

[Report 1924] / School Medical Officer of Health, Taunton Borough.

Contributors

Taunton (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1924

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Borough of Taunton.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

TO THE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

For the Year 1924.

TAUNTON :

GOODMAN AND SON, THE PHOENIX PRESS, NORTH STREET.

1925.



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Staff of School Medical Department.

Medical Officer :

JOHN ALLEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Ophthalmologist :

G. P. HAWKER, M.D.

Dental Surgeon (part time) :

A. J. PERCY, L.D.S., R.C.S. Eng.

School Nurses and Attendance Officers :

Miss J. BELLCHAMBERS.

Miss S. B. COLLINS.

Dental Nurse (part time) :

Miss A. E. CUMSTOCK.

Clerk :

ARTHUR W. GOOD, C.R.S.I.

Employment of Children Officer :

P.C. ROBERT WOOLCOTT.

School Medical Officer's Report.

SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
CORPORATION STREET,
TAUNTON,

3rd January, 1925.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE,
TAUNTON.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Sixth Annual Report on the Work of this Department for the year ending 31st December, 1924.

The Tables showing the defects found have been remodelled at the request of the Board of Education, and are given in the new form.

The provision of the new Clinic would appear to be justified, for the attendances of children there numbered almost 8,000, a very considerable increase on the attendances in any previous year.

I take this opportunity to express my indebtedness to the Teachers of all the Schools, the Clerical Staff of this Department, and the School Nurses for the help they have given.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ALLEN.

Report of the School Dental Officer

For the Year 1924.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to report favourably on the dental work during the last twelve months.

The condition of the children's mouths throughout the schools is very satisfactory. There are still many, however, who only attend the Clinic when in pain, and in consequence of this the work for such is more arduous and less satisfactory than would otherwise be the case.

In spite of the recent epidemic of Measles, the attendance at the Clinic was 2,478, which is only 14 less than last year's total.

The number of Permanent Fillings was	1,027
The number of Temporary Fillings was	130
The number of Extractions was	1,338
The number of Children Inspected was	2,075

and it was found that 634 of these required no treatment whatsoever.

The third complete round of the Schools has now been made, and this occupied 14 months as compared with the 17 months for the second complete round, and just over 27 months for the first round. I would estimate that every round of the Schools in future will occupy just over 12 months to complete.

The number of children treated free of charge was 474, and the cash receipts amounted to £17 13s. 0d.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR J. PERCY, L.D.S. Eng.,
School Dental Officer.

31st December, 1924.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer for the Year 1924.

ADMINISTRATION.

Staff.

This is given in detail on page 3, and is the same as in 1923. It consists of the School Medical Officer, who is also the Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare. A part-time Ophthalmologist. A part-time Dental Surgeon. Two School Nurses, who are also School Attendance Officers. A part-time Nurse for the Dental Clinic. A Clerk, who divides his whole time between the Public Health, School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Departments, and a part-time Officer for the supervision for the employment of children.

Co-ordination with other Services.

The School Medical, the Public Health and the Maternity and Child Welfare Departments are all administered through me, and in the same offices. The information gathered by the Health Visitor and through the Infant Welfare Centre is passed on to the School Medical Department when the child attains school age. The School Canteen was also managed by this Department.

The services of the Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. V. C. Martyn, have been most valuable: he has seen many children suspected by me to have Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and has arranged for suitable treatment for these.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has also been of great assistance through their Inspector, Mr. G. McKee, in three cases of gross neglect.

The Taunton and District Tuberculosis Care Committee have been of great assistance by supplying extra nourishment and clothing to necessitous tubercular children.

The Teachers help in many ways, including the sending of notices to parents regarding medical inspection, by being present at the inspection when a parent is unable to attend, by completing monthly returns of all children admitted or left the school, and by making those children who have spectacles wear them.

School Sanitation.

A survey of all the Schools was made in June, and a complete Report presented.

The inadequate heating of North Town Infants' School has been remedied by the provision of a separate water heater. At Priory School the water closet accommodation is barely sufficient for the girls, there being five seats for 130 girls—one more should be supplied. In the Junior Department of this School there are still some of the ancient and obsolete type of long desk with a continuous seat. At St. George's Catholic School the external iron stairway projects into the playground in a dangerous position, and should be properly fenced. The means of ventilation at St. James' Infants' School are not adequate, particularly in classrooms 2 and 3, and there are also some of the obsolete type of desk in use here. I reported in 1923 on the exceedingly inadequate water closet provision for the girls and infants at Holy Trinity Schools. There are six seats over a long trough for 147 girls and 122 infants, in consequence these are often in a filthy and disgusting condition. The boys have only 4 feet of urinal space where 12 feet is necessary. These should be demolished and new ones erected.

Infectious Diseases.

A Measles epidemic arose in July: it appeared first in St. George's School. This school is very near the Barracks, particularly the sick quarters, where some cases occurring in young soldiers were isolated. The epidemic then increased after the summer holidays and is still raging. I reported that no advantage was likely to result from school closure, and no schools have been closed for this purpose by me.

The School Nurses, in their capacity of School Attendance Officers, have reported to me the following cases of Infectious Disease which were without medical attention:—

Measles	315
Chicken-pox	71
Scarlet Fever	2
Whooping Cough	4
Mumps	2
German Measles	1

By this co-operation I receive immediate information of infectious disease, and the weekly returns of children absent from these causes which the Teachers were required to send to me are not now required.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

All children attending Public Elementary Schools are medically examined at least three times during their school career—

- 1st, as Entrants, on first coming to school ;
- 2nd, as Intermediates, between 8 and 9 years of age ;
- 3rd, as Leavers, on attaining the age of 12 years.

Any child may also be examined at any other time at the request of either the parent, teacher or nurse, if brought to the School Clinic by the parent.

The alteration in the system whereby the children in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd groups were selected was fully described on page 10 of my Report for 1923.

The number of visits paid by me to Schools for the Routine Inspection was 52.

Co-operation of Parents.

Every encouragement is given one or both parents to attend the medical inspection. A notice completed by the Teacher gives the date and time at which it will take place. The number of parents who were present was 625, or 62·3 per cent. of the children examined. This is a drop of 1·4 per cent. on the attendance for 1923, but well in advance of the 55·8 per cent. for 1922.

REVIEW OF THE FACTS DISCLOSED BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Uncleanliness.

The proportion of children suffering from this shows a still further reduction, being 1·2 per cent., as compared with 1·7 per cent. in 1923 and 3 per cent. in 1922. The continued activity of the School Nurses is very largely responsible for this reduction.

Diseases of the Eye and Visual Defects.

Of the 1,001 children examined, 91 or 9 per cent. were found to have some degree of poor sight, and of these 48 or 4·7 per cent. were found to require treatment.

Dr. G. P. Hawker, of Exeter, paid six visits of two sessions each to the Clinic for the object of examining children with eye defects. He examined 115 cases, and of these 83 required treatment, including the prescription of spectacles for 77 cases and other treatment for 6. Of the 77 for whom spectacles were prescribed, 75 had obtained these.

Of the 75 who obtained glasses, 17 were supplied free of cost and 9 at part cost by the Local Education Authority.

Under a scheme for the treatment of squint, three children went to the West of England Eye Infirmary, at Exeter, for operation. In one of these the whole expenses were defrayed by the Local Education Authority, and in the other two part of the expenses were repaid by the parents in instalments.

Diseases and Defects of the Nose and Throat.

The number of children found to require treatment was 34, or 3·3 per cent. ; of these 23 were known to have had treatment, and 14 of these by operation.

Diseases and Defects of the Heart and Circulation.

The number of children found to have some definite impairment of the heart was 18, or 1·7 per cent. ; the majority of these were due to Rheumatic Fever, and in many cases the parents did not know the child had had this until careful questioning elicited a history of "growing pains."

Tuberculosis.

There were 18 children away from school on account of this disease, and 6 of these were in Sanatoria. I regret that in several cases the parents have actually refused to let their child go away to Sanatoria for fear that the child would fret if parted from them.

The routine inspection showed that 24 of the children examined, or 2·3 per cent., had definite pulmonary tuberculosis (or Consumption), and that another 3 were suffering from this disease in the glands or bones.

Goitre.

At the request of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education, a special note has been taken of the incidence of Goitre, particularly among children in the 12 year of age period. The total number examined at this age was 294, and of these 8, or 2·6 per cent., had goitres, which were evident on casual inspection.

During the past year 24 children with this defect have attended the Clinic daily and had treatment. Among the remedies tried have been Iodine, in the form of the tincture, in doses of 2 to 5 minims; also in collosol form and in the ointment as Iodex. Thyroid gland has also been tried, especially in the case of adolescent girls. Some measure of success has been obtained, particularly with tincture of iodine, in doses of 2 minims daily. It is very difficult to actually measure any alteration in the size of the gland. From measurements of 22 of these cases, it appears that 3 show a very slight increase, 8 show no alteration, and 11 show some decrease varying from 0·5 c.m. to 2·0 c.m. These children attended regularly, and in all the cases have assured me that in their opinion their necks were smaller.

FOLLOWING UP.

The system under which this is carried out was given in considerable detail on page 13 of my Report for 1923. There have been no changes in this. Unfortunately the epidemic of Measles has taken up so much of the time of the Nurses and myself that it was not possible to re-visit all the Schools for this purpose.

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

A full analysis of the means available was given on page 14 of my Report for 1923. There have been no alterations.

The School Clinic.

This is open daily during school days, from 9 to 10.30 a.m. The attendance of children during the year numbered 7,996, the largest number of attendances recorded since I came here.

Tonsils and Adenoids.

The arrangement for the operative treatment of children continues, and under it one child received treatment during the year.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

The conditions governing these are briefly: No child under 12 may be employed at all. Children between 12 and 14 years of age may be employed in certain occupations and between certain hours if they are found fit after medical examination by me and proper application has been made by the proposed employer. The applications for registration and the number found fit after medical examination are:—

	Application.	Found Fit.
Milk Rounds	0	0
Errands	44	40
Street Trading ..	1	1

As a result of the re-examination of the children employed, I found that in the case of 5 children that their employment was prejudicial to their health, and the registration cards have in consequence been cancelled.

Two employers were prosecuted during the year:—

1. H. F., a milk retailer, was fined 10/- for employing a boy out of the permitted hours in spite of a previous warning.
2. J. P. F., a milk retailer, was fined 10/- for employing a boy out of permitted hours in spite of a previous warning.

Both of these were taken as the result of evidence supplied by P.C. Robert Woolcott, who acts as Employment of Children Officer and whose work is most valuable.

PROVISION OF MEALS.

The Canteen, held at North Town School, was opened on 1st January and continued till 5th July, when it was closed owing to the small attendance, there being only 25 children on the register. It was controlled and administered by this department, the staff consisting of a whole-time female Cook, and a male teacher who attended to check the attendances and maintain order.

Several ladies, namely, the Misses Potter, Miss Dodd, Miss Godfrey, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Jillings, Mrs. Larway, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Adams, and Mrs. Pearce attended regularly as voluntary helpers to serve the meals, and I must express my thanks to them for their services.

The Canteen was open on 159 days between 1st January and 5th July, the attendances made numbered 6,310, while 7,164 meals were actually cooked.

The meals provided were one-course dinners prepared according to the model meals issued by the Board of Education. Uncooked fruit, such as apples or oranges, were provided twice a week. The total cost was £118 12s. 6d. The cost per individual attendance was—

For Food	..	..	..	1·82 pence
For Administration	..	..	..	2·69 „
				—
Total	..	..	..	<u>4·51 „</u>

TABLE II.

A. RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1924.

Defect or Disease.		Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
		Number of Defects.		Number of Defects.	
(1)		Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment.
		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Malnutrition	4	1	2	6
	Uncleanliness (See Table IV., Group V.)	13	0	10	9
Skin	Ringworm :				
	Scalp	0	0	30	0
	Body	0	0	6	0
	Scabies	0	0	2	0
	Impetigo	1	0	24	0
	Other Skin Diseases (Non-Tuberculous)	4	3	20	0
Eye	Blepharitis	3	0	6	0
	Conjunctivitis	1	0	8	1
	Keratitis	0	0	1	0
	Corneal Opacities	1	0	4	1
	Defective Vision	37	26	45	19
	Squint	11	17	27	6
	Other Conditions	1	2	14	3
Ear	(Defective Hearing	6	1	4	0
	Otitis Media	3	0	6	0
	Other Ear Diseases	1	0	9	0
Nose and Throat	(Enlarged Tonsils only	14	21	14	4
	Adenoids only	4	15	4	3
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	2	7	0	1
	Other Conditions	14	2	14	1
	Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous)	6	3	6	0
	Defective Speech	1	12	2	0
	Teeth—Dental Diseases (See Table IV., Group IV.)	15	0	1	0

TABLE II.—*Con.*

					(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Heart and Circulation.	{	Heart Disease :							
		Organic			4	14	4	9	
		Functional			0	1	0	3	
		Anæmia			1	0	3	0	
Lungs	{	Bronchitis				1	8	6	2
		Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases				0	0	1	1
Tuberculosis	{	Pulmonary :							
		Definite				3	21	19	21
		Suspected				6	2	5	5
		Non-pulmonary :							
		Glands				0	2	0	3
		Spine				1	0	0	0
		Hip				0	0	1	1
		Other Bones and Joints				0	0	1	1
Nervous System	{	Epilepsy				0	1	1	2
		Chorea				1	0	5	4
		Other Conditions				0	1	0	0
Deformities	{	Rickets				1	1	1	1
		Spinal Curvature				0	1	0	2
		Other Conditions				4	6	3	3
Other Defects and Disease						11	26	122	28
Foster Children						0	0	0	12
Employed Children						0	0	0	46
School Canteen Children						0	0	0	65

B. NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS AND DENTAL DISEASES).

Group.	Number of Children.		Percentage of Children found to require treatment (see note d). (4)
	Inspected (see note d). (2)	Found to require treatment. (3)	
(1)			
CODE GROUPS :			
Entrants	334	34	10·1
Intermediates	252	44	17·4
Leavers	337	38	11·2
Total (Code Groups)	923	116	12·5
Other Routine Inspections	78	15	19·2

TABLE III.

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind (including partially blind).	1. Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind.. Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions .. At no School or Institution	2	0	2
	2. Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind.. Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions .. At no School or Institution			
Deaf (including partially deaf and deaf and dumb).	1. Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf .. Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions .. At no School or Institution	3	0	3
	2. Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially deaf.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf .. Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions .. At no School or Institution	2	1	2
Mentally Defective.	Feeble-minded (cases not notifiable to Local Control Authority).	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children			
		Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions .. At no School or Institution	6	5	11
	Notified to Local Control Authority during the year.	Feeble-minded Imbeciles Idiots	1		1
		Feeble-minded Imbeciles Idiots	2		2
		Feeble-minded Imbeciles Idiots	5	3	8
		Feeble-minded Imbeciles Idiots	1	2	3

TABLE III.—*Con.*

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Epileptics.	Suffering from severe epilepsy.	Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics			
		In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools		1	1
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	2		2
		At no School or Institution			
	Suffering from epilepsy which is not severe.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	2	3
		At no School or Institution			
Physically Defective.	Infectious pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board	3	3	6
		At other Institutions	4	4	8
	Non-infectious but active pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board			
		At Certified Residential Open Air Schools			
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools	33	24	57
		At Public Elementary Schools	1	1	2
		At other Institutions			
	Delicate children (e.g., pre-or latent tuberculosis, malnutrition, debility, anæmia, etc.)	At Certified Residential Open Air Schools	9	9	18
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools	6	4	10
	Active non-pulmonary tuberculosis.	At Public Elementary Schools	0	1	1
At other Institutions		4	1	5	
	At no School or Institution	1	1	2	
Crippled Children (other than those with active tuberculous disease), e.g., children suffering from paralysis, etc., and including those with severe heart disease.	At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by Ministry of Health or Board				
	At Certified Residential Cripple Schools				
	At Certified Day Cripple Schools	8	12	20	
	At Public Elementary Schools	5	8	13	
	At other Institutions				
	At no School or Institution				

TABLE IV.

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1924.

TREATMENT TABLE.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS, FOR WHICH SEE
GROUP V).

Disease of Defect. (1)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme (2)	Otherwise. (3)	Total. (4)
SKIN—			
Ringworm-Scalp	29	1	30
Ringworm-Body	6		6
Scabies	2		2
Impetigo	24	1	25
Other Skin Disease	22	2	24
MINOR EYE DEFECTS—			
External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II. ..	21	3	24
MINOR EAR DEFECTS			
	20	5	25
GOITRE			
	24		24
MISCELLANEOUS			
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	195	9	204
Total	343	21	364

TABLE IV.—*Con.*

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (EXCLUDING MINOR EYE DEFECTS TREATED AS MINOR AILMENTS—GROUP I.).

Defect or Disease. (1)	Number of Defects dealt with.			
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (3)	Otherwise. (4)	Total. (5)
Errors of Refraction (including Squint). (Operations for Squint should be recorded separately in the body of the Report) ..	113	4	0	117
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I). ..	2	0	0	2
Total	115	4	0	119

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	77
(b) Otherwise	4

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	75
(b) Otherwise	4

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS.

Received Operative Treatment.			Received other forms of Treatment. (4)	Total number treated. (5)
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital. (1)	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Total. (3)		
1	13	14	9	23

TABLE IV.—*Con.*

GROUP IV.—DENTAL DEFECTS.

1. Number of Children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist :

Aged :

Routine Age Groups	}	5	139	Total ..	2,075
		6	131		
		7	186		
		8	214		
		9	266		
		10	274		
		11	274		
		12	260		
		13	283		
		14	48		
Specials					186

Grand Total 2,261

(b) Found to require treatment 1,441

(c) Actually treated 1,046

(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination 332

2. Half-days devoted to { Inspection .. 24 } Total .. 248
 { Treatment .. 224 }

3. Attendances made by children for treatment 2,478

4. Fillings { Permanent Teeth .. 811 } Total .. 1,027
 { Temporary Teeth .. 216 }

5. Extractions { Permanent Teeth .. 89 } Total .. 1,338
 { Temporary Teeth .. 1,249 }

6. Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions *nil*

7. Other operations .. { Permanent Teeth .. 115 } Total .. 130
 { Temporary Teeth .. 15 }

GROUP V.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

1. Average number of visits per School made during the year by the School Nurses 5

2. Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by the School Nurses 7,133

3. Number of individual children found unclean 104

4. Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority 5

5. Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :

(a) Under the Education Act, 1921 4

(b) Under School Attendance Bye-Laws 0