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County Borough of Stockport.



REPORT

ON THE

Medical Inspection
of School Children.

From JANUARY 1st, to DECEMBER 31st, 1912.



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————:O:————

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN
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Medical Officer to Education Committee—H. E. Corbin, B.Sc., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

School Medical Officer—Annie T. Brunyate, M.D., D.P.H.

School Nurse—Miss Tomlinson.

Assistant at Inspections—Miss Cooper.

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

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit herewith the Annual Report on Medical Inspection of School Children in your Borough for the year 1912.

I have to record a change in the staff—Dr. Gertrude Edis resigned in August, and I should like here to express an appreciation of the good work which she carried out during her term of office. Dr. Annie T. Brunyate succeeded her in September.

The number of school children medically inspected during the year was 4795, of whom 52 per cent. were defective. If verminous conditions of the head, which unfortunately affected nearly one-half of the children examined, be included, the percentage of defects reaches 74.2.

During the year the treatment of ringworm by X-rays has been carried out on an experimental basis, with such good results that the period of exclusion from school of these cases has been considerably reduced. The results of this, and of drug treatment carried out at the Town Hall, by increasing school attendance, are an economical advantage to your Committee, as well as an educational gain to the children.

Another advance has been made in the treatment of defective vision. Serious refractive errors are measured by the School Doctor, and the glasses prescribed are provided free in necessitous cases by the Stockport Blind Institution; and I have again to tender the thanks of the Committee for this generosity.

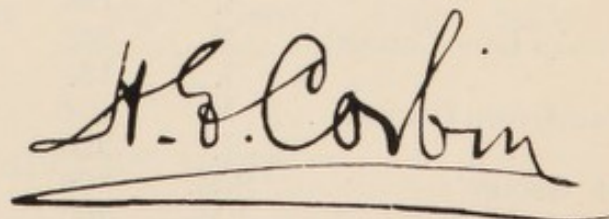
In connection with one school a dental clinic has been established, and maintained by an anonymous donor. The results of this are so satisfactory as to warrant an extension of such work.

By the adoption of these arrangements the work of medical inspection is rendered effective, and the machinery is producing instead of running idle. There is, however, still scope for further increasing these very important adjuncts to the mere inspection of children, and it is very desirable that the accommodation provided for this work should be increased.

I have to express my thanks to the Education Committee for the careful consideration which they have given to my recommendations, to the Secretary of Education, the Teachers, and the School Attendance Officers, for their valuable co-operation which is so desirable in our work.

I am,

Your obedient servant,



Town Hall, Stockport.

22nd May, 1913.

Medical Officer to the Education Committee.

ACCOMMODATION OF AND ATTENDANCE AT THE SCHOOLS.

The County Borough of Stockport has an area of 5485 acres, and had a population of 110,781 estimated to the middle of the year 1912. The number of children attending the elementary schools at the end of 1912 was 17,733. There is, therefore, approximately, one elementary school child to every 6.24 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 and average attendance of the Borough up to December 31st, 1912 :—

Name of School.	Dept.	Accom- modation.	No. on roll.		No. of Partial Exemp- tion Scholars.	Average Atten- dance.
			Under 5.	Over 5.		
Stockport R. C.....	B.	256	—	232	30	202
„	G.	249	—	301	53	243
„	I.	250	73	152	—	172
Vernon Park Council...	M.	600	—	626	105	521
„	I.	320	78	166	—	224
Portwood Temp. Cl....	M.	348	—	374	27	338
„	I.	237	16	160	—	153
St. Paul's.....	M.	311	—	348	50	302
„	I.	143	34	104	—	125
St. Thomas's.....	M.	720	—	775	156	626
„	I.	324	51	160	—	166
Parish Church.....	M.	600	—	514	25	462
„	I.	219	16	194	—	180
Wellington Road Cl....	M.	384	—	351	8	326
„	I.	137	—	100	—	77
Hanover Council.....	M.	344	—	298	52	245
„	I.	107	—	69	—	62
Higher Brinksway Cl.	M.	300	—	339	63	286
„	I.	146	—	166	—	140
Cheadle Heath Council	M.	320	—	245	4	225
„	I.	160	—	107	—	91
Alexandra Park Cl. ...	S.	500	—	308	5	276
„	J.	400	—	329	—	279
Edgeley Council.....	M.	310	—	340	20	299
„	I.	150	—	134	—	108
St. Matthew's.....	M.	425	—	373	38	320
„	I.	198	—	193	—	173
Banks Lane Council...	M.	362	—	320	23	287
„	I.	124	—	141	—	123
Cale Green Council.....	M.	464	—	436	35	376
„	I.	220	—	169	—	145
St. George's.....	S.M.	300	—	324	5	295
„	J.M.	300	—	296	—	268
„	I.	272	41	229	—	209

Name of School.	Dept.	Accom- modation.	No. on roll.		No. of Partial Exemption Scholars.	Average Attendance.
			Under 5.	Over 5.		
Great Moor.....	M.	220	—	242	—	221
„	I.	120	7	104	—	99
St. Peter's.....	M.	337	—	356	48	304
„	I.	209	52	88	—	104
Hollywood Park Cl. ...	M.	500	—	493	30	431
„	I.	200	—	198	—	167
Brentnall St. Wes. H.G.	M.	556	—	456	2	416
„	I.	144	29	106	—	117
Edgeley R. C.....	B.	317	—	303	43	264
„	G.	345	—	375	48	313
„	I.	238	60	160	—	183
Lancashire Hill Council	M.	397	—	395	43	345
„	I.	157	—	123	—	108
All Saints'.....	M.	318	—	342	47	291
„	I.	210	45	81	—	108
Christ Church.....	S.M.	364	—	450	64	383
„	J.M.	220	—	216	—	192
„	I.	243	34	160	—	162
Hope Memorial.....	I.	223	45	131	—	136
St. Mary's R. C.....	M.	310	—	342	52	282
„	I.	195	58	119	—	132
Houldsworth's.....	M.	419	—	444	22	392
„	I.	286	—	275	—	221
North Reddish Council.	S.M.	360	—	362	—	331
„	J.M.	300	—	311	—	286
„	I.	320	—	300	—	249
South Reddish Council	M.	227	—	232	23	206
„	I.	141	—	165	—	137
St. Mary's C. E.....	M.	153	—	139	12	118
„	I.	136	20	74	—	81
Reddish R. C.	M.	104	—	115	8	93
„	I.	42	—	45	—	32
Totals, December, 1912.....			18811	659 17075	1141	15228
			17734			
Totals, December, 1911.....			18079	670 17063	1049	14774
			17733			

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

In this, as in last year's report, the improvements effected in the school buildings during the year are tabulated (see Appendix), but for

full details of the sanitary circumstances reference must be made to the report of 1910.

A new school, Alexandra Park Council, has been erected and brought into use during the year. This school is built on the most modern lines, and is an advance on any of the schools previously erected in Stockport. The school is excellent from the point of view of sanitary circumstances.

The additions to the Stockport R. C. School were begun in the last few days of 1912, and will come more naturally into the school report for 1913.

The rebuilding of the Reddish R. C. School has not yet been begun.

VENTILATION.—The schools in which improvements to ventilation have been made during the year are Portwood Wesleyan, Lancashire Hill Council, St. Matthew's, St. Peter's, and S. Thomas's. At Portwood Wesleyan ventilators have been placed in the lower part of the windows in one room. At Lancashire Hill Council one ventilator has been let into the wall to give cross ventilation into a passage, in a room previously without cross ventilation. At St. Matthew's the ventilation of the boys' cloakroom has been much improved by introducing a ventilator to connect the boys with the girls' cloak room. At St. Peter's a new window has been placed at one end of the large room in the upper department. A part of the Infants' room at St. Peter's has been screened off, and also a part of the hall in the upper department. The part screened off in the Infants' department is without cross ventilation, and more windows should be opened there. Theoretically the same statement applies to the part screened off in the other hall, but practically the air in this room felt fresh and was stated by the headmaster to be always satisfactory. At St. Thomas' more windows in the Infants' department have been made to open.

HEATING.—A new and larger boiler has been put into the Cheadle Heath Council School, with satisfactory results. The heating at Brentnall Street H. G. School has been rendered satisfactory by covering the hot-water pipe along the long corridor with an asbestos non-conducting cover.

LIGHTING.—The electric lights at Houldsworth's School, which were placed too high, have been lowered in two rooms.

Artificial light, in the form of incandescent gas, has been put in at Christ Church, St. Mary's R. C., and St. George's School (Infant Department). Slight alterations have been made in the arrangement of rooms in several schools in order that children may not be placed to face the light. The many frosted windows in Edgeley Council School cause a very considerable diminution in the amount of available light.

FLOORS AND WALLS.—Redecoration of walls has been carried out in a large number of schools and colour wash or water paint has been replaced by Walpamur paint.

CLOAKROOMS.—The overlapping of clothes in the cloakrooms, with the obvious drawbacks springing therefrom, commented on in the last report, still continues. The exit from the boys' cloakroom at St. Thomas's School remains unsatisfactory, though a comparatively small expenditure would suffice to make a new exit.

The Cloakroom accommodation at Great Moor School is totally inadequate.

Age in years.	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	T'tal
Males...	41	180	663	280	166	84	94	53	56	57	716	18	4	2412
Females	29	161	656	315	135	80	68	53	54	73	740	17	2	2383
														4795

The number of parents present at the inspections was 897 for the year, or 18.7 per cent., as compared with 24.26 per cent. for 1911. This diminution of the number of parents present is a matter for regret, since the practical value to the child of the inspection is greatly increased if the parent is present.

The School Nurse has made 2165 visits to the homes of the children during the year. Since October she has been to Manchester one afternoon a week to take children with ringworm to the Skin Hospital for X-rays treatment, and has treated the children each morning at the Town Hall. The School Nurse has also made 86 visits to schools for purposes of inspection.

REARRANGEMENT OF STAFF.

Dr. Edis resigned her post in August on being appointed a School Medical Officer under the London County Council. Dr. Brunyate was appointed to the post in September. Miss Thomas resigned her post of clerical assistant in March, and was succeeded by Miss Eveline Cooper.

REVIEW OF CONDITIONS FOUND AT THE INSPECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) Of the 4795 children examined in the Schools, 3562, or 74.2 per cent., were defective—a verminous condition of the head being counted as a defect. The following were the defects noted :—

Verminous condition of the head.....	2327	or 48.5 per cent.
" " body.....	51	" 1 "
Defective Vision.....	801	" 16.7 "
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids.....	811	" 16.9 "
Eye Disease.....	209	" 4.3 "
Ear Disease.....	117	" 2.44 "
Deafness.....	247	" 5.1 "
Diseases of the Chest.....	197	" 4.1 "
" Heart.....	36	" 0.75 "
Anæmia.....	257	" 5.3 "
Diseases of the Nervous System.....	39	" 0.81 "
Mental Deficiency.....	13	" 0.27 "
Defective Speech.....	81	" 1.6 "
Skin Disease (including Ringworm).....	156	" 3.2 "
Ringworm.....	25	" 0.5 "
Tubercular Disease.....	39	" 0.8 "
Deformities.....	142	" 2.9 "
Rickets.....	105	" 2.1 "
Thyroid Enlargement.....	109	" 2.2 "
(50 slight).		

The number of children with defects other than verminous conditions of the head or body was 2492 or 51.9 per cent.

182 children were excluded from attendance at school on account of :—

Verminous Conditions.....	83
Skin Disease other than Ringworm.....	29

Ringworm.....	25
Infectious Diseases.....	9
Eye Diseases.....	4
Sore Throat.....	5
Disease of Chest.....	11
Fever.....	3
Infectious Disease and Ringworm.....	1
Diarrhoea.....	1
Ear Disease.....	2
Tuberculosis.....	1
Heart Disease.....	2
Post-febrile Debility.....	2
Rheumatism.....	3
Vomiting.....	1
	<hr/>
	182
	<hr/>

(b) There were 1129 attendances of children at the Town Hall during the year.

During this year, as during 1911, children with ringworm came to the Town Hall or to North Reddish Council School for inspection. The other attendances were made up of

- (a) absentees from school, with or without a doctor's certificate, brought up by the School Attendance Officers ;
- (b) those who required to be kept under observation, e.g., " wasters," debilitated and phthisical children, etc.
- (c) children sent for inspection by teachers or parents because of some obvious defect.

The following is an analysis of the defects noted :—

Ringworm.....	748
Children with no defect.....	46
Eye Disease and Defective Vision.....	62
Skin Disease (excluding Ringworm).....	56
Anæmia, Debility, and doubtful Tubercle.....	41
Ear Disease.....	16
Tuberculosis.....	22
Obstruction to Breathing.....	20
Heart Disease.....	14
Deformities.....	18
Chest (Bronchitis, etc.).....	16
Nervous Diseases, etc.....	15
Deafness.....	8
Deaf Mutism.....	2
Epilepsy.....	9
Verminous Condition.....	6
Mental Defects.....	5

Injuries and Minor Ailments.....	7
Backward.....	3
Infectious Diseases.....	2
Rheumatism.....	2
Stammer and other Speech Defects.....	6
Glands, etc.....	4
Hernia.....	1
	<hr/>
	1129
	<hr/>

Ninety-seven of these children were excluded, and four were recommended to attend part-time only. Excluded :—

Ringworm.....	45
Skin Diseases (other than Ringworm).....	13
Ear Disease.....	5
Chest Trouble.....	5
Heart Disease.....	4
Eye Disease.....	4
Disease of Nervous System.....	7
Anæmia, Debility, and doubtful Tuberculosis.....	6
Tuberculosis.....	1
Mentally-defective.....	1
Enlarged Glands.....	1
Deformity.....	1
Mumps.....	1
Rheumatism.....	1
Inflamed Patellar Bursa.....	1
Verminous Condition.....	1
	<hr/>
	97
	<hr/>

178 certificates were given to children to return to school.

VERMINOUS CONDITION.

(a) THE HEAD.—The proportion of children shewing a verminous condition of the head is 48.5 per cent. Although this appears to compare unfavourably with that of 39.6 per cent. in 1911, there is a distinct improvement with regard to the proportion of heads found to be in a very verminous condition, and on the whole some improvement has occurred.

(b) THE BODY.—The number this year is practically the same as that last year. The prevention of the occurrence of a verminous condition of the body is a complicated one in the case of some children since it involves the question of housing and disinfection. But in so far as prevention can be effected by personal dealing, on the part of the school teachers or nurse or doctor, with the child or the parent, probably almost as much as is possible has been accomplished. The children concerned are not very numerous, and belong to a still smaller number of families in which the condition constantly recurs. Compulsory cleansing at a cleansing

station, if one were available, followed in a few incorrigible cases by prosecution, would undoubtedly soon bring about a rapid diminution in the number of cases.

DEFECTIVE VISION AND EYE DISEASE.

Of the 801 children with defective vision 251 had only slightly defective vision ($\frac{5}{9}$ to $\frac{6}{12}$) and 131 had squint. The majority of cases of eye-disease were of blepharitis and conjunctivitis, with a few of keratitis, and rarer affections. In dealing with cases of defective vision the custom in the past has been to recommend the Manchester Eye Hospital for spectacles. It is often difficult, however, for parents to give the time necessary for taking the children to Manchester, and the recommendation as to treatment has therefore been often disregarded. To remedy this state of affairs it was decided that eye testing should be carried out by the School Doctor at the Town Hall. A set of trial lenses was provided, a part of the School Doctor's office was curtained off to form a dark room, and eye-testing was begun on the last two days of the school year. The Stockport Blind Institution, which has provided 45 pairs of glasses to school children during the year, will pay for the prescribed glasses in all necessitous cases. As a result of the new arrangement, it may reasonably be hoped that cases of defective vision will receive treatment much more constantly in the future than in the past, and also that there will soon be in the schools a much smaller number of squint cases unprovided with suitable glasses.

ENLARGED TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

There is little to add to what has been said on this subject in previous reports. The incidence remains almost unaltered.

A few cases of obstruction to breathing were caused by enlarged turbinate bones, or by bad deflection of the nasal septum.

EAR DISEASE AND DEAFNESS.

There has been an increase in the number of cases of ear disease and deafness observed in 1912, as compared with 1911. As before a large number of the cases of deafness are due to the presence of adenoids.

Three very deaf children were recommended as suitable for a special school.

- (1) One in whom the deafness was not absolute was sent to Old Trafford Deaf and Dumb School, after the parent had been prosecuted for refusing to send her to a suitable school.
- (2) One deaf mute was sent to Old Trafford.
- (3) The second deaf mute has not yet been sent to a special school as he is suffering from chorea, and also has had some keratitis, which is now better.

HEART DISEASE AND ANÆMIA.

Most of the cases of heart disease were sequelæ of rheumatism. Very few of the cases of anæmia were of a severe type.

DISEASES OF THE CHEST.

These were chiefly bronchitis. Four cases of phthisis were found in children during the year, and eleven doubtful cases. Three of the cases of phthisis had been seen previously as doubtful cases.

TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

The whole number of tuberculous cases, seen at inspections and at the office, was 55. These included, beside the chest cases, those with tuberculous diseases of bone and glands and cases of abdominal and skin tuberculosis.

Forty-four cases, or 0.9 per cent., had scars and deformities of old tuberculosis.

DEFORMITIES.

These were, as before, mainly due to rickets. The minority were due to tubercle, infantile paralysis, and congenital causes.

The children with deformities attend ordinary schools unless they are altogether incapacitated. In one case a special chair was to have been provided in which a child, incapacitated as a result of infantile paralysis, could have been taken to school. This was, however, disallowed by the Board of Education because of the absence of any special school for deformed and crippled children.

DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

Of the 156 cases seen at the ordinary school inspections, 25 were ringworm cases. In addition to these, 45 cases of ringworm were seen at the Town Hall and excluded. The majority of the other cases of skin disease excluded were impetigo contagiosa and scabies.

RINGWORM.

The number of cases out of school because of ringworm of the scalp at the end of 1912 is 123—the corresponding number given in the 1911 report for the end of 1911 being 106. These figures do not represent a real increase in the incidence of the disease. The exclusions for ringworm of the scalp in 1912 were fewer than for 1911. But 62 cases which were already excluded in 1911 were still out of school at the end of 1912, either because treatment had not been systematically carried out or because the cases had proved unusually resistant to treatment. If therefore these obstinate cases could be dealt with by X-ray treatment, there is every reason to believe that the amount of ringworm present among the children of school age would be quickly diminished. Apart from X-ray treatment some fall in the number of ringworm cases should be caused by regular treatment of the neglected cases by the School Nurse.

The question of X-ray treatment was considered by the Committee during the year, and it was decided to send 25 cases for treatment by X-rays at the Manchester Skin Hospital. The first child was sent on the 7th of October and at the end of the year 21 children had received X-ray applications. The cases selected were for the most part extensive cases of long

standing. A fairly large proportion of the mothers were at work during the day, and it was hopeless to expect them to carry out the systematic ointment treatment needed to render X-rays treatment effectual. It was therefore decided that the children should attend daily at the Town Hall and have ointment applied by the School Nurse. Up to the end of the year the number of attendances of these children at the Town Hall has been 590. The School Nurse has accompanied the children each week to Manchester, and for the first few weeks the School Doctor was also present at the X-ray applications. It is as yet too early to speak definitely of the results. A full report will be presented when all the children have returned to school. There is, however, no doubt even after this short period of trial, that the treatment will be of the utmost value in shortening the length of absence from school.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The infectious diseases excluded from school at the inspections were the following :—

- 2 Scarlet Fever.
- 1 Measles and 2 suspected Measles.
- 2 Whooping Cough.
- 4 Chicken Pox.

During the year, 133 cases of scarlet fever, 45 of diphtheria, 3 of erysipelas, 6 of typhoid fever, 3 of membranous croup, 1010 of measles, and 443 of whooping cough, have occurred among school children. Although measles and chicken pox have not been prevalent in certain schools, it has not been found necessary to close the schools. The 443 cases of whooping cough correspond to 185 cases in 1911, and the 133 of scarlet fever to 116 in 1911.

SPEECH DEFECTS.

Twenty-three cases of stammering were included in the 81 cases of speech defect; some of the cases had been seen before. As yet no special teacher has been appointed to teach the stammering children, although a resolution to provide one was passed by the Committee in 1910.

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

These consisted for the most part of cases of epilepsy, chorea, and old infantile paralysis, the largest group being of cases of old infantile paralysis.

One case of chorea was excluded from school, another was already out of school, but came for the inspection.

A case of complete paralysis of the lower limbs was one which has been referred to in an earlier part of the report as in need of a special chair in which to be taken to school.

One case of epilepsy was excluded from school because of the increasing number of fits. The fits were minor ones, which diminished somewhat in number with medical treatment during the child's absence from school, but recurred to the same extent as before on his return.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE AND BACKWARD.

Fifteen mentally-defective children were seen during the year. One was recommended for a special school, but was refused admittance into the Sandlebridge Homes for Feeble-minded Children on the ground that she was of too low a type. The number of backward children was 148. Of these 88 had some physical defect which would account, in some cases, fully, and in other cases, partially, for the backwardness. No provision is made for the teaching of the backward and dull children, and in the absence of the special skilled attention of which they stand in need, these children learn very little themselves and tend to interfere with the instruction of other children. If a special school for backward and dull children were provided, many of them would leave school far better fitted for life, than under the present conditions, and the ordinary schools would benefit by the removal of children who are definitely mentally below the development normal to their age.

TEETH.

The total number of children whose teeth were examined was 4374.

	Infants'		Mixed	
	Departments.		Departments.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Percentage with sound teeth.....	24.51	22.62	12.23	13.57
„ „ 1-3 carious teeth.....	25.08	29.73	53.29	52.06
„ „ 4 or more carious teeth...	50.40	47.64	34.46	34.35

These figures as compared with those of the two previous years shew an improvement, both as to an increase in the proportion of children with sound teeth, and a diminution in the proportion of those with four or more carious teeth. It is possible that the effect of education at school on the necessity of cleansing the teeth has something to do with this improvement in the Mixed Departments, but the improvement would need to be maintained for several years before this deduction could be made with certainty. A private dental clinic has been started in connection with Christ Church School, through the generosity of a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The dentist attends for an hour a week on Saturday mornings. The clinic is at 25, Tiviot Dale. There is a waiting room and an operating room. The dental room is well supplied with dental appliances, and both rooms are simply and suitably fitted up so as to be hygienic and at the same time attractive in appearance. The extractions are done painlessly under a local anæsthetic. This takes a longer time, and has necessarily lessened the amount of work done. But it has resulted in a willingness on the part of the children to attend the clinic. Work was begun on August 17. Up to the present the children treated have been for the most part in their last year at school. The suggestion for the future, however, is that younger children should be dealt with, on the ground that the time will be more usefully and economically spent in prevention of unsatisfactory conditions of the teeth, than in treating such conditions when they have arisen.

A summary of the work done at the clinic from August 17 to the end of the year has been kindly provided by Mr. Barlow. It is as follows :—

Number of children seen.....	104
„ permanent teeth extracted.....	91
„ temporary teeth extracted.....	41
„ permanent teeth filled.....	59

The Medical Inspection Sub-Committee passed the following resolution with regard to the dental clinic :—“ That facilities be afforded for the conducting of the proposed clinic, that the writer of the letter be thanked for the generosity, and that the School Doctor co-operate as far as possible to make the experiment a success.”

This dental clinic, provided by an individual donor, touches one school only. But a neglected state of the teeth is almost universal among the children attending the schools. The immediate injury to the child caused by the presence of many decayed teeth is enormous, and the consequences in the future as regards both health and usefulness are becoming more clearly recognised with each year. No free dental hospital exists in the town. It is a matter of the utmost importance for the welfare of the children that the present small clinic should be the precursor of, or should itself develop into, a larger clinic at which all the children can attend.

ENLARGED GLANDS.

Enlarged cervical and sub-maxillary glands are still practically universal and will no doubt continue to be so while the present prevalence of a verminous condition of the head and of defective teeth continues.

NUTRITION.

The children were again grouped into four classes with regard to nutrition. 4373 were examined, with the following result :—

	Per cent.
Excellent.....	8.6
Normal.....	64.2
Sub-normal.....	25.7
Bad.....	1.3

The proportion of children with nutrition below normal is therefore 27 per cent.

The statement made after careful enquiry, in last year's report, that not more than 1 per cent. of the children suffer from definite insufficiency in the amount of food provided, probably still holds good. The defective state of the children's teeth, commented on above, undoubtedly contributes largely to the frequency of mal-nutrition. Unsuitable and badly-cooked meals are another great cause of the condition. Cookery classes in the schools will be of great value to the coming generation of mothers. Schools for mothers may accomplish much in individual cases for the mothers of to-day, but for the present we are forced to admit the existence of a general ignorance as to food values and the best methods of cooking food. Moreover, where mothers have to go out to work it is almost impossible for them to supply their children with well-cooked and suitable

meals. Under these conditions whatever might be the indirect results, the immediate result of an adoption of the Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906, and the provision of meals to underfed or badly-fed children would be a great improvement in their nutrition, and general wellbeing.

HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.

A table is given (see appendix) of the average heights and weights found at the inspections at a number of different schools. Generally speaking, the comments made in the last year's report are still applicable.

FOOTGEAR AND CLOTHING.

Both clothing and footgear were less defective than in preceding years. The record for three years is :—

	Bad Clothing. Per cent.		Bad Footgear. Per cent.
1910.....	10	..	8.5
1911.....	4.9	..	5.4
1912.....	3	..	4

The number of pairs of clogs given out during 1912 was 845, 321 pairs more than in the preceding year. This increase may to some extent account for the diminution in the number of cases with bad footgear. As many as 129 pairs were given in Stockport R. C. School, 73 in Vernon Park Council School, 67 in St. Thomas's School, and 55 in Edgeley R. C. School.

PHYSICAL EXERCISES.

Miss Kerr has given most of her time during 1912 to systematic teaching in the North Reddish Council and Cale Green Council Schools. It is unfortunate that the number of teachers wishful to join the training class in physical exercises was not large enough to make it worth while to hold the class this winter. The amount of time which Miss Kerr is free to give herself to the schools is not great, and it is therefore important that as many teachers as possible should be trained in the subject, and be able to teach the children efficiently and with knowledge. Miss Kerr suggests that a class should be formed next winter and an examination be held at the end of the course, in order to stimulate interest in the work.

OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

The open-air school spoken of in the last two reports has not yet been provided. It is, we believe, our most urgent need. There are amongst the children attending the schools a large number who are anæmic, debilitated, and likely to develop tuberculosis in some one of its many forms, as well as of those who are definitely tuberculous. No way is open to us of benefiting such children except by means of an open-air school. Without it we must either exclude the children from school in order that they may

obtain fresh air and rest, and in so doing lose all power of seeing that they live lives which are even moderately hygienic, or we must keep them in school and thus compel those whose great necessity is fresh air to spend the larger number of the sunny hours of the day indoors. An open-air school would prove a life-saving agency to some of these children, and to others would give that health and strength which means the power of self-support in the future.

TREATMENT.

As in former years an enquiry has been made as to the amount of treatment obtained. The figures for the more common defects are given for four years :—

Year	Defective Vision.	Eye Disease.	Ear Disease.	Deafness.	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids.	Verminous Condition of Head (Percentage Clean).
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1909	25.4	31.3	45.4	37.2	22.9	15.4
1910	38.9	60	63	49.6	31.8	15.5
1911	30.76	58.7	59	50.9	26.9	15.5
1912	41.6	18	51.59	18	28	26.5

These figures on the whole shew definite improvement. The most marked decrease in the number of those obtaining treatment is in the cases of external eye disease and of deafness. The decrease in the number with deafness who have received treatment may be more apparent than real, as a large number of the cases will have either received treatment by removal of enlarged tonsils and adenoids and by treatment of an accompanying ear disease. The number of cases of tonsils and adenoids treated has improved, but has not yet risen to the level it reached in 1910. The number of cases of defective vision treated shows a large increase. Among the cases of defective vision are included 176 cases of squint, 96 of which (or 54.5 per cent.) have received treatment. It is hoped that the treatment of defective vision at the Town Hall by the School Doctor will ensure that no case of squint will in the future remain untreated. The incidence of verminous conditions is numerically greater this year than last year (48.5 per cent. as compared with 39.6 per cent.). On the other hand a larger percentage of the cases have been found to be clean at the later examination (26.5 per cent. as compared with 15.5 per cent.) A further number, 511, or 14.3 per cent. were found to be noticeably improved. As was stated earlier in the report, the provision of a cleansing station would greatly help in the prevention of the condition.

Last year's report calls attention to the need of active treatment for many of the defects on the part of the Authority. This has now been begun for cases of defective vision and ringworm, though the treatment of ringworm is as yet on an experimental basis.

The accommodation at the Town Hall is altogether inadequate. All treatment has to be carried out in the School Doctor's Office—a small room with no water laid on ; there is no waiting room. If more accommodation were provided either inside or outside the Town Hall, many more neglected cases of suffering from minor diseases such as ringworm, discharging ears, and impetigo, could be dealt with by the School Nurse. We have no method at present of compelling children suffering from ailments such as these to receive systematic treatment, and the result is that in a proportion of the cases they receive no adequate treatment at all, and are kept out of school for indefinitely long periods. If such children were seen regularly by the Nurse, the period of absence from school would be much shortened, and a real saving of money to the Authority would be effected.

VACCINATION.

749 (or 17.3 per cent.) children were found to have no vaccination marks.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- (1) Four visits were paid to the Municipal Secondary School. 106 scholars were examined with regard to their fitness or otherwise for physical drill. Four children were restricted to a modified form of drill, and 18 were debarred from strenuous games, such as football and hockey. Notice of any defect was sent to the parent of each child.
- (2) 125 candidates—15 bursars and major scholarships, and 110 minor scholarships—were examined in the office at the Town Hall. Over half were reported to have some defect, including verminous conditions of the head, and one, suffering from tuberculous hip, was rejected as unsuitable.
- (3) One visit was paid to the High School for Girls. Seven girls were examined as to their fitness or otherwise for physical drill. One was found to be fit only for a modified drill and one was unfit.

Seven children were examined and given medical certificates for admission into industrial institutions.

(a) HEIGHTS IN INCHES.

<i>School.</i>	<i>Average at 5 Years.</i>		<i>Average at 13 Years.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Banks Lane Cl.....	(14) 40.34	(11) 40.34	(23) 56.38	(18) 57.66
St. Peter's.....	(23) 39.81	(26) 39.16	(29) 54.32	(21) 56.13
Stockport R. C.....	(26) 39.11	(25) 39.63	(29) 54.46	(43) 55.49
Parish Church.....	(31) 41.72	(37) 41.5	(29) 54.81	(23) 56.52
Vernon Park Cl.....	(37) 39.54	(39) 38.98	(35) 54.3	(33) 55.29
Portwood Temp. Cl....	(31) 41.27	(23) 40.53	(19) 57.18	(18) 56.4
St. Paul's.....	(14) 42.01	(28) 40.51	(19) 55.75	(25) 56.38
Great Moor.....	(10) 40.77	(13) 40.67	(15) 56.76	(14) 58
Hollywood Park Cl....	(28) 40.3	(34) 40.62	(26) 55.49	(32) 57
Hope Memorial.....	(12) 39.73	(16) 39.71	—	—
Higher Brinksway Cl....	(15) 41.63	(17) 40.8	(21) 56.92	(33) 56.81
Cheadle Heath Cl.....	(13) 42.09	(13) 41.98	(13) 57.71	(16) 58
Christ Church.....	(29) 40.92	(24) 40.12	(32) 56.15	(48) 56.29
St. Mary's R. C.....	(14) 40.93	(10) 38	(22) 55	(28) 55.57
Hanover Cl.....	(11) 40.68	(13) 41.13	(24) 53.27	(23) 55.19
Lancashire Hill Cl....	(18) 41.02	(12) 40.35	(32) 55.05	(20) 57.45
All Saints'.....	(5) 40.96	(6) 41.37	(22) 54.66	(18) 56.52
South Reddish Cl.....	(14) 40.84	(21) 40.21	(9) 56.53	(18) 54.58
St. Mary's C. E.....	(7) 40.61	(3) 37.83	(22) 54.99	(12) 56.25
Reddish R. C.....	(6) 41.04	(4) 42.5	(6) 55.41	(10) 55.47
Houldsworth's.....	(24) 40.55	(33) 40.37	(30) 55.31	(21) 56.01
Standard.....	<i>inches.</i> 41.03	<i>inches.</i> 40.55	<i>inches.</i> 55.77	<i>inches.</i> 57.77

(b) WEIGHTS IN POUNDS.

<i>School.</i>	<i>Average at 5 Years.</i>		<i>Average at 13 Years.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Banks Lane Cl.....	(14) 37.32	(11) 37.79	(23) 78.14	(18) 84.93
St. Peter's.....	(23) 38.01	(26) 35.72	(29) 74.08	(21) 76.76
Stockport R. C.....	(26) 37.05	(25) 36.69	(29) 75.19	(43) 76.54
Parish Church.....	(31) 40.07	(37) 38.19	(29) 71.86	(23) 79.51
Vernon Park Cl.....	(37) 37.38	(39) 35.67	(35) 73.04	(33) 76.46
Portwood Temp. Cl.....	(31) 39.18	(23) 37.6	(19) 81.29	(18) 76.68
St. Paul's.....	(14) 40.23	(28) 37.71	(19) 76.29	(25) 76.17
Great Moor.....	(10) 38.4	(13) 36.29	(15) 75.08	(14) 81.12
Hollywood Park Cl.....	(28) 38.35	(34) 38.47	(26) 73.07	(32) 80.7
Hope Memorial.....	(12) 35.91	(16) 36.17	—	—
Higher Brinksway Cl....	(15) 38.63	(17) 36.95	(21) 78.5	(33) 77.75
Cheadle Heath Cl.....	(13) 39.65	(13) 38.02	(13) 79.63	(16) 81.17
Christ Church.....	(29) 38.08	(24) 36.63	(32) 74.47	(48) 77.21
St. Mary's R. C.....	(12) 36.94	(10) 35.53	(22) 74.67	(28) 76.6
Hanover Cl.....	(11) 38.97	(13) 37.65	(24) 70.75	(23) 72.77
Lancashire Hill Cl.....	(18) 38.86	(12) 36.85	(32) 73.83	(20) 81.5
All Saints'.....	(5) 37	(6) 37.41	(22) 72.72	(18) 80.3
South Reddish Cl.....	(14) 38.55	(21) 36.4	(9) 75.36	(18) 72.37
St. Mary's C. E.....	(77) 37.21	(3) 32.83	(22) 73.13	(12) 74.04
Reddish R. C.....	(6) 38.04	(4) 40.75	(6) 75.29	(10) 75.77
Houldsworth's.....	(24) 37.4	(33) 36.55	(30) 74.45	(21) 75.84
Standard.....	39.9 <i>lbs.</i>	39.2 <i>lbs.</i>	82.6 <i>lbs.</i>	87.2 <i>lbs.</i>

COUNTY BOROUGH OF STOCKPORT.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF SCHOOLS.

ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS DURING 1912.

SCHOOL.	VENTILATION.	HEATING.	LIGHTING.	FLOORS AND STAIRCASES.	WALLS.	CLOAKROOM.	FURNITURE.	YARD SURFACES.	SANITARY. ACCOMMODATION.	WARDING ACCOMMODATION.
EDGELEY R.C.					Redecorated walspamur paint, except rooms decorated last year.		25 dual desks provided.		All offices whitewashed.	
ST. MATTHEW'S						Ventilation of boys' cloakroom improved by placing of a ventilator between the boys' and girls' cloakrooms.	12 new improved desks supplied.		All offices whitewashed.	
BRENTNALL ST. H.G.		Improved by covering with an asbestos non-conducting cover a long stretch of pipe along the corridor.			Largely redecorated. Colour wash replaced by walspamur paint.				Washed down clean.	
ST. THOMAS'S	More windows have been made to open in Infants' Department.				Large room on first floor small. Entrance room and main staircase to first floor redecorated. Walspamur paint.		60 dual desks provided.		All offices whitewashed.	No improvement.
EDGELEY COUNCIL ...							30 dual desks provided.		All offices whitewashed.	
ST. PETER'S	New window opened at one end of large room in upper department.				2 new screens. One in Infants' Department, one in Upper Department, to make more class room.				All offices whitewashed.	
STOCKPORT R.C.	The general alterations were begun in the Christmas holidays of 1912 and will be carried out in 1913.									
PARISH CHURCH								Scheme for repairing yard in hand.	All offices whitewashed.	
PORTWOOD WES.	Ventilators put in lower parts of windows in one room. Gallery taken from large school room.				Redecorated. Walspamur paint.			Repaved.	All offices whitewashed. Kept clean.	
HOPE MEMORIAL					Paintwork washed down.			Pavement slightly improved.	Privy middens replaced by short hopper water closets with separate syphon flush tanks. Satisfactory.	
GREAT MOOR	Roof ventilators.	No improvement.					6 dual desks provided.	No improvement.	No improvement.	
HIGHER BRINKSWAY.									Privy middens replaced by good short hopper water closets with separate flush tanks.	
CHEADLE HEATH CL.		New boiler put in. Heating now adequate.							All offices whitewashed.	
CHRIST CHURCH			Artificial. Incandescent gas put in.						All offices whitewashed.	
ST. MARY'S R.C.			Artificial. Incandescent gas put in.				4 dual desks provided.		All offices whitewashed.	
LANCASHIRE HILL CL.	New ventilator in one room.				Infants' School redecorated. Walspamur paint. Woodwork washed down.				All offices whitewashed.	
HOULDSWORTH'S			Electric light in two rooms lowered.		Redecorated. Walspamur paint.				All offices whitewashed. Privy middens.	
ST. MARY'S C.E.					Redecorated. Walspamur paint.				All offices whitewashed. Privy middens.	
ALL SAINTS'					Redecorated. Walspamur paint.				All offices whitewashed.	
HANOVER COUNCIL ...					Redecorated. Walspamur paint, except rooms done last year.				All offices whitewashed.	
VERNON PARK CL.					Redecorated. Walspamur paint. Outside walls painted.				Washed down.	
BANKS LANE CL.					Redecorated. Walspamur paint, except rooms done last year.				All offices whitewashed.	
CALE GREEN COUNCIL					Infants' : Redecorated. Walspamur paint. Mixed : Redecorated. Walspamur paint where walls had been previously coated with water paint.				All offices whitewashed.	
ST. GEORGE'S			Infants' Department.—Artificial light : Incandescent gas put in.		Redecorated. Walspamur paint.				Washed down.	

