	2	4
Remedial Centre	10	4	14
Other Clinics	8	3	11
Removed from District	1	–	1
Low Intelligence	4	3	7
	82	49	131

Full Service.

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Carried forward from 1954	64	32	96
Selected for Treatment 1955	100	45	145
Old Cases re-referred	15	7	22
	179	84	263
Closed—Improved	46	26	72
,, Unadjusted	1	1	2
,, Unable to attend	11	12	23
,, Placement	14	8	22
,, Transferred to other Clinics	12	6	18
,, Remedial Coaching Centre	18	6	24
,, Advice	4	1	5
,, Removal	3	–	3
Carried forward to 1956	70	24	94
	179	84	263

REPORT ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WORK IN SCHOOLS.

The Psychological School Service as distinct from the Child Guidance Service is strongly recommended in the Report of the Committee on Maladjusted Children. Its functions are manifold in dealing with the various types of children who do not easily fall into the educational system, in discovering as soon as possible the early signs of maladjustment, the allocation of children, &c.

In Sunderland this service has been unusually well developed for, so far, the Educational Psychologist, being relieved of the charge of the clinic, has been enabled to spend most of the week in schools. The service is directed by a team consisting of Mr. Bridge,

Deputy Director; Mr. McKie, General Assistant; and Miss Tennison, Educational Psychologist. Miss Tennison (now Mrs. Currie) left in August to take up a position near her home owing to illness in her family. During the short time she was in the service she gave valuable assistance in developing the Remedial Centre, from a tentative pilot scheme into a full-time project. Miss Tennison had exceptional experience in this work, and the Centre is now well equipped and under the care of a full-time Remedial Teacher.

Miss TENNISON writes :—

" During the course of the year, children whose intelligence is average or above average but whose educational attainment is severely retarded have received treatment at the Remedial Centre in Carlton House.

Here the majority of children come for one session each week, when they are taught the basic skills by wholly individual methods in groups of five. One experimental group of five is attending for two sessions a week with the purpose of discovering whether or not under this treatment the total number of sessions required for educational rehabilitation is reduced. The results of this experiment can only be judged at the end of the treatment of these children. Treatment is considered successful when the educational attainment is at the same level as mental development.

Since the beginning of the year, with a change in the educational methods used, the number of cases ' improved and closed ' each term has increased."

All children receiving Remedial Coaching under the School Psychological Service are first seen at the clinic, where the emotional problems, if acute, are dealt with in the first place by Psychiatric treatment.

Regular school visiting was mainly confined to the follow-up of the 7+ examination. 3,355 children were given the Moray House Picture Test. All those obtaining low scores are individually examined and recommendations made as to their further education, whether in Special School, special class, or in the ordinary schools. 232 children were examined in school.

The usual follow-up of the allocation examination was only carried out in those schools which could offer places in Opportunity Classes. Machinery has been set up for the transfer of pupils from the grammar schools and West Park who were not benefiting from this type of secondary education. Head teachers were asked to submit lists of pupils recommended for transfer. These children, 29 in number, were individually examined by the Educational Psychologist. The results were very fully discussed with the school, and the resulting recommendations were accepted by the Secondary Schools Sub-Committee. The vacancies so created are filled by " late-developers."

Opportunity Classes.

Mr. McKie reports :—

" The second year of the Authority's scheme of Opportunity Classes for retarded pupils of 11+ commenced on 6th September, 1954, 58 pupils (35 boys and 23 girls) being allocated to these classes Unfortunately, due to acute accommodation problems, it was impossible to organise more than four classes this year, instead of six previously available.

The allocation procedure was, as before, based on the following principles :—

(*a*) Preliminary grouping of all pupils who obtained quotients of 80 or less on the English and Arithmetic tests in the first part of the Authority's examination for allocation to secondary schools (1954).

(*b*) Careful re-test of individual children so as to ascertain both the nature and the amount of the retardation.

(*c*) The exclusion of pupils showing such forms of maladjustment as to warrant specialised treatment at the Child Guidance Centre.

Generally speaking, this in effect meant that entrants to Opportunity Class teaching returned I.Q.'s of the nature of 70 to 89, besides showing retardation in Reading and Arithmetic amounting to more than two years at age 11.

By July, increments in reading and in number had proved so satisfactory that 46 pupils (29 boys and 17 girls) were promoted to normal schooling in secondary modern schools. Two boys had left the district, leaving only 10 pupils (four boys and six girls).

Of these 10 remaining in Opportunity Classes, four had already attained a reading age of 10+ but were still below standard in arithmetic, while three attained an arithmetic age of 10+ but were deficient in reading.

Social and ethical values were again taken into account; 'attitude' and 'personality' were given significance in assessing educational rehabilitation. At all four schools it was found that the highest percentage for punctuality and for attendance was held by the pupils of the four Opportunity Classes."

The importance of the follow-up examinations of the pupils who do badly in the 7+ and 11+ tests is that plans can then be made for these pupils " according to their ability." The individual examination separates the bright retarded child from the inately dull, and the Remedial Centre in the case of the former, and the Opportunity Classes for the latter, enable many of these to take their place successfully in the ordinary school. This year the follow-up of the 11+ was not accomplished, and only part of the 7+. With much diminished Psychological time available, less will be done next year unless there is an increase of staff or re-deployment of personnel.