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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

ON THE

Medical Inspection of School Children,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1920.

1921.

John Bentley & Sons, Printers, etc., Halifax Road, Todmorden.

Todmorden Education Committee.

School Medical Officer's Report, 1920.

Area of Borough ...	12,770 acres.
Population (1911 Census) ...	25,404
Population (1920 Estimated) ...	24,105
Number of Schools ...	15
Number of Departments ...	25
Number of School Places ...	5,298
Average Number of Children on Registers ...	3,314
Average in Attendance ...	2,704
Average Number of Half-timers ...	338

School Attendance and Medical Inspection Sub-Committee.

Alderman E. Crabtree (Chairman), Ald. R. Jackson, J.P.,
Councillors Gilmartin, Goucke, Healey, Pilling, Stansfield,
Sunderland, Webster, Woodhead, and G. Windsor, Esq., J.P.

School Medical Officer—J. H. BARKER, M.B., Ch.B., M.O.H.

Resigned November 30th, 1920.

School Dentist—E. B. Gibson, L.D.S.

School Nurses—MRS. EDGAR, A.R.S.I.

MRS. GEE, A.R.S.I.

Director of Education—J. E. CUTHBERTSON, M.A., M.Litt.

Borough of Todmorden.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the School Medical Service of the Borough for the year ended December 31st, 1920.

As my resignation of the post of School Medical Officer took effect on November 30th, 1920, I am at some disadvantage in compiling the Report, but I hope to include all that is essential.

An Open Air School was inaugurated in May. It is situated on the Ferney Lee site, and has accommodation for 40 children. The School places were filled immediately, and since then the work has been continuously carried on. It is the intention of the Committee to keep the School open throughout the winter. Already it is easy to see the progress made at this School; the physical and mental condition of the children has improved from the first, and is now very marked.

The services of School Nurse and Health Visitor have again been pooled to the advantage of both departments.

As usual, the Routine Inspections have been held on the School premises. They have again included "Code," and some other groups. The help and sympathy of the teachers in this work is obviously growing, and is gratefully acknowledged.

General inspections have again been made by the School Nurse periodically; obviously ailing children are thus discovered, and brought to the notice of the Medical Officer. Dirty and verminous children are discovered and brought under treatment.

Infectious Disease.—Scarlet Fever, Measles, and Chicken Pox have been prevalent during the greater part of the year, all in a mild form. School Closure has in no instance been found necessary.

Convalescent Homes.—These have again been made available for our delicate children through the medium of the Local Hospitals Committee.

Free Meals have been supplied to a small number of children; again there has been very little evidence of distress.

Routine Inspections.—See Tables I to V.

Number examined in "Code" Groups 1,193; 601 boys and 592 girls. Of "Intermediate" age, other than age 8, there were 149; boys 89 and girls 60. Total examined 1,342. (See Table I.)

There were examined, entrants 413, boys 208, girls 205. Intermediate age 8, 303; boys 158, girls 145, and leavers 477, boys 235, girls 242.

DETAILS OF ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Mal-Nutrition.—Ten children were found, and all were put under observation and treatment. It may be pointed out here that these cases are now sent to the Open Air School where they improve rapidly. Seven others were found at special examinations.

Uncleanliness—(a) of Head.—151, and 41 at special examinations. These are almost all girls, and the chief trouble is with nits, pediculi now being infrequent.

(b) of Body.—57 and 2 at special examinations. Many of these cases are badly bitten by fleas, others being "dirty" in the ordinary sense.

Ringworm of Head.—6 cases only were met with, but at special examinations 54 others were found. The cases are now discovered in the early stages and are promptly placed under treatment. They are excluded from school during the active stage, but later are re-admitted on wearing light washable caps.

Ringworm of Body.—2 cases only were met with; 36 cases were, however, discovered at the Clinic, and at other special examinations. The School Teachers are able to give much assistance in discovering these cases.

Scabies.—No case was observed, but 18 were met with at School Clinic, etc. They were all treated at the Cleansing Station.

Defective Vision and Squint.—82 cases. 70 of these were noted at Routine Inspections, and of these 46 were provided with spectacles by the Committee or privately. Of the 36 "not treated" many were found on re-examination to require no treatment.

Nose and Throat.—43 well marked cases were found at Routine Inspections and at the School Clinic, etc., 180 others. 47 cases of Adenoids and Enlarged Tonsils received operative treatment.

Teeth.—The Dental Clinic is now in full activity, the new premises having become occupied. The School Dentist presents a special report (see page 17.)

Table VI. sets out the numbers examined, number of defects found, and the percentage of defects found in the 25 school departments.

The highest percentage of defects was found at Harley Wood C.E. School (26) and at Vale Council Mixed Department (25). The lowest was nil at Vale Infants' Department.

Details of the Inspections, routine and other, are set out in the following Tables :—

TABLE I.

No. OF CHILDREN INSPECTED 1st JANUARY, 1920, to 31st DECEMBER, 1920.

A—"CODE" GROUPS.

Age.	ENTRANTS.					Inter- mediate Group.	LEAVERS.				
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.
Boys	35	53	62	40	18	208	158	47	3	89	482
Girls	33	64	63	35	10	205	145	49	2	60	447
Totals	68	117	125	75	28	413	303	96	5	149	929
											1342

B—SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.

	Special Cases.	Re-examinations i.e., No. of Children re-examined.
Boys	623	137
Girls	375	101
Totals	998	238

TABLE II.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF
MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1920.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
	No. referred for treatment.	No. requiring to be kept under observation, but not for treatment.	No. referred for treatment.	No. requiring to be kept under observation, but not for treatment.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
MALNUTRITION	10	—	7	—
UNCLEANLINESS—Head	151	—	41	—
Body	57	—	2	—
SKIN—Ringworm—Head	6	—	54	—
Ringworm—Body	2	—	36	—
Scabies	—	—	18	—
Impetigo	17	—	102	—
Other Diseases. (Non-Tubercular)	5	—	20	—
EYE—Blepharitis	12	—	10	—
Conjunctivitis	5	—	7	—
Keratitis	—	—	—	—
Corneal Ulcer	—	—	3	—
Corneal Opacities	—	—	—	—
Defective Vision	52	—	12	—
Squint	18	—	—	—
Other Conditions	—	—	—	—
EAR—Defective Hearing	40	—	2	2
Otitis Media	7	—	27	—
Other Ear Diseases	27	—	19	—
NOSE AND THROAT—				
Enlarged Tonsils	42	238	93	—
Adenoids	1	—	47	—
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	—	—	40	—
Other Conditions	—	—	—	—
Enlarged Cervical Glands. (Non-Tub.) ...	2	284	4	—
DEFECTIVE SPEECH	—	8	—	2
TEETH—Dental Disease	31	458	78	—
HEART AND CIRCULATION—				
Heart Disease:				
Organic	—	12	—	—
Functional	—	—	—	—
Anaemia	21	—	56	—
LUNGS—				
Bronchitis	25	—	—	—
Other Non-Tubercular Diseases	1	—	12	—
TUBERCULOSIS—PULMONARY—				
Definite	1	—	3	—
Suspected	5	—	14	—
TUBERCULOSIS—NON-PULMONARY—				
Glands	7	—	9	—
Spine	—	—	—	—
Hip	—	—	—	2
Other Bones and Joints	3	—	9	—
Skin	—	—	—	—
Other Forms	—	—	—	—
NERVOUS SYSTEM—				
Epilepsy	—	2	—	—
Chorea	1	—	—	—
Other Conditions	1	—	5	—
DEFORMITIES—				
Rickets	4	20	5	16
Spinal Curvature	6	—	—	—
Other Forms	—	7	—	—
OTHER DEFECTS AND DISEASES	7	7	2	—
	567	1036	737	22
Number of Individual Children having defects which required treatment or to be kept under observation. *	Less Tonsils and Adenoids...		40	
			697	

* Dual Cases are Adenoids and Enlarged Tonsils.

TABLE III.

NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA IN 1920.

		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
BLIND (including Partially Blind) within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	...	...	...
	Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	2	1	3
	Not at School ...	...	...	...
DEAF & DUMB (including Partially Deaf) within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	2	...	2
	Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	2	...	2
	Not at School ...	...	...	...
Feeble Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	8	10	18
	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ...	2	...	2
	Notified to the Local Control Authority by Local Education Authority during the year	...	...	...
MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.	Not at School ...	...	...	...
	At School ...	...	...	...
	Not at School ...	1	...	1
Imbeciles	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...
Idiots	...	1	...	1
	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...

TABLE III.—Continued

NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA IN 1920.

		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
EPILEPTICS.	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	...	1	1
	Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics ...	...	...	...
	In Institutions other than Certified Schools ...	...	...	...
	Not at School ...	1	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	3	8	11
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...	...	...	...
	In Institutions other than Certified Schools ...	...	...	...
	Not at School ..	3	7	10
Other Forms of Physically Defective.	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	6	15	21
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...	...	...	...
	In Institutions other than Certified Schools ...	...	...	...
	Not at School ...	4	8	12
Crippling due to causes other than Tuberculosis, i.e., Faralysis, Rickets, Traumatism.	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	3	4	7
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ...	...	...	...
	In Institutions other than Certified Schools ...	...	...	...
	Not at School ...	2	...	2

TABLE III.—Continued.

NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA IN 1920.

		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE (Continued). Other Physical Defectives e.g., Delicate & other children suitable for admission to Open Air Schools; Children suffering from severe Heart Disease.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	...	...	...
	Attending Open Air Schools	...	...	40
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children other than Open Air Schools	...	...	...
	Not at School	...	...	...
DULL OR BACKWARD.	Retarded 2 years	...	...	} 25
	" 3 "	...	...	
			20	45

TABLE IV.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1920.

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	Improved	No. Change		
Clothing	..	11	11	..	11	11	..	..	..	100
Footgear	11	13	24	..	24	24	..	..	..	100
Cleanliness of Head	..	178	178	..	178	178	..	..	..	100
Cleanliness of Body	..	59	59	..	59	59	..	..	..	100
Nutrition	..	17	17	..	17	11	4	2	..	100
Nose and Throat	50	150	200	..	100	47	53	..	100	50
External Eye Disease	..	37	37	..	37	37	..	..	..	100
Ear Disease	..	122	122	..	122	34	21	67	..	100
Teeth	..	109	109	..	53	53	..	..	56	50.2
Heart and Circulation	..	77	77	..	55	30	2	23	22	71.4
Lungs	..	61	61	..	29	..	29	..	32	47.5
Nervous System	..	6	6	..	5	5	..	..	1	83.3
Skin	..	260	260	..	232	232	..	..	28	89.2
Rickets	..	9	9	..	9	2	5	2	..	100
Deformities	..	9	9	..	2	..	2	..	7	22.2
Tuberculosis Non-pulmonary	..	28	28	..	24	16	6	2	4	85.7
Speech	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mental Condition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vision and Squint	..	82	82	..	46	46	..	..	36	56.1
Hearing	..	80	80	..	80	44	11	25	..	100
Miscellaneous	..	9	9	..	9	..	9	..	..	100
Totals	61	1317	1378	..	1092	829	142	121	286	79.2

TABLE V.

**INSPECTION, TREATMENT, ETC., OF CHILDREN,
DURING 1920.**

1	The total number of children medically inspected whether Code Group, special or ailing child ..	2340
2	The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment).	1058
3	The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding defective clothing, uncleanliness, etc.)	1110
4	The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.) ..	818

TABLE VI.

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS, 1920.

Number Examined. Number of Defects found and percentage of Defects.

Name of School.	Boys Exd.	Girls Exd.	Total Exd.	No. of Defects.	P'rc'ntages of Defects.
Castle Hill M. ...	38	46	84	12	14
Castle Hill Infts.	19	19	38	4	10
Eastwood M. ...	22	23	45	8	17
Eastwood Infts.	10	10	20	2	10
Lumbutts M. & Infts.	16	17	33	5	15
Cloughfoot M & Infts	3	4	7	—	—
Lanebottom M & Ifts.	20	24	44	5	11
Walsden C., M.	52	37	89	9	10
Walsden C., Infts.	16	13	29	6	20
Walsden C.E.					
M. & Infts.	21	11	32	3	9
Todmorden C.E., M.	53	44	97	17	17
Todmorden C.E., Ifts.	18	21	39	3	7.7
Shade M. ...	44	51	95	9	9
Shade Infts. ...	19	25	44	3	6.8
Roomfield Boys	124	—	124	20	16
Roomfield Girls	—	87	87	11	12
Roomfield Infts.	49	49	98	10	10
Cornholme M. ...	26	28	54	5	9
Cornholme Infts.	8	9	17	2	11
Vale M. ...	29	34	63	16	25
Vale Infts. ...	17	8	25	—	—
Robinwood M. ...	28	21	49	11	22
Robinwood Infts.	10	8	18	3	16
Harleywood C.E.					
M. and Infts.	22	19	41	11	26
St. Joseph's R.C.					
M. and Infts.	26	44	70	17	24
Totals ...	690	652	1342	192	14.15

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND ITS PREVENTION.

Scarlet Fever, in a very mild form, was prevalent throughout the year, 83 cases and 74 contacts being excluded from School. The persistence of this disease in the area is probably due, in part at least, to its extreme mildness, many cases escaping detection and many others being discovered after full opportunity of spreading the infection.

During the latter half of the year **Measles** became epidemic. This disease has been withdrawn from the lists requiring notification to the M.O.H., but there is every reason to believe that the Nursing Staff have become aware of every case, and the houses have all been visited. During part of this time it was found necessary to engage the services of a Nurse from the Local District Nursing Association to follow up these cases. The arrangement proved satisfactory in every way. 189 cases and 174 contacts were excluded.

Chicken Pox was epidemic, in a mild way, throughout the greater part of the year, and was the cause of 123 exclusions. In no case was it considered necessary to close a School or Department.

The School Exclusions for the year were:—

			Cases.		Contacts.
Measles	...	...	189	...	174
Scarlet Fever	...	...	83	...	74
Chicken Pox	...	...	104	...	19
Diphtheria	...	...	18	...	33
Whooping Cough	...	...	9	...	1
Mumps	...	...	3	...	—
			406	...	301
			Cases.		Contacts.
Ringworm	...	...	58	...	—
Scabies	...	...	17	...	2
Verm. Sore Head	...	...	26	...	—
Ophthalmia	...	...	1	...	—
Impetigo	...	...	17	...	—
Miscellaneous	...	...	6	...	—
			125	...	2

Total—Cases 531, Contacts 303. Total Exclusions—834. In 1919 the total exclusions were 278, and in 1918, 1,093.

FOLLOWING UP.

This work has been done very efficiently by the School Nurses, assisted by the School Attendance Officer and School Teachers. Special attention has been given to Adenoids, and 46 cases received operative treatment.

The prevalence of Measles rendered it necessary to employ an additional (temporary) Nurse for house visitation. This work entails much evening visiting as many parents are at work in factories during the day.

PROVISION OF FREE MEALS.

Three meals a day are provided for 40 children in the Open Air School, and, in addition, free dinners are given to all children recommended by the Medical Officer. During 1920, as in several preceding years, the number of children requiring free meals has been very small. Six individual children received 467 meals. The meals are provided, as far as possible, at the Castle Hill Cookery Centre, where they are prepared by the Cookery Teacher. A few, owing to distance from that Centre, have been provided at a restaurant.

The 467 meals were provided at a cost of £11 19s., or 6½d. per meal.

CHILD LABOUR.

As shown in previous reports, the "Half-time" system prevails in this area, and during 1920 the number of half-timers was the highest on record, viz., 338. In 1919 there were 291, and in 1918, 268. These children are employed mainly in cotton mills.

Exemption Certificates were granted during the year to 251 half-timers, and 281 full-timers. Total—532.

Average in attendance—2,730.

THE SCHOOL CLINIC.

This institution has been found to be a necessary corollary to the "following up" of defects.

The Clinic is held at Roomfield, and is attended by the Medical Officer and the Nurses. Formerly it was found necessary to meet every morning from 9 to 12, but during 1920 it was open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays only, the Tuesdays and Thursdays being set apart for the Dental Clinic. At the Clinic, inspection and treatment go on side by side, and parents very frequently bring their children to see the Medical Officer.

Excluding the Dental Branch, 760 individual children, boys 486, girls 274, received treatment for minor ailments, making 6,602 attendances.

SCHOOL PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT.

In some schools (previously reported) there are still in use desks of obsolete type.

One school (St. Joseph's R.C.) is seriously overcrowded. It is still necessary to point out the importance of opening all possible schoolroom windows, both before school opens and during playtime.

THE SCHOOL NURSES.

The School Medical Service owes much to the enthusiasm and devotion of its Nursing Staff. In addition to attendance at all routine inspections and the School Clinic much valuable work is done, as the following summary shows :—

- Visits to Schools—269.
- Visits to Homes—1,133.
- Visits to Feeding Centres—10.
- Visits for Open Air School—58.
- Number of General Inspections of children at School—26.
- Number of Children so Inspected—4,520.
- Number referred to Medical Officer—384.
- Number of Medicated Baths (Scabies)—10.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. H. BARKER,
(late School Medical Officer.)

Todmorden,

March, 1921.

BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC.

Report for the Year ending December 31st, 1920.

Gentlemen,

During this, my second year in your service, the time has been almost entirely devoted to the treatment of cases examined during the previous year, work which is now almost completed and can be followed at an early date by the inspection of the entrants since the last systematic survey and the re-examination of those who have received treatment.

I have attended on 86 half-days, one of which was devoted to the inspection of the teeth of children attending the Open Air School, and the rest of the time has been spent at the Clinic, Roomfield, in the treatment of cases for which the consent of parents was obtained last year, and of special cases.

Inspection.—Systematic inspection was undertaken only in the case of the Open Air School, but a large number of children whom I had not previously examined have been referred for inspection and treatment by the S.M.O. or have attended voluntarily. In this way the total number of children examined during the year was 177, and the teeth were found to be in better condition than that shown in my previous report.

The results of this inspection in relation to the various age groups is shown in Table I.

TABLE I. - RESULTS OF INSPECTION IN RELATION TO THE AGES OF
THE CHILDREN EXAMINED.

Age of Group	No. of Children examined.	CONDITION OF MOUTH.									
		All Teeth Sound.	%	1 to 3 Diseased Teeth.	%	4 to 7 Diseased Teeth.	%	8 to 11 Diseased Teeth.	%	12 or more dis- eased t'th.	%
5 years	10	—	—	4	40.0	3	30.0	3	30.0	—	—
6 years	21	—	—	7	33.3	8	38.1	4	19.1	2	9.5
7 years	20	—	—	10	50.0	5	25.0	3	15.0	2	10.0
8 years	20	2	10.0	7	35.0	5	25.0	6	30.0	—	—
9 years	19	2	10.5	7	36.9	6	31.5	3	15.8	1	5.2
10 years	25	1	4.0	9	36.0	12	48.0	3	12.0	—	—
11 years	35	2	5.7	20	57.1	10	28.5	2	5.7	1	3.0
12 years	21	1	4.8	9	43.2	9	43.2	2	9.8	—	—
13 years	6	—	—	3	50.0	2	33.3	1	16.7	—	—
Total.....	177	8	4.5	76	43.0	60	33.9	27	15.3	6	3.3
Open Air School	38	7	18.4	15	39.5	13	34.2	2	5.3	1	2.6

The total number of teeth examined was 3,813, and the results are shown in Table II. from which it is seen that the percentage of diseased teeth among those examined is 20.8%, which compares favourably with the results of my previous inspection.

TABLE II.
RESULTS OF INSPECTION IN RELATION TO NUMBER
OF TEETH EXAMINED.

	No. Examined.	Sound.	%	Savable.	%	Unsavable.	%
Temporary ..	1557	946	60.8	94	6	517	33.2
Permanent ..	2256	2057	91.2	153	6.7	46	2.1
Total	3813	3003	78.7	247	6.5	563	14.8

Open Air School.—38 children were examined, of whom 7 had sound teeth. Of these, 6 had previously visited the Clinic, and did not require further treatment. Owing to the regular use of tooth brush and powder at school the teeth and mouths were with two exceptions much cleaner than is generally noted.

All the parents of children needing treatment gave their consent for the work required to be done at the Clinic and the children were treated and completed at an early date after the inspection.

Details of the inspection appended to Table I.

Hypoplasia.—Observations for this condition were made in all cases with the following results:—

TABLE III. HYPOPLASTIC TEETH.

No. of Children observed.	No. with Hypoplastic Teeth.	%	No. of Per- manent Teeth examined.	No Hypoplastic.	%	No. of Per- manent Teeth possessed by children with Hypoplasia.	No. of these which were Hypoplastic.	%
177	6	3.4	2256	64	2.8	92	64	69.6

Treatment.—During the year 430 children received dental treatment at the Clinic, and these paid 753 visits. All the work required in 371 (or 86.3%) was completed, making a total of 672 completed cases since the Clinic was opened.

1,236 temporary and 42 permanent teeth, a total of 1,278, were extracted, local anaesthetic being administered in 491 cases.

433 teeth were treated by filling, 212 fillings being inserted in temporary teeth and 221 together with 26 root fillings in permanent teeth.

In 36 cases the teeth were scaled and cleaned, and 404 dressings were inserted.

Yours sincerely,

EDWARD B. GIBSON, L.D.S., Manch.,
School Dental Officer.

