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COUNTY BOROUGH OF STOCKPORT

REPORT

— on the —

Medical Inspection *of* School Children

*From January 1st to December
31st, 1916*



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Deputy Medical Officer to Education Committee—A. G. Jenner, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

School Medical Officer—Winifred F. Wigglesworth, M.B., D.P.H.

School Nurses—Mrs. Newton and Miss Benson.

Assistant at Inspections—Miss Cooper.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the County
Borough of Stockport.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

In the absence of Dr. Corbin, medical officer to the Education Committee, who is serving with His Majesty's Forces, we beg to submit the Annual Report on Medical Inspection of School Children for the year 1916.

The number of children medically inspected during the year was 2,807. Of this number 1,225 were entrants, 1,286 were leavers, and 296 were special cases inspected on account of some obvious defect noticed by their teachers.

In August the North Reddish Council School was handed over to the Military Authorities for use as a hospital, and the Committee made adequate arrangements for the displaced scholars.

The number of necessitous children requiring free meals has remained a small one, and two centres have been sufficient for this work throughout the year.

The class for Stammering Children which had been suspended in April, 1915, was resumed in September, 1916, and has again achieved excellent results.

Owing to the war no further development of the medical side of the educational system has taken place. We would, however, submit to your attention the urgent need of a school or classes for the mentally defective children who are educable. An open-air school for pre-tubercular and debilitated children is also greatly needed, as a number of children, unfit to attend the ordinary school, are growing up with only intermittent education. At such a school they would gain both in health and education.

The number of attendances at the School Clinic has increased considerably, and this year has been 6,602. These numbers make it desirable that the further development of the School Clinic, now under consideration, should be proceeded with as soon as it is possible. The provision of a School Dental Clinic would be an essential part of a complete scheme.

Owing to re-arrangements in the staff, Dr. R. W. Jameson was appointed Temporary School Medical Officer early in December, and we have to thank him for his assistance in drawing up this report.

In conclusion we have to express our thanks to the Education Committee, the Secretary of Education, the Teachers, and the School Attendance Officers for the valuable co-operation and help they have given us throughout the year, and we desire to record the satisfactory work done by the School Nurses and the Assistant at inspections.

We have the honour to be,

Your obedient servants,

A. G. JENNER,

Deputy Medical Officer to the Education Committee.

W. F. WIGGLESWORTH,

School Medical Officer.

23rd March, 1917.

ACCOMMODATION OF AND ATTENDANCE AT THE SCHOOLS.

The County Borough of Stockport has, since the amalgamation of the Heaton Norris area in November, 1913, an area of 7,059 acres, and an estimated population of 126,040. There is, therefore, approximately one elementary school child to every 6.67 persons living in the district. The corresponding figure for England and Wales at the time of the last census, 1911, was 5.9, and for the County of London 6.08. The following list gives the school accommodation of the Borough and average attendance up to December 31st, 1916:—

NAME OF SCHOOL.	Dept.	Accom- modation.	No. on Roll.		No. of Partial Exemp- tion Scholars.	Aver- age Atten- dance.	Per- cent- age.
			Under 5	Over 5			
Banks Lane Council	M.	362	—	315	23	263	87
„	I.	124	19	131	—	105	70
Cale Green Council	.. M.	464	—	344	—	282	82
„	.. I.	220	10	202	—	157	74
St. George's C. E.	.. S.M.	300	—	313	—	271	87
„	.. J.M.	300	—	293	—	257	88
„	.. I.	272	19	254	—	199	74
Great Moor C. E.	.. M.	220	—	222	—	195	88
„	.. I.	120	—	133	—	80	60
Parish Church of E.	.. M.	600	—	488	—	424	87
„	.. I.	219	14	214	—	176	77
St. Peter's, C. E.	.. M.	337	—	318	—	264	83
„	.. I.	209	21	83	—	76	73
Hollywood Park Cl.	.. M.	500	—	442	—	362	82
„	.. I.	200	7	163	—	129	76
Brentnall St. Wes. H.G.	M.	462	—	510	9	461	90
„	.. I.	144	18	128	—	114	78
Wellington Road Cl.	.. M.	308	—	328	20	281	88
„	.. I.	127	5	121	—	96	77
St. Thomas' C. E.	.. M.	720	—	734	143	586	88
„	.. I.	324	23	205	—	175	76
St. Thomas', Htn. Chapel	M.	328	—	306	2	260	85
„	I.	120	9	73	—	70	85
St. John's C. E., Heaton							
Mersey	M.	253	—	225	—	197	88
„	I.	142	29	74	—	65	63
Heaton Moor Temp. Cl.	I.	150	3	111	—	81	71
North Reddish Council	S.M.	360	—	414	38	364	92
„	J.M.	300	—	313	—	279	89
„	I.	320	—	275	—	234	85
Houldsworth's	M.	419	—	412	49	365	94
„	I.	286	7	210	—	185	85
Reddish R. C.	M. & I.	360	6	196	15	177	91

NAME OF SCHOOL.	Dept.	Accom- modation.	No. on Roll.		No. of Partial Exemp- tion Scholars.	Aver- age Atten- dance.	Per- cent- age.
			Under 5	Over 5			
Stockport R. C.	B.	226	—	299	48	230	84
„	G.	242	—	313	62	230	82
„	I.	230	62	151	—	124	58
Hanover Council	M.	344	—	267	49	204	84
„	I.	107	20	66	—	62	72
Portwood Temp. Cl. ...	M.	348	—	380	34	316	87
„	I.	237	9	187	—	140	71
St. Paul's C. E.	M.	311	—	357	74	284	89
„	I.	143	29	112	—	108	77
Vernon Park Council	M.	600	—	440	—	382	87
„	I.	320	55	143	—	158	80
Higher Brinksway Cl. ...	S.	252	—	286	69	223	89
„	J.	215	—	266	—	218	82
Edgeley R. C.	B.	317	—	341	48	264	83
„	G.	345	—	328	50	251	83
„	I.	238	21	198	—	160	73
Alexandra Park Cl. ..	S.	500	—	364	—	314	86
„	J.	400	11	311	—	282	88
Cheadle Heath Cl. ..	M.	320	—	297	—	238	80
„	I.	160	10	140	—	113	75
St. Matthew's C. E.	M.	425	—	348	—	304	87
„	I.	198	3	210	—	172	80
Edgeley Council	M.	310	—	323	—	288	89
„	I.	150	10	153	—	125	77
Lancashire Hill Cl.	M.	397	—	396	45	305	82
„	I.	157	4	106	—	54	49
All Saints' C. E.	M.	318	—	296	40	226	82
„	I.	210	52	81	—	69	51
Christ Church of E.	S.M.	364	—	417	102	312	85
„	J.M.	220	—	250	—	211	84
„	I.	243	40	159	—	125	63
St. Mary's R. C.	M.	337	—	354	47	280	85
„	I.	195	44	120	—	101	61
Hope Memorial C. E.	I.	223	37	134	—	134	78
South Reddish Cl. ..	M.	227	—	252	47	198	87
„	I.	141	—	161	—	131	81
St. Mary's C. E.	M.	153	—	178	25	136	82
„	I.	136	11	118	—	87	67
Central Half-time Classes	M.	294	—	410	410	197	96

Totals, December, 1916 .. 20123 609 18262 1449 14986 82.5

In July, 1916, a request was received from the War Office for additional school accommodation for hospital purposes, and North Reddish Council School was handed over to the Military Authorities. It then became necessary to arrange for the accommodation and instruction of scholars attending that school in neighbouring schools. Messrs. Houldsworth's School and St. Joseph's R. C. School were utilised for this purpose. This necessitated an alteration in the hours of attendance, and arrangements were made, commencing from 28th August, 1916, for the scholars of the schools affected to attend half-time only, in the mornings one week (from 9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.), and the afternoons the next (senior scholars from 2 to 5 p.m., and Infants from 2 to 4-30 p.m.).

The other primary schools now used as Military hospitals are Alexandra Park Council, Vernon Park Council, Hollywood Park Council, and St. George's C. E. Schools. Scholars who have been displaced attend at St. Matthew's C. E., Edgeley Council, Parish Church of E., St. Peter's C. E., and Cale Green Council Schools, the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School, Hollywood Park, and Newbridge Lane Wesleyan Sunday School. These premises are used upon a "double shift" system of hours of attendance, one school attending from 8-30 to 10-20 a.m., and again from 1 to 2-50 p.m., and the other from 10-45 a.m., to 12-35 p.m., and again from 3-15 to 5 p.m. Changes are made at the beginning of each term in order that schools taking the early morning and afternoon sessions during the previous term may take the late sessions, and vice versa.

The partial exemption scholars from the schools affected by War Office requisitions attended a central class accommodated in the basement of the chapel adjoining the Wellington Road Council School. This class was transferred to the premises of the old Grammar School in June, 1916.

The Town Hall Assembly Room has been handed over to the Military Authorities for the reception of wounded soldiers, together with the Committee's Cookery Centre at Charlesworth Street with its equipment and cooking utensils; the Military Authorities have not as yet required the cookery centre, and it has continued to be used for the preparation of school children's meals. Should it be required by the Military arrangements have been made so that the school meals shall not be disorganised in any way.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

VENTILATION.—The ventilation of schools used as "double shift" schools has been a serious difficulty owing to the short time available for flushing the rooms with air between the sessions. The difficulty is increased in some cases by the structural faults of the buildings.

Hand "sprayers," for the purpose of spraying a disinfectant to improve the atmosphere, have been supplied to all "double shift" schools.

HEATING.—New boilers in connection with the heating apparatus have been fixed at St. Thomas' Infants' School and the Old Grammar School (Partial Exemption Classes).

LIGHTING.—The artificial lighting of Houldsworth School has been greatly improved by the substitution of incandescent lights for flat-flame burners.

FURNITURE.—Most of the desks at St. Thomas' School, Heaton Chapel, and some at St. John's School, Heaton Mersey, and at the Hope Memorial School, should be replaced by dual desks.

FLOORS.—At Brentnall Street Wesleyan H. G. School three classrooms were refloored.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.—The privy middens at St. Mary's C. E. and Great Moor C. E. Schools still constitute nuisances.

EXTENT AND SCOPE OF THE INSPECTION.

During the year 160 visits have been made to the Elementary Schools. The children examined were those admitted to the schools since the last medical inspection, and children between 12 and 13 years of age, together with children over 13 years of age, who had not already been examined after reaching the age of 12. In addition, children at various ages who were brought forward by the teachers because of obvious defects were inspected.

As far as possible the schools were visited a second time, later in the year, in order to re-examine children who were found at the first inspection to suffer from some defect, and also to examine such children as had been absent previously.

Owing to the enforced absence through illness, of both the School Doctor and of the Deputy Medical Officer to the Education Committee, at 11 of the schools no routine inspection was held during the year, but seven of these schools (not visited in 1915) were visited in January, 1916, and all children noticed by the teachers to be suffering from some defect were examined, and also leavers of 13 years of age who had not previously been examined at the age of 12. For convenience these numbers were included in the report for 1915, they are consequently excluded from this report and account for some of the disparity between the figures for 1915 and 1916.

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.
A.—“ CODE ” GROUPS.

Age.	ENTRANTS.						LEAVERS.					Grand total.
	3	4	5	6	Other ages.	Total.	12	13	14	Other ages.	Total.	
Boys	13	59	371	136	63	642	496	80	2	5	583	1,225
Girls	9	45	306	159	64	583	590	99	—	14	703	1,286
Totals	22	104	677	295	127	1,225	1,086	179	2	19	1,286	2,511

B.—GROUPS OTHER THAN “ CODE.”

	Special Cases.	Re-examinations (i.e., No. of Children Re-examined).
Boys	150	384
Girls	146	424
Totals	296	808

The number of children with defects, not including verminous conditions, was found to be 1,556 or 55.4 per cent. of the total 2,807 cases examined. Of the 2,511 routine cases 51.8 per cent. had defects. A number of the children suffered from more than one defect.

The number of parents present at the inspections was 612 or 21.8 per cent., a slight improvement upon last year, when the attendance was 20.1 per cent.

Following up of all cases of defect has been carried out by the School Nurses in the homes, when the need for treatment has been put before the parents, and instruction given as to the means of obtaining it, and also advice given with regard to feeding, clothing, and other matters of general hygiene where attention to these has been required.

A record has been kept of all visits and the treatment obtained.

A systematic examination of the children in the schools with regard to conditions of cleanliness has been made by the School Nurses. This has usually been carried out a few weeks after the routine medical inspection, and if the conditions of cleanliness have been unsatisfactory, repeated visits have been made at intervals of a week or ten days.

The number of visits to the schools made by the School Nurses has been 126, and 3,877 children have been examined with regard to cleanliness.

The number of visits paid to the homes of the parents has been 3,073.

A School Nurse has been 21 times to the Manchester Skin Hospital in charge of children for X-ray treatment.

The tables which follow give the physical condition of children inspected—classified list of children with defects (Table II.); a numerical return of exceptional children in the area (Table III.); and treatment during 1916 of defects of children inspected (Table IV.).

In Table V. the numbers and results of cases treated at the Health Centres are given.

(As amended in accordance with Board of Education Circular 974 of 5/1/17.)

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
Uncleanliness :				
Head	98	—	—	—
Body	28	—	—	—
Skin :				
Ringworm—Head	1	1	1	—
" Body	2	—	1	—
Scabies	2	—	—	—
Impetigo	69	—	11	—
Other disease	29	—	8	—
Eye :				
Defective vision and squint	280	72	92	16
External eye disease ..	53	11	28	—
Ear :				
Defective hearing	48	11	19	5
Ear disease	69	9	12	—
Teeth :				
Dental disease	—	—	—	—
Nose and Throat :				
Enlarged tonsils	—	—	—	—
Adenoids	427	82	60	6
Defective speech	24	4	8	2
Heart and Circulation :				
Heart disease	—	—	—	—
Organic	15	—	2	—
Functional	131	2	16	—
Anæmia	132	39	10	1
Lungs :				
Pulmonary tuberculosis	—	—	—	—
Definite	—	—	—	—
Suspected	3	—	2	—
Chronic bronchitis and bronchial catarrh....	66	—	1	—
Other disease	115	6	7	—
Nervous System :				
Epilepsy	1	2	—	—
Chorea	3	1	3	1
Other disease	2	2	—	—
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	—	—	—	—
Glands	—	9	3	3
Bones and joints.....	5	—	3	—
Other forms	—	—	—	—
Rickets	84	24	4	—
Deformities	41	2	4	1
Other defects or disease....	138	22	35	3
Totals	1,866	299	330	38

TABLE III.

NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind	Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
	Attending Certified Schools for the Blind....	9	1	10
	Not at School	—	—	—
Deaf and dumb, including partially deaf.	Attending Public Elementary Schools.....	2	—	2
	Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf....	7	6	13
	Not at School	—	—	—
Mentally deficient:— Feeble-minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools.....	32	20	52
	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally-defective Children	1	—	1
	Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year	5	2	7
	Not at School	7	2	9
Imbeciles	At School	1	2	3
	Not at School	5	4	9
Idiots	—	—	—
Epileptics	Attending Public Elementary Schools	20	14	34
	Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics ..	1	—	1
	Not at School	4	2	6
Pulmonary tuberculosis (active and quiescent)	Attending Public Elementary Schools	4	4	8
	Not at School	13	11	24
Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	38	50	88
	Not at School	44	46	90
Cripples other than Tubercular.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	22	23	45
	Not at School	9	6	15
Dull or Backward* ..	Retarded 2 years	241	236	477
	Retarded 3 years	92	73	165

* Judged according to age and standard.

TABLE IV.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1916 AT 23 SCHOOLS.

Condition.	No. of defects found for which treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available.	No. of defects treated.	Results of treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Per-centage of defects treated.
	From previous year.	New.	Total.			Remedied.	Im-proved.	Un-chang'd		
Cleanliness	2	124	126	17	103	50	9	4	6	80.4
Nose and Throat ..	9	540	549	102	263	50	200	13	184	47.7
External Eye Disease	2	84	86	11	74	38	33	3	1	86.04
Ear Disease	4	84	88	9	74	26	46	2	5	84.09
Heart & Circulation	—	306	306	64	221	20	195	6	21	72.22
Lungs	—	204	204	15	181	75	97	9	8	83.82
Nervous System ..	—	11	11	2	7	1	5	1	2	63.63
Skin	—	123	123	4	118	105	12	1	1	95.93
Rickets	—	88	88	21	52	—	47	5	15	59.09
Deformities	—	45	45	8	34	1	30	3	3	75.5
Tuberculosis—										
Non-pulmonary	—	13	13	2	9	—	8	1	2	69.23
Vision and Squint	7	372	379	101	178	3	163	12	100	46.96
Hearing	2	67	69	14	51	22	26	3	4	73.91
Miscellaneous	1	133	134	18	105	47	55	3	11	78.35
Totals	27	2,194	2,221	388	1,470	478	926	66	363	66.18
Totals for 1915 at 27 Schools	284	2,567	2,851	287	2,043	745	1,020	278	52	71.6
Totals for 1914 at 24 Schools	154	1,505	1,659	242	990	320	634	36	427	59.7

TABLE V.
CASES TREATED AT THE HEALTH CENTRES.

Condition.	No. of defects treated.	Cured.	Im-proved.	Still under treatment.	Ceased attending.	Referred to doctor or hospital.	Per-centage cured.
External Eye Disease ..	173	152	9	11	—	1	87.86
Ear Disease	58	35	7	3	3	10	60.34
Ringworm of Scalp :							
(i) X-ray Treatment	73	61	—	12	—	—	83.56
(ii) Ointment Treatment	46	19	—	19	1	7	41.30
Ringworm of Body	49	49	—	—	—	—	100.0
Alopecia	19	17	1	1	—	—	89.47
Sores	511	459	—	30	—	22	89.82
Totals	929	792	17	76	4	40	85.25

EXCLUSIONS.

Eight hundred and forty-two children were excluded from school during the year by the School Doctor for varying periods of time. This number includes cases which were excluded at the school inspections and also cases seen at the Town Hall.

Ringworm of Scalp	76
" Body	48
Skin Diseases other than Ringworm.....	405
Verminous Conditions	65
Infectious Diseases.....	32
Eye Disease.....	88
Ear Disease.....	7
Nervous Diseases	6
Phthisis	2
Chest Diseases other than Phthisis.....	16
Heart Disease and Rheumatism.....	16
Anæmia, Debility, and Suspected Tuberculosis	37
Tuberculous Conditions Other than Phthisis	10
Tonsillitis	1
Boils	9
Mental Defect.....	3
Various	21
Total	842

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.

11.27 per cent. of the routine cases are recorded as having unsatisfactory footgear, whilst last year the percentage was 17.5.

6.17 per cent. of the routine cases are recorded as having unsatisfactory clothing.

CLOG FUND.

The Clog Fund, discontinued during 1914-15, was re-opened and an appeal made for contributions in November, 1916; the increased cost of living having severely affected many deserving families. The price of clogs is now from 2s. 9d. to 4s. 8d., prior to 1914 it was from 1s. 5d. to 1s. 10d. The fund is entirely dependent on voluntary subscriptions, the Education Department administer the fund without charge, so that all the donations are converted into clogs. So far the collection each year has varied between £50 and £80.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

The proportion of children among the routine cases showing a verminous condition of the head is 29.0 per cent., as compared with 33.4 per cent. last year and 41.6 per cent. in 1915. This continued reduction is no doubt due in part to the series of visits paid to the schools by the School Nurses which was instituted in 1914, and also to the Teachers, who are unremitting in their efforts to bring about a more cleanly condition. A large number of the girls now wear their hair tied back or plaited, but there are still many who are quite indifferent to the fact that their heads are verminous.

While there is this general reduction, the percentage of very dirty heads has increased, being 4.0 per cent. as compared with 3.1 per cent. last year. The incidence of pediculosis of the body is 1.1 per cent., whilst last year it was 0.9 per cent. It has again been found that the condition occurs repeatedly in a comparatively small number of families. Cleanliness is effected temporarily after the inspection, but the condition recurs after a short interval, so that constant supervision is needed.

No system of compulsory cleansing is yet in operation.

In bad cases the children are treated at the Town Hall, and only re-admitted to the schools when certificates of fitness have been given by the School Doctor.

One hundred and thirteen cases have attended the Town Hall.

NUTRITION.

In 849 children, or 33.8 per cent. of the routine cases, the proportion of weight to height is below normal. There are however only a small number, .07 per cent., who are definitely under-fed. It will be seen in the tables of heights and weights given in the appendix, that at a number of the schools the heights and weights of leavers are below the standard, and this is noticeably so in the poorer districts, and amongst children who are employed out of school hours. For necessitous cases of insufficient feeding free meals have been provided at one or other of the feeding centres.

ENLARGED TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

19.1 per cent. of the total number of cases inspected were found to suffer from enlarged tonsils, and 2.63 per cent. from adenoids. In 10 per cent. the tonsils were only slightly enlarged. Mouth breathing occurred in 8.05 per cent. of the children, but this was in many cases not due to obstruction. The breathing exercises practised at school, in which nasal breathing is taught, are invaluable in remedying this condition. It is not always realised by the parents that operation is only part of the treatment for adenoids and nasal obstruction, and that breathing exercises, properly performed, form a most important after-treatment.

No provision has been made so far by the Local Authority for operative treatment for tonsils and adenoids. Cases are referred to their own doctors and to the Stockport Infirmary.

EAR DISEASE AND DEAFNESS.

This number shows no great variation from that of last year. A large proportion of these cases are very chronic.

TEETH.

The condition of the teeth continues to be very unsatisfactory, and is likely to remain so until dental treatment is obtainable by all the children at a dental clinic. In 47.31 per cent. of the children examined four or more carious teeth were present. At the Voluntary Dental Clinic at Tiviot Dale valuable work has again been done for the children attending one school, viz., Christ Church School. The following figures of the treatment done there during the year have been kindly supplied:—

Extractions—	1916	1915
Temporary teeth	313	366
Permanent teeth	70	73
Total	383	439
Fillings (permanent teeth)	199	238
Number of attendances	437	—

HEART AND CIRCULATION.

There were 166 cases of heart disease or 5.9 per cent. of the routine cases, and the majority of these were due to rheumatism. Anæmia occurred in 6.4 per cent. of the children examined.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Of the routine cases 0.2 per cent. have been found to suffer from phthisis, and 0.17 per cent. from suspected phthisis. All cases of phthisis and suspected phthisis which were not under observation or treatment by their own doctors have been sent to the Tuberculosis Dispensary for diagnosis and treatment. Cases seen at the Inspection Clinics have also been sent to the Dispensary, and a report received from the Tuberculosis Officer.

Below are given the numbers of children of school age who have attended the Dispensary during the year:—

Pulmonary tuberculosis	9
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	17
Suspected tuberculosis (including contacts)	46

Of these, seven cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and nine of non-pulmonary have been excluded from school.

Although the Dispensary forms a very useful adjunct for dealing with this class of case, it in no way obviates the necessity for an open-air school.

The Fearn Trust have accommodation for ten children at country homes, and this has been used for pre-tuberculous children, whose health in consequence has greatly improved.

It is frequently necessary to exclude from school certain children suffering from chest trouble and debility, and this could be obviated if there were an open-air school where they could be accommodated.

NERVOUS DISEASES.

The incidence remains practically the same as last year.

SKIN DISEASES.

The majority of the cases of ringworm are discovered and excluded by the teachers, therefore but few cases are seen at the Medical routine examination.

Amongst the routine cases 0.10 per cent. suffered from ringworm of the scalp, whilst last year the figure was 0.11 per cent. The cases of ringworm of the body were 48 as compared with 32 last year.

The number of cases of ringworm of the scalp excluded from the schools, and treated during the year, totals 76; in 1915 the figure was 39; in 1914, 116.

No case of ringworm is allowed to return to school until after a microscopical examination has been made by the School Medical Officer and a certificate of freedom from infection given.

EYE DISEASES.

The incidence of eye disease amongst the routine cases remains the same as last year, but is rather greater amongst the special cases.

DEFORMITIES AND RICKETS.

One hundred and sixty children, or 5.7 per cent. of the routine cases, were found to have deformities. This number includes minor rickety deformities as well as the more marked ones. Others are the result, with a few exceptions, of tubercular disease and infantile paralysis.

These children attend the Elementary Schools. There is no special school for cripples.

SPEECH DEFECTS.

The number of stammerers seen was almost the same as last year, being 31 or 1.2 per cent. of the routine cases, and 21 amongst the special cases.

The classes for stammering children, which were suspended in April, 1915, owing to the military requisition of the new schools, were resumed in September, 1916, at the Old Grammar School.

The new premises being quite central are convenient for scholars from all parts of the town.

From the teaching point of view, they are excellent, the classroom used for the stammerers being more or less isolated, and in direct communication with the outside door, so that parents are able to come and go without difficulty.

The playground affords opportunity for open-air physical training for the development of correct breathing, and open-air lessons in the warmer months. The large hall of the school is at our disposal for these lessons in the winter months.

Three classes have been taken during the period September to December, 1916, 36 children receiving treatment.

The class is limited to 12 pupils and the course lasts six weeks.

The ages of the children ranged from 12 to 14 years. The most suitable age was considered by their teacher to be 12 or 13. If the child is younger he fails to grasp the principle underlying the exercises, and the results are not so good, while if he is older he may leave school and begin work before the cure is established, and a relapse is likely to occur.

A continuation class has been held on Saturday mornings with a view to the prevention of relapse, and the attendance at this has been very satisfactory, only four or five not taking advantage of it (excluding those who are half-timers or who work as errand or paper boys).

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE AND BACKWARD CHILDREN.

Ten mentally defective children were seen amongst the routine cases, and seven amongst the special cases.

The number of mentally defective children in the area is given in Table III. In the same table are given the numbers of dull and backward children, that is children who are two, three, or more years below the standard normal for their age. A considerable number of these children are by no means dull, but are backward as the result of illnesses which have necessitated absence from school, and it is for such cases that an open-air school is required. In other cases there has been late entrance into school. For instance at one school 72 per cent. of the cases were backward through ill-health, and at another 33 per cent. were recent admissions, and 23 per cent. were cases of anæmia, heart disease, chorea, adenoids, &c.

The difficulty in providing institutional treatment for mentally defective children continues.

The Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, which came into force on the 1st April, 1914, imposes on the Local Education Authority a duty to make arrangements, subject to the approval of the Board of Education:—

- (a) For ascertaining what children within their area are defective children within the meaning of the Act.
- (b) For ascertaining which of such children are incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving benefit or further benefit from instruction in Special Schools or Classes.
- (c) For notifying to the Local Authority under the Act the names and addresses of defective children over the age of 7 who are incapable of receiving benefit in Special Schools or Classes, and also children who on attaining the age of 16 are about to be withdrawn or discharged from a Special School or Class.

Although the Authority have not yet been able to provide Special Day Schools, care has been taken to record the cases suitable for attendance at such Schools with a view to complying with the requirements of the Act.

The children ascertained to be incapable of receiving benefit from instruction in a Special School or Class, have been notified to the Local Authority under the Act ; but extreme difficulty has been experienced in obtaining admission of the children to suitable institutions. It is understood that as part of the Borough of Stockport is in Cheshire and part in Lancashire, an arrangement has been made whereby Stockport will be treated as a Lancashire town for the purpose of the Mental Deficiency Act. The Lancashire Asylums Board have, however, been able to offer very little accommodation for mentally defective children, as the Board has been compelled to defer obtaining further accommodation owing to the pressure of H.M. Treasury to curtail additional expenditure.

Many unsuccessful efforts have been made to obtain admission to institutions of those children for whom the Education Authority are responsible, and the assistance of the Board of Education has been asked. It has not been possible to do more than place the names of children on the "waiting lists" of institutions.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

The figures for defective vision are given in Table II.

The percentage of normal vision remains almost the same as last year amongst the routine cases, viz., 85.9 per cent. As was noted last year the proportion of entrants suffering from squint is larger than that of leavers. This year 2.04 per cent. of the entrants, and 1.9 per cent. of the leavers are squint cases. Last year the figures were 1.96 per cent. and 0.8 per cent. respectively. Cases of defective vision are treated at the Town Hall or referred to the Manchester Eye Hospital.

OTHER DISEASE OR DEFECT.

6.3 per cent. of the routine cases were found to come under this heading. They include cases of thyroid enlargement, rhinitis, enlarged cervical and sub-maxillary glands (non-tuberculous), hernia, kidney disease, infectious diseases, scars of burns, &c.

There were 35 cases of enlargement of the thyroid gland, of which 12 occurred in boys and 23 in girls. The enlargement was slight except in the case of two girls. 25 boys and 12 girls suffering from rhinitis were seen.

PHYSICAL TRAINING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

PHYSICAL EXERCISES.—The Instructress in physical exercises has continued her visits to schools in turn, in accordance with a time table. She has given model lessons, and generally advised and assisted in the physical training of school children. H.M. Inspector, Miss R. D. Clarke, with the concurrence of H.M. Inspector Mr. J. A. Shawyer, in a report to the Board of Education upon the teaching of physical exercises in the Committee's elementary schools, stated that those schools at which the Instructress taught and supervised showed a higher level as regarded the teaching than those which received no special guidance.

SWIMMING.—During the summer months senior scholars from each school have visited the baths in accordance with a time table. The scholars attend once each week, about 50 from each school, and remain at the baths for 45 minutes. The second class bath at the Central Baths, St. Petersgate, and the Reddish Branch Baths have been used.

The annual swimming test was held in September. During the last two years certificates have been awarded as under :—

		Proficiency.	68 yards.	17 yards.
1915	Boys	45	129	291
	Girls	18	41	67
1916	Boys	44	132	230
	Girls	14	42	65

PLAYFIELDS.—The Committee had arranged for the use of 11 playing-fields for elementary school children, where organised games could be taken. In December it was arranged that four of these playing-fields (Mid-Reddish, Great Moor, Hempshaw Lane, and Cheadle Heath sites for new schools) should be cultivated for the purpose of increasing the food supply of the country, and that in the case of rented playfields, the landlords should be advised that if they would place the land under cultivation, the Education Committee would waive their right to the use of the land as playing-fields for school children.

SUMMER TIME ACT.

The Summer Time Act which was introduced this year and was in force from 21st May until 1st October, may be considered to have had advantageous effects from the point of view of the children and their education. The regularity of school attendance was not affected, and although the children stayed out later at night taking advantage of the extra hour's daylight for outdoor pursuits and recreation, and the hours of sleep were to this extent curtailed, their health was not adversely affected.

INFANT WELFARE.

A School for Mothers and Babies' Welfare was opened in Stockport in April, 1914, and two branches have since been opened at Reddish and Heaton Mersey. Mothers and their children under school age are admitted as members. Instruction is given in the care, management, and feeding of infants, and cookery and sewing classes are held. There are two Doctor's Weighing Days a week at Stockport, and one a week at each of the branches. The School receives a grant from the Board of Education.

This is a purely voluntary organisation and in no way comes under the management or control of the Education Department or the Health Department.

A scheme has been formulated by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health by which the Health and Education Departments should co-operate in this work, but the scheme is in abeyance.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases are reported by the teachers and school attendance officers to the Health Department, and visits are made to the homes by the Female Sanitary Inspectors. Handbills and leaflets of instruction are left, and any cases of over-crowding, neglect, sanitary defects, &c., are reported to the Medical Officer of Health.

Each school is provided with a "Teachers Guide to Infectious Diseases."

Measles has been prevalent during the first half of the year. The following is a list of the schools closed during the year and the duration of their closure; the reason of closure in all cases was measles:—

Heaton Moor Temporary Council, 3rd Feb. to 25th Feb.

South Reddish Council (Infants' Department), 8th Feb. to 3rd March.

Lancashire Hill Council (Infants' Department), 18th Feb. to 10th March.

St. Paul's C.E. (Infants' Department), 4th April to 19th April.

Great Moor C.E., 5th June to 23rd June.

PROVISION OF MEALS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The average number of children provided with meals each week during the year has been 57. From July to December, 1915, the average number was 63. There are now two Centres only in use—Queen Street West Mission Rooms, and Charlesworth Street Cookery Centre. Meals are cooked at both places, and the children attend for two meals on five days a week, and on Saturdays for a mid-day meal, but not for breakfast.

Meals are provided during the school holidays, save on public holidays, when the catering staff are on holiday.

The dietary has remained the same as in 1915.

	1916	1915
Cost of food per meal	2.3d.	1.5d.
Cost of administration per meal	1.6d.	1.8d.

Copies of regulations and suggestions on the conduct of Feeding Centres are supplied to the various centres. It is satisfactory to note that the manners of the children have definitely improved.

Complete co-ordination exists between the work of provision of meals and that of the School Medical Service.

The children who are having free meals are weighed fortnightly, and any child whose condition is unsatisfactory is seen by the School Doctor at the Town Hall.

The Medical Staff to the Education Committee pay periodical visits to the Centres where meals are provided.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

The Juvenile Employment Bureau continues to work in close conjunction with the School Medical Officer. At each medical inspection of a school lists of physically and mentally defective children are sent by the Medical Officer to the Bureau, and the details for each child are entered on cards and filed for reference. These cards are attached to the School Leaving Card, immediately this is sent in by the Head Teacher, and are found particularly useful

when the boy or girl appears at the Bureau. If the parents call also, as is generally the case, attention is drawn to the specific defect, and where treatment is necessary they are urged to take the matter in hand before the child enters upon employment. Whenever applicants at the Bureau are thought to be suffering from some ailment requiring medical attention, such as deafness, adenoids, anæmia, chorea, and the like, the opinion of the School Medical Officer is asked and readily given, and in this way valuable assistance has been rendered.

The Care Committee, which is an integral part of the Employment Bureau, meets regularly each month, and considers in detail all the cases submitted to it as the result of the School Medical Officer's report. The parents are visited, repeatedly if necessary, and the necessity of immediate treatment urged. There have been some cases where, on account of the poverty of the parents, it has been found necessary to secure outside help. This has been done by means of the Fearn Trust, and by private benevolence. It should be pointed out, however, that it has been possible to take up only a few of the worst cases, and it is hoped that in the near future there will be a sufficient number of After-care workers to enable us to undertake most if not all the cases requiring attention.

The following statistics, for year ending July 31st, 1916, show to some extent the work done by the Care Committee:—

No. of Children leaving School	1,739
„ Applicants at the Bureau	1,176
„ Children placed in situations	670
„ Cases visited by Members of the Care Committee	407
„ Visits of Parents to the Bureau	1,387

We are indebted to James Bell, Esq., supervisor of the Juvenile Employment Bureau, for the above report.

INSPECTION AND TREATMENT AT THE HEALTH CENTRES.

The Inspection and Treatment Clinics continue to be held at the Town Hall and at North Reddish Council School. The School Doctor attends at the Town Hall, assisted by the School Nurses, two days a week, and at North Reddish Council School one afternoon a month. In addition the School Doctor and a School Nurse are present at the Town Hall at the beginning of each morning to see any children sent for treatment or inspection. A School Nurse also attends at North Reddish Council School one afternoon a week.

At the Inspection Clinic held every Saturday morning the cases seen include:—

- (1) Certain cases seen at the routine inspections and requiring further examination.
- (2) Debilitated children or children with some defect sent by the teachers and nurses, or brought voluntarily by their parents.
- (3) Children sent by the School Attendance Officers to be examined as to their fitness for school.
- (4) Children attending for examination previous to being sent to Special Schools and Industrial Institutions.

The total number of children attending at the Health Centres has been 1,446, and the total number of attendances made has been 6,602.

Three hundred and ninety-two of these children were seen at the Town Hall, but not treated.

The following were the defects noted amongst the untreated cases :—

Ringworm of Scalp	8
Skin Diseases Other than Ringworm	4
Defective Vision and Eye Diseases	115
Tuberculous Conditions Other than Phthisis, including Old Tuberculous Scars	22
Phthisis (active or quiescent)	6
Anæmia, Debility, and Doubtful Tuberculosis	45
Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh	22
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids or Nasal Obstruction	14
Ear Disease	2
Deafness	5
Epilepsy	10
Nervous Diseases Other than Epilepsy	11
Mental Defects and Backwardness	17
Febriculæ and Post-febrile Debility	21
Enlarged Glands	14
Verminous Conditions	3
Deformities	1
Heart Disease	15
Rheumatism	2
Stammer and Speech Defects	2
Disorders of Digestion	6
Injuries and Minor Ailments	9
Miscellaneous	29
Nil	9
Total	392

DISEASES TREATED AT THE HEALTH CENTRES.

RINGWORM OF THE SCALP.

Number out of school at the end of 1915	19
New cases excluded during the year	100
Total	119
Cases sent back to school certified cured	80
Cases left school, left town, and lost sight of	8
Number out of school at the end of 1916	31

The total number of cases out of school for Ringworm of the Scalp during 1914 was 174. During 1915 it was 77. For 1916 the figure is intermediate between these.

The results obtained from X-ray treatment continue to be very satisfactory. During the year 73 children have been treated by X-rays, and of these 61 have been sent back to school certified cured. In addition, nine cases who had been X-rayed and were still out of school at the end of 1914 have been sent back to school on certificates.

As in previous years, many of the parents preferred first to try ointment treatment before becoming willing for X-ray treatment. Thus the 73 cases were under treatment for an average of 49.42 days per case before X-ray treatment was applied, and 51.90 days after X-rays. All the cases received after-treatment by ointments at the Town Hall, and were kept under observation until the new hair was found to be growing satisfactorily.

Of the 46 cases treated during the year by ointments only, 27 are still out of school and nineteen have been sent back to school on certificates.

RINGWORM OF THE BODY.

Forty-nine cases have been treated during the year by ointments, the average length of treatment being 34.06 days.

IMPETIGO, SORE HEADS, AND OTHER MINOR SKIN DISEASES.

Five hundred and eleven cases have been treated, and of these 30 were still attending at the end of the year.

Many of the cases of sores, and more particularly the severer ones, have attended several days a week at the Town Hall to be seen by a School Nurse, in order to ensure more thorough treatment. In this way the time of exclusion from school has been shortened.

EYE DISEASE.

One hundred and seventy-three cases have been treated, with an average number of attendances of 6.63. Fifty-five were cases of blepharitis. The other cases included 63 of conjunctivitis, 24 of corneal ulcer, and 6 of nebulæ. Eleven eye cases were still attending at the end of the year.

EAR CASES.

Fifty-eight cases have been treated with an average number of attendances of 6.82.

Fifty-three of these were cases of otorrhœa. In 30 cases the discharge ceased under treatment, and 13 were still attending for treatment at the end of the year. Ten cases were referred to their own doctor or hospital, 3 cases ceased attending or left school.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

Prescriptions for glasses have been given during the year to 61 children, the number of attendances being on an average 2.5 per child.

The Stockport Blind Institution has again given most generous help in the provision of glasses in needy cases. Forty-four pairs of spectacles have been supplied by them during the year. The question of provision of spectacles at reduced prices for those parents who can pay is receiving the attention of the Education Committee.

VACCINATION.

Six hundred and fifty-three children, or 26.0 per cent. of the routine cases, were found to have no vaccination marks. The figures for the four preceding years were 27.5 per cent., 18.25 per cent., 22.98 per cent., and 15.6 per cent. respectively.

MISCELLANEOUS.

(1) Eight bursar candidates and 195 minor scholarship candidates were medically examined at the Town Hall. No candidate was rejected as unsuitable.

(2) Sixteen children were examined and given medical certificates for admission into industrial institutions.

(3) Two mentally deficient children were examined and notified to the Local Authority as uneducable.

(4) Five visits have been paid to the Municipal Secondary School to examine children with respect to their fitness for physical drill. 67 boys and 100 girls were examined.



(a) HEIGHTS IN INCHES.

<i>School.</i>	<i>Average at 5 years.</i>		<i>Average at 12 years.</i>	
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
St. Paul's	41.1	40.8	54.9	54.25
Great Moor.....	41.6	42.0	55.4	56.3
Hollywood Park Cl.	40.0	41.0	54.9	55.0
Hope Memorial	41.4	41.2	—	—
Higher Brinksway Cl.	40.5	40.5	55.8	55.45
Christ Church.....	41.9	40.5	54.0	54.2
St. Mary's, R.C.....	41.1	38.0	52.9	54.7
Hanover Council	40.5	40.7	53.0	55.0
Lancashire Hill Cl.	41.5	39.9	54.0	54.6
Parish Church	40.84	40.78	55.5	55.1
Portwood Temp. Cl.....	40.6	42.1	54.7	55.3
Cheadle Heath Cl.....	42.8	42.1	55.6	50.1
All Saints'	40.5	43.2	54.4	53.8
Banks Lane Cl.	41.3	44.2	53.16	55.5
St. Peter's	39.84	40.5	52.1	54.3
Vernon Park Cl.....	39.9	38.9	53.5	58.2
Heaton Moor Temp. Cl. ..	41.75	43.6	—	—
Central Partial Exemption	—	—	54.1	54.3
South Reddish Cl.....	40.9	40.8	53.1	53.9
Stockport R.C.	39.92	40.50	52.58	53.1
Alexandra Park Cl.	41.6	42.0	55.1	54.5
St. John's, Heaton Mersey	40.75	41.75	54.8	54.8
St. Thomas', Heaton Chapel	44.37	42.55	57.73	57.22
Standard.....	<i>inches.</i> 41.03	<i>inches.</i> 40.55	<i>inches.</i> 55.77 55.0	<i>inches.</i> 57.77 55.5

(b) WEIGHTS IN POUNDS.

<i>School.</i>	<i>Average at 5 years.</i>		<i>Average at 12 years.</i>	
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
St. Paul's	38.5	37.8	73.9	70.5
Great Moor	37.8	37.1	71.5	71.4
Hollywood Park Cl.	37	38.4	71.9	70
Hope Memorial	39.5	36	—	—
Higher Brinksway Cl.	38.2	37.3	69.7	72.4
Christ Church	39.25	35.9	64.9	69.2
St. Mary's R.C.	37.6	33.1	65.9	68.7
Hanover Cl.	37.4	36	67.4	70
Lancashire Hill Cl.	38.6	36.1	68.2	69.4
Parish Church	38.18	38.33	72.4	71.5
Portwood Temp. Cl.	37.7	40.6	72.6	76.1
Cheadle Heath Cl.	40.6	38.6	71.5	71.3
All Saints'	40	69.5 ^{56.4}	68.5	68.2
Banks Lane Cl.	37.4	41.5	67.04	73.75
St. Peter's	38.31	36.9	66.1	69.3
Vernon Park Cl.	39.3	37.2	69	71.6
Heaton Moor Temp. Cl.	39.9	40.1	—	—
Central Partial Exemption	—	—	68.6	69.8
South Reddish Cl.	32	38	67.5	65.4
Stockport R.C.	37.80	38.96	67.3	67.2
Alexandra Park Cl.	33.6	39.4	73.3	69.6
St. John's, Heaton Mersey	37.2	34.2	73.2	69.2
St. Thomas', Heaton Chapel	39.81	39.65	74.88	75.57
Standard	<i>lbs.</i> 39.9	<i>lbs.</i> 39.2	<i>lbs.</i> 82.0 76.76	<i>lbs.</i> 87.2 76.5

