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Torquay Education Authority.

YEAR 1918

ELEVENTH

Annual Report



ON THE

MEDICAL INSPECTION

OF

SCHOOL CHILDREN

INCLUDING THE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S

CARE COMMITTEE.

Torquay Education Authority

YEAR 1918

ELFVENTH

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MEDICAL INSPECTION

SCHOOL CHILDREN

REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE CHILDREN'S

CARE COMMITTEE

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Borough of Torquay
Education Authority.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Eleventh Annual Report on the Medical Inspection and Treatment of Elementary School Children in the Borough during the year 1918. This includes the Report of Dr. Hynes on the medical inspection and treatment of minor ailments, the Report of Dr. McKenzie on the examination and treatment of eye defects, and the Report of Mr. L. Strangways, the School Dentist.

NEW PREMISES OF SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

During the year the house known as Monte Video, Castle Road, was obtained, and after some alterations and decorations, is now utilised for the purposes of a school clinic. The premises are pleasantly and centrally situated; are commodious and suitable in every way, thus facilitating the work that has to be carried out here. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining labour and materials some time was lost in getting it into working order. This fact and the closure of several schools on account of influenza, etc., accounts for some reduction in the numbers examined.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-five cases of tubercular disease or suspected tubercular trouble have been kept under the observation of the Medical Department. They are also under the supervision of the County Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Ward. Only such cases as he considers are not in an infectious condition are allowed to attend school. This is about half the above number. The remaining half are excluded, and this has been a source of anxiety to the Attendance and Health Committee and your Officers. That children so suffering have to be excluded for long periods of their school life is not only detrimental to their future from an educational point of view, but they are liable to fall into vicious habits. Your Committee feel that at the earliest moment it is the duty of the County Council to provide a residential school for such children.

The County Tuberculosis Officer when investigating cases of tuberculosis notifies me of all children residing in the in-

fectured houses. Their names are noted, and they are in future treated as special cases, being examined at frequent intervals.

In cases in which the provision of cod liver oil, etc., is considered essential, and where the parents are unable to procure it, it is supplied by the Authority. In some instances, through the assistance of the Children's Care Committee, milk is also supplied.

ADENOIDS AND ENLARGED TONSILS.

This important subject continues to receive the attention it deserves. You will note in Dr. Hyne's Report that 86 cases were inquired into. Twenty were kept under observation and 66 referred to Dr. Fenton, the throat specialist at the Torbay Hospital, who operated on them. There is no doubt that this treatment has a marked effect on the health and mental condition of those thus treated.

EPILEPTICS AND MENTALLY DEFICIENT CHILDREN.

This is a subject on which one cannot write with enthusiasm. As regards epileptics our experience is very depressing. In all known cases your Committee have endeavoured to get them admitted to epileptic schools. The great difficulty is the distance from Torquay of these recognised schools, so that much persuasion has to be used to get the consent of the parents to their being sent away. In several instances, after a residence varying from four to five years and on the children attaining the age of sixteen, they come home. Invariably we have found that they are in a worse condition than when they went, and in a short period the fits become excessive and they die. This compels one to consider whether such action of the Authority is justified by the results? Personally, I feel great diffidence in urging their removal.

As regards mentally defective children. Those certified as educable defectives are now under training at the Western Counties Institution, Starcross. It might be possible to deal with slight cases and backward children in the proposed open-air school. The names of ineducable children are reported to the Local Authority, *i.e.*, the County Council.

PROPOSED OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

This subject is now receiving the earnest consideration of the Attendance and Health Committee. It is hoped that arrangements may be so far advanced as to enable a start to be made in the coming summer.

REMEDIAL CLINIC.

This question is also receiving consideration in connection with the possible appointment of an expert organiser of physical exercises. Our experience shows that there are numerous cases in the Borough which would benefit considerably from this form of treatment.

DENTAL TREATMENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Mr. Strangways' Report demonstrates the continued extension of this essential work; and your Committee in proof of their appreciation of it have agreed to extra time being devoted to it, with a view to enabling the Dental Surgeon to, as far as possible, reduce the period between examinations.

THE EYE CLINIC.

The work of this department continues working smoothly. All children having defective sight or eye trouble are seen by Dr. McKenzie. Where glasses are required they are obtained, and continuous enquiries made to see that the children wear them.

I should like to refer to the co-operation and harmonious working of the Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. with the Officials of the Medical Department. Inspector Richards is always willing to render every assistance, and I have no doubt but for his help many children would suffer unnecessary hardship and even suffering.

I have to thank the Teachers for their ready help, which undoubtedly accounts for the smooth way in which the work of the Department goes on. Everyone connected with the Clinic has but one end in view—improvement in the health of the children.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the members of your Committee for the courtesy and help extended to me, and to the whole-hearted manner in which they have entered into every project submitted for perfecting the work of the School Medical Department.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS DUNLOP,

M.B., D.P.H.

REPORT OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour once more of submitting to you this the Eleventh Annual Report upon the work of Routine Inspection in the Public Elementary Schools of the Borough, and also upon that carried out at the School Medical Department.

It will be noted that fewer children have undergone Routine Inspection during 1918 than in the previous year.

By way of explanation, it is to be observed that this portion of the work had to be suspended from time to time through closure of some and re-closure of other Schools owing to the prevalence of epidemics of influenza, mumps, etc., and hence our inability to complete the inspections in all the Schools. St. Mary-Church Infants, Priory R.C., and Ilsham had to be omitted these Schools being inspected usually in the latter end of the year.

In 1918 ordinary cases inspected numbered 1,063, specials 72, and ailing 963.

In 1917 ordinary cases inspected numbered 1,440, specials 28, and ailing 1633.

Owing to the transfer of the School Clinic to the new premises in Castle Road, the routine work of this Department was considerably curtailed through the necessity for alterations and decoration. The new premises have proved in every way satisfactory, and allow of the work being carried out with greater comfort and efficiency.

Once again the record of the work of the School Nurse, Miss Hughes, speaks for itself. During the year she has dealt with 4,965 cases of minor ailments, administered 43 baths, paid 221 visits to the schools, and 1332 to the homes of the children. This seems to have almost reached the limit of one person's efforts. I desire to bear testimony to the excellence

of the work done and the extreme tact with which it is carried out.

CASES SEEN AND TREATED BY THE SCHOOL NURSE AT THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DURING 1918.

Adenitis	34	Impetigo	1369
Abscess	64	Injuries	116
Adenoids	5	Inflammation	6
Alopecia	16	Otorrhœa	250
Burns and Scalds	145	Other complaints	293
Blepharitis	41	Otitis	1
Boils	49	Pediculosis	153
Bronch. Catarrh	2	Poisoned wounds	535
Cuts	126	Ringworms	169
Chilblains	180	Rash (insignificant)	1
Chicken-Pox	1	Rheumatism	21
Conjunctivitis	88	Rhinitis	14
Deafness	76	Scabies	171
Debility	7	Sore throat	33
Enlarged glands	123	Septic wounds	518
Ear trouble	44	Sty	7
Eye	76	Sprains	7
Enlarged tonsils	12	Ulcer	1
Enlarged thyroid	15	Warts	130
Eczema	64		
Gastric Catarrh	1	Grand total	4965
Herpes	1		

As on previous occasions, children are only referred to the Dental Surgeon in cases of urgency. All others are examined and dealt with by him in rotation.

With eye cases the same holds good. (*Vide* Report of School Oculist, p. 18.)

Throughout the year the School Nurse and I have seen together, each week morning and on Friday afternoons, a large number of children who were thoroughly examined.

Where the necessity arises they are afterwards referred to their practitioner, and notes made on each card.

The total number examined amounted to 963, the great majority of whom have been seen repeatedly.

No child was allowed to return to school who had infectious disease until first found perfectly clear of it, and a certificate to that effect furnished.

The notifications sent to us by the teachers are very helpful in the supervision of such cases.

The interest taken in the work of the Clinic by the parents and guardians of the children is encouraging.

As usual, a register is kept marking the time of admittance to the Clinic of scholars seen, and their names are entered on sheets which are forwarded to the teachers at the expiration of each month. In this way calculation of grant for attendance of the children is ascertained.

DEFECTS SEEN AND TREATED BY THE SCHOOL MEDICAL
OFFICER IN THE MORNINGS AND ON FRIDAY AFTERNOONS
AT THE SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DURING 1918.

Abscess	11	Epistaxis	1
Adenoids	13	Gastric Catarrh	12
Anæmia	11	Headache	14
Alopecia	8	Heart (functional and organic)	24
Adenitis (enlarged glands) ..	13	Impetigo	190
Boils	4	Influenza	1
Bronchial Catarrh	12	Injuries	9
Bronchitis	2	Mumps	2
Congested Throat	21	Measles	2
Coughs (ordinary)	6	Nasal trouble	8
Catarrhal conditions (e.g.,		Neuralgia	1
Coryza)	2	Neuritis	1
Cellulitis	7	Pediculosis	185
Chorea	1	Phimosis	1
Conjunctivitis	4	Rheumatism	11
Chicken-Pox	6	Ringworm	110
Chest re-examinations	10	Scabies	157
Constipation	1	Scarletina (suspected)	1
Debility	19	Sprain	1
Diarrhœa	1	Threadworms	8
Deafness	6	Tremor	2
Diphtheria	1	Whooping-Cough	3
Ear trouble (Otorrhœa)	18	Wounds	10
Enlarged tonsils	15	Tuberculosis of lungs (definite)	16
Enlarged thyroid	5	" " (suspected)	2
Erythema	12	Other complaints	91
Eczema	20	Tonsillitis	4
Eye trouble (other than Con-			
junctivitis)	3	Grand total	1104
Epilepsy	5		

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

For total number of children examined see following table (Table I.). A number of the special cases have been re-examined during the year.

TABLE I.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED, 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1918.

B. Group other than "Code" X.

	Entrants.						Intermediate Group						Leavers.		Intermediate Group (other than 8 years) (2)	Special Cases. (3)	Re-examinations (i.e. No. of children re-examined (4)
	Intermediate Group					Grand Total.											
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.		8	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.					
Age ..	3	4	5	6	Other Ages. <td>Total.</td> <td>8</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>Other Ages.</td> <td>Total.</td> <td>Grand Total.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	Total.	8	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	Grand Total.				
Boys ..	43	45	52	18	12	170	99	110	45	2	—	256	426	118	36	12	
Girls ..	44	44	55	22	18	183	109	102	19	0	—	230	413	106	36	7	
Totals ..	87	89	107	40	30	353	208	212	64	2	—	486	839	224	72	—	

Total number of Children examined .. 1063 (excluding special cases).

Parents present in case of boys, numbered 179 44.0 per cent.

" " girls " 228 56.0 "

Total number of parents present 407

TABLE OF AVERAGE HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS.

Age period ..	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Totals.
Boys— No. examined	43	45	52	18	64	102	22	11	30	110	45	2	—	
Boys { Height	3ft. 0.86	3ft. 3.5	3ft. 5.0	3ft. 8.0	3ft. 11.0	3ft. 11.3	3ft. 11.9	4ft. 5.5	4ft. 5.55	4ft. 7.3	4ft. 9.3	5ft. 1.25	—	
Boys { Weight	2st. 6.09	2st. 8.63	2st. 10.5	3st. 4.6	3st. 6.8	3st. 9.8	3st. 11.38	4st. 7.1	4st. 12.5	5st. 5.7	6st. 0.3	6st. 8.0	—	
Girls { Height	3ft. 1.2	3ft. 2.6	3ft. 5.5	3ft. 7.8	3ft. 9.43	3ft. 11.4	3ft. 11.8	4ft. 3.35	4ft. 4.5	4ft. 7.2	4ft. 10.53	—	—	
Girls { Weight	2st. 4.8	2st. 6.8	2st. 11.8	3st. 1.2	3st. 4.0	3st. 8.74	3st. 11.2	4st. 6.52	4st. 6.6	5st. 3.17	6st. 4.96	—	—	
Girls— No. examined	44	44	55	22	46	116	34	7	30	102	19	0	—	

GREENWOOD'S AVERAGES (BASED ON OVER 800,000 OBSERVATIONS).

Boys { Height	3ft. 2.63	3ft. 4.68	3ft. 6.83	3ft. 9.04	3ft. 11.39	4ft. 1.18	4ft. 2.84	4ft. 4.98	4ft. 6.88	4ft. 8.07	4ft. 10.16	5ft. 0.72	—	
Boys { Weight	2st. 3.77	2st. 6.68	2st. 10.24	3st. 0.4	3st. 4.0	3st. 7.90	3st. 12.35	4st. 2.41	4st. 8.06	4st. 13.40	5st. 4.00	6st. 0.14	—	
Girls { Height	3ft. 2.39	3ft. 4.44	3ft. 6.53	3ft. 8.76	3ft. 10.94	4ft. 0.71	4ft. 2.60	4ft. 5.01	4ft. 7.48	4ft. 8.81	4ft. 10.93	5ft. 0.26	—	
Girls { Weight	2st. 2.98	2st. 5.74	2st. 9.24	2st. 12.93	3st. 1.55	3st. 6.09	3st. 10.69	4st. 1.52	4st. 9.86	5st. 0.37	5st. 8.11	6st. 0.24	—	

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.—No cases have come under my notice on routine inspection of defect in this respect. But many cases of defective footgear are dealt with by the Children's Care Committee.

NUTRITION.—In the preface of my Report it has been stated that the standard of physique has been found to be very satisfactory, and this I base upon the returns given in the table on weight averages. They are above those of Greenwood. (*Vide* table.)

Cases of malnutrition found amounted to 44, of whom 19 were referred for special treatment; the remainder only coming under the heading "Observation," were just a trifle short of the normal state. This indicates a very marked improvement on the state of affairs shown in 1917.

In 1917, cases referred for treatment amounted to 41 (2·8%); observation cases, 104 (7·2%).

In 1918, cases referred for treatment amounted to 19 (1·7%); observation cases, 25 (2·3%).

CLEANLINESS OF HEAD—Pediculosis.—The percentage of cases, including those referred for treatment and those under observation, is proportionately less than that recorded in 1917.

Firmness and tact have helped in keeping parents to their duty in this matter, and undoubtedly account for improvement upon the figures of last year.

In 1918, the entire number of cases found amounted to 65 (6·1%), as against 104 (7·2%) in 1917.

Those of a gross nature are immediately excluded from school. These amounted to 29. Those not excluded but kept under observation (slight cases) amounted to 36.

One case of gross neglect of head ended in a prosecution, and the mother was sent to prison for a month with hard labour, in the early part of the year.

CLEANLINESS OF BODY.—Only two cases had to be referred for treatment as against five in 1917, and 16 kept under observation as against 25 in 1917, the total being 18 for 1918, as against 30 in 1917.

SKIN DISEASES.—These attained a much lower figure all round than that recorded in 1917.

All were, of course, referred for treatment.

Impetigo was the one most common; the number of cases amounted to 7.

Next came scabies, numbering 4; ringworm of the scalp 3; and others numbering 5. Ringworm of the body did not present itself.

In 1917 there were 12 cases of impetigo, 7 of scabies, 11 of ringworm of the scalp, 4 of ringworm of the body, and other diseases numbering 5.

In the case of scabies, the number seen both on routine inspection and at the School Medical Department showed a marked decline in the figures of last year.

In 1917 the number of baths needed and administered amounted to 120, while in 1918 it fell to 43.

VISION.—Thirty-two cases were referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon, Dr. McKenzie (*vide* Report of Oculist on p. 18), and one kept under observation.

Cases of neglect in wearing the glasses prescribed, or in visiting the Oculist, are inquired into by the School Nurse and visited periodically.

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES.—Five cases were noted and referred for treatment. They were those of blepharitis and conjunctivitis.

EAR DISEASES.—Three cases of defective hearing and 3 of otorrhœa were referred for treatment.

TEETH.—(*Vide* Dental Report on p. 15).

ENLARGED TONSILS AND ADENOIDS, MOUTH BREATHERS.—Neglect in the treatment of these conditions may retard the development of a child so affected, physically and intellectually. The diseases are serious, especially among those living under unhealthy conditions. Parents are becoming more and more convinced of the extreme importance of radical treatment in such cases, and rarely demur to its being carried out. The results given have proved to be quite satisfactory.

The number of cases of Tonsils and Adenoids referred for treatment during 1918 amounted to 86. The number of such cases kept under observation was 20. Of those referred for treatment 66 have been operated upon.

These numbers include those seen at routine inspection in the schools and also those seen at the School Medical Department.

All such cases are referred to the Throat and Nose Specialist at the Torbay Hospital and dealt with as he considers advisable.

DEFECTIVE SPEECH.—Only two cases were noted, and these were of a slight lisping character. They are being kept under observation. The repetition of nursery rhymes is always advocated. No cases of stammering have been met with.

HEART AND CIRCULATION.—In this connection the number of cases seen was much less than that for 1917.

In 1918 there were recorded 14 cases of functional disease of heart, as against 38 for 1917; 4 cases of organic disease, as against 2 in 1917; 4 cases of anæmia, as against 6 in 1917.

Cases referred for treatment in 1918 were 11 of functional heart trouble, and 3 of anæmia. Cases kept under observation were 4 organic, 3 functional, and 1 of anæmia.

As usual parents, guardians, and teachers are informed and advised. Parents and guardians are exhorted to consult their own practitioners, while teachers are advised to be on the alert in the matter of physical exercise.

Such cases are reckoned among the "specials" with a view to being re-examined periodically.

LUNGS.—During routine inspection, 1 definite case of pulmonary tuberculosis was found as well as 4 definite cases of the same ailment among the "specials," where a case of tuberculosis already existed in the house.

There were 4 suspected cases found amongst the "specials" also. All these were referred. Those in whom nothing could be detected, but who are still kept under observation, on account of the existence of the disease in their houses, numbered 56.

Both the definite and suspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were referred to the County Tuberculosis Officer. Such children are periodically examined by him, and are not allowed to attend school until pronounced free from the infection by him, and with his consent only.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—Glands.—During routine inspection only 1 "special" case was recorded, and it was referred for treatment. At the School Medical Department 4 cases were seen and received treatment.

All cases of glandular trouble are kept under observation at all times and thrive well, the climatic conditions of the locality retarding the progress of the tubercle bacillus. Several

of these are supplied with cod liver oil and malt as deemed necessary.

NERVOUS SYSTEM.—Only 1 case of epilepsy, and 1 other nervous defect were found and referred for treatment; 6 others were cases for observation only, and were mainly those of infantile paralysis.

Cases of epilepsy unsuitable for education in Elementary Schools were reported on with a view to provision being found for them in special epileptic homes.

DEFORMITIES.—Of the cases met with on routine inspection, 1 was referred for treatment, while 5 others were cases for observation only.

RICKETS.—Two of these cases required treatment; the remainder, viz., 7, were only slight cases of this defect, and hence only kept under observation.

RINGWORM.—Such cases as were found on routine medical inspection amounted to only 3 of the scalp in 1918, as against 11 such in 1917.

No ringworm on the body was found; in 1917 there were 4 cases.

Very obstinate cases are put under X-rays at the Torbay Hospital. All cases affecting the scalp alone have to wear washable bonnets or caps during school hours to prevent spread of the disease.

Not until the hairs have been found free of spores on microscopic examination are children so affected permitted to discard the protectives mentioned.

A large number of ringworm cases have been treated at the School Medical Department in addition.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

L. HYNES,

Assistant School Medical Officer.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

For the Year ending December 20th, 1918.

Notwithstanding the removal to new premises, I am happy to report an increase in the work of this department.

EXTRACTIONS.

The total has now reached 1,900.

FILLINGS.

868 fillings (all permanent) and 64 dressings and scaling were completed in the year.

TOTAL OPERATIONS.

2,832, an increase of 164 over 1917.

I wish to point out the high proportion of fillings and extractions, viz., 868 fillings, 1900 extractions, just over 45%. Examining the figures of some clinics, we find the proportion of fillings to extractions is 25%, or one filling to every four extractions, whilst we show one filling to every two extractions nearly.

I have always endeavoured to concentrate on saving the teeth of the second series, and when one remembers that twenty temporary teeth are lost during the eruption of the second set, it will be seen that the rate of extractions to fillings are as low as possible.

INSPECTIONS.

Nearly 1,100 cases were examined (to be exact, 1089), and this is a large total for only two days a week. Indeed, I feel it my duty to point out that it now takes over two years to go round the schools, and an increase of time is urgently needed if we are to attempt to save all the second teeth.

It is possible for a tooth to go past repair in two years, whereas in one year it is seldom the case.

The constant increase in our work totals year by year, as shown by the annexed table, is a proof of the rapid development of the clinic.

New entrants; old cases, and many who never had any dental treatment before now avail themselves of the benefit of your clinic.

At a meeting of the School Dentists' Society at the Institute of the Medical Officers of Health in London, a suggestion was made emphasising the importance of clinics now providing some instruction for parents and teachers.

I am pleased to report that *as long ago as 1915* I inaugurated "Advice to Parents," and offered to give lectures to teachers if desired.

In 1915, 28 Parents availed themselves of this arrangement, and in 1918 no less than 160 parents voluntarily attended your clinic with the children for consultation. We can therefore claim that Torquay has carried out *in advance* the suggestion above referred to.

REFUSALS.

Our refusals are very low, between 4% and 5%, whereas some clinics find over 25% refuse treatment.

I attribute our success to several causes:—

1. Parents refusing treatment are asked to attend to state their objections.
2. The advice to parents also removes doubts as to the need of treatment.
3. Gentleness is particularly studied with such young patients.
4. The attendance of Miss Hughes at extractions and the use of anæsthetics.
5. Bright cheerful rooms and few instruments displayed.

NEW PREMISES.

I have to thank your Committee for providing an up-to-date outfit. There is every convenience for the children. We have now sufficient rooms to separate cases waiting from cases treated (an important point with nervous children), whilst the chair, cabinet and fittings are able now to compare favourably with other clinics.

There is every facility for increased work, provided extra time is granted.

I have again to thank the various Officers of the Education Authority for their ever-ready assistance in all matters pertaining to the benefit of the clinic, more especially during this strenuous year, entailed by the removal to the new premises.

I am,

Most truly yours,

LUDLOW STRANGWAYS, L.D.S., R.C.S., ENG.

TABLE SHOWING PROGRESS OF WORK PER YEAR.

Year.	Inspections.	Fillings.	Dressings.	Extractions.	Total Operations.	Advice to Parents.
1911	490	446	32	—	478	—
1912	830	732	56	—	788	—
1913	676	667	63	426	1156	—
1914	721	849	59	939	1847	—
1915	780	802	120	1171	2093	28
1916	950	933	78	1526	2537	85
1917	1121	867	86	1715	2668	103
1918	1089	868	64	1900	2832	160

Report of Dr. McKenzie.

SCHOOL OCULIST.

Owing to the removal of the Clinic to the new premises and the alterations necessary for the provision of a dark room, the work was somewhat interrupted, as is shown by the smaller number of cases treated. Notwithstanding this, the systematic treatment of cases has continued in a satisfactory way. During 1918, 103 children were examined for the first time, making 265 attendances. Thirty-seven of these were found to have sufficiently good sight for school purposes without requiring glasses. In 63 cases suitable glasses were ordered. In one instance a child was under treatment for serious disease of the eyes which glasses would not improve. She, however, retained sufficient sight to be taught in the ordinary way. In 2 cases the examination had not been completed at the close of the year.

The following table shows the numbers dealt with during the past five years:—

	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
New cases	138	116	111	144	103
Total attendance	345	401	417	310	265
Numbers with sight sufficient for school purposes	37	27	37	40	37
Cases where glasses ordered	96	86	74	81	63
Other defects of eyes... ..	5	3	0	23	3

TORQUAY CHILDREN'S CARE COMMITTEE.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1918.

One hundred and five cases were dealt with during the year, compared with 101 in 1917. Assistance was given as follows:—

	1915	1916	1917	1918
Boots given free	5 pairs	7 pairs	9 pairs	10 pairs
Boots (part payment to be made by parents)	35 pairs	37 pairs	26 pairs	30 pairs
Boots (full cost to be repaid by parents)	24 pairs	34 pairs	45 pairs	48 pairs
	<u>64 pairs</u>	<u>78 pairs</u>	<u>80 pairs</u>	<u>88 pairs</u>
Assistance towards purchase of crutches	1 case	—	1 case	—
Child maintained in Rosehill Hospital	1 case (10 weeks)	2 cases (9 & 7 weeks)	1 case (2 weeks)	1 case (29 weeks)
Milk supplied free	8 cases	4 cases	6 cases	5 cases
Milk and eggs supplied free ..	—	—	1 case	—
Virol, Scott's Emulsion, Kepler's Extract	11 bottles	9 bottles	6 bottles	—
Meals supplied	2 cases	1 case	—	2389
Referred to National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children	3 cases	2 cases	5 cases	8 cases
Referred to Relieving Officer ..	—	—	2 cases	—
Special Surgical Boot	1 case	1 case	1 case	—
Special Splints supplied	—	—	—	1 case
Medicine supplied	2 cases	4 cases	3 cases	1 case
Sanitary Inspector notified as to state of house	—	—	2 cases	—

Eleven meetings of the full Committee, and 18 of the Sub-Committee were held during the year.

BOOTS.

It will be seen that the number of pairs of boots purchased rose from 80 to 88, and the average cost per pair increased also.

In 1915,	64 pairs purchased,	average cost	5s. 0½d.
„ 1916,	78 ditto	ditto	7s. 1d.
„ 1917,	80 ditto	ditto	9s. 3½d.
„ 1918,	88 ditto	ditto	12s. 9d.

The following table shows that the percentage of cost of boots repaid by parents rose slightly, compared with 1917:—

	Total spent on boots and clothing.	Repaid by parents.
1914	£19 2 5	£4 14 9 = 24 per cent.
1915	16 2 9	7 13 1 = 48 per cent.
1916	27 10 7	13 0 6 = 47 per cent.
1917	37 3 11	20 9 8 = 55 per cent.
1918	56 2 8	31 9 10 = 56 per cent.

EYESIGHT.

Spectacles were supplied as follows during the year:—

	1915	1916	1917	1918
Parents to pay whole cost of spectacles	18	9	11	11
Free Grant from Fund	9	6	17	5
Grant of part cost	63	38	33	32
	—	—	—	—
Supplied by Board of Guardians	90	53	61	48
New lens supplied, or frames repaired	38	39	33	40

The balance in hand being only £6 1s. 6d., it will again be necessary to ask for a grant of £10 from the Education Authority.

MEALS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Early in the year when the food question was acute, and it was feared that the children's health, and consequently their education, might be suffering owing to the cost of foodstuffs and the difficulty experienced in providing the most suitable foods for them, the matter was taken in hand by the Committee. It was decided that the Head Teachers should, from their knowledge of the homes and their observation of the children, select those considered to be in real need of extra nourishment. Their names were submitted to the School Medical Officer, who visited the Schools, saw the children, and certified according to his judgment.

Tickets entitling the child to receive a hot meal for a certain number of days, either at the National Kitchen in Albert Road, or at the Soup Kitchen set up at Homelands by Dr. Winter, were then issued to the Teachers, whose co-operation was of the greatest assistance, many of them going to the Kitchen with their children to help maintain order.

As at first arranged the Committee were to pay 2d. per portion, but in order to provide a more liberal helping and also to increase the amount of fats, the charge was raised to 3d.

During the period the scheme was in operation, from the last week of February to about the middle of May, 1,684 meals were provided at the National Kitchen, and 705 at Homelands, a total of 2,389. The cost of the meals was £28 18s. 9d., and of tickets, soup basins, etc., £3 5s., together £32 3s. 9d., the whole of which was most generously defrayed by an anonymous donor to the Mayor, so that no part of the cost fell upon the Committee's ordinary funds.

WASTE PAPER.

The scheme for the collection of waste paper by school children realised £24 15s. 1d. during 1918. This was allocated as follows:—

Children's Care Fund	..	..	£14	10	1
King Edward Cot Fund	..	..	8	5	0
Charity Organisation Society	..	..	2	0	0

Considerable expense was incurred in taking children to London and Exeter Hospitals for special treatment which their physical conditions demanded, the increased cost of railway travelling naturally being a formidable item.

The balance in hand is slightly larger than in 1917, and for this the Committee are again much indebted to the Mayor and the Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. Cumming) for their practical help. The items of £15 and £5 shown among the Receipts are further evidence of the sympathy evinced by them, and they have rendered the Committee much more free to respond to the appeals made by Head Teachers on behalf of necessitous children.

To all who have in any way contributed to the successful work done during the year the Committee return their most grateful thanks.

TABLE II.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF
MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1918.

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.
(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
SKIN	Malnutrition	..	..	19	25		
	Uncleanliness—						
	Head	..	..	29	36		
	Body	..	..	2	16		
	Ringworm—						
	Head	..	..	3	—		
	Body	..	..	—	—		
	Scabies	..	..	4	—		
EYE	Impetigo	..	..	7	—		
	Other Disease	..	..	5	—		
EAR	Defective Vision and Squint	..	..	32	1		
	External Eye Disease	..	..	5	—		
TEETH	Defective Hearing	..	..	3	—		
	Ear Disease	..	..	3	—		
Dental Disease (<i>vide</i> Dental Report, pp.)							
NOSE AND THROAT	Enlarged Tonsils	..	..	12	29		
	Adenoids	..	..	4	4		
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids..	..	..	2	—		
	Defective Speech	..	..	—	2		
HEART AND CIRCULATION	Heart Disease—						
	Organic	..	..	—	4	—	1
	Functional	..	..	11	3	1	2
LUNGS	Anæmia	..	..	3	1	—	—
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis—						
	Definite	..	..	1	—	4	—
	Suspected	..	..	—	—	4	56
	Chronic Bronchitis	..	..	—	—		
NERVOUS SYSTEM	Other Disease	..	..	2	10		
	Epilepsy	..	..	1	—		
	Chorea	..	..	—	—		
	Other Disease	..	..	1	5		1
	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—						
	Glands	..	..	—	—	2	
	Bones and Joints	..	..	—	—		
	Other forms	..	..	—	—		
	Rickets	..	..	2	7		
	Deformities	..	..	1	5		
	Other Defects or Diseases	..	..	20	4	1	1

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1918.

CONDITION.	From previous years.	New.	Total.	No. of defects for which no report is available	No. of defects treated.	Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.	No. of defects not treated.	Under observation.	Under treatment.	
Cleanliness of Head -	-	56	56	-	-	56	-	-	-	-	-	
Body -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Adenoids -	20	66	86	-	-	66	-	-	-	17	-	
Enlarged Tonsils -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sore Throat -	-	18	18	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	
External Eye Disease -	2	54	56	-	56	54	-	-	-	2	3	
Ear Disease -	4	40	44	-	44	41	-	-	-	8	15	
Heart -	7	16	23	-	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	
Lungs -	15	14	29	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	
Nervous System—Chorea -	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	4	
Skin—Scabies -	-	42	42	-	42	38	-	-	-	-	21	
Ringworm -	42	23	65	-	65	44	-	-	-	-	-	
Impetigo -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tuberculosis—Non-Pulm. -	2	1	3	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	
Speech -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Mental Condition -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Fits -	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Vision -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Defective Hearing -	1	4	5	-	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	
Injuries -	-	42	42	-	42	42	-	-	-	2	-	
Septic Wounds -	-	151	151	-	151	151	-	-	-	-	-	
Burns and Scalds -	-	20	20	-	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	
Enlarged Glands of Neck -	2	16	18	-	18	16	-	-	-	-	2	
Eczema -	-	17	17	-	17	16	-	-	-	-	1	
Miscellaneous -	-	187	187	-	187	187	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	96	769	865	-	666	787	-	-	-	28	49	

(1 left school the other 2 operated upon & now well.)

TABLE III.—NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
IN THE AREA IN 1918.

			Boys	Girls	Total	
BLIND (including partially blind).		Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for the Blind .. Not at School	2	—	2	
DEAF AND DUMB (including partially deaf).		Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf .. Not at School	—	1	1	
MENTALLY DEFICIENT	Feeble- Minded.	Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year Not at School	3	—	3	
		1	—	1		
		Imbeciles	At School Not at School	—	—	—
			2	—	2	
	Idiots					
EPILEPTICS.		Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics .. Not at School	1	—	1	
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVES	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children Not at School	7	3	10	
		—	2	2		
		Other forms of Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children Not at School	2	—	2
	Cripples other than Tubercular		Attending Public Elementary Schools .. Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children Not at School	—	—	—
			1	—	1	
	DULL OR BACKWARD*		Retarded two years Retarded three years			

* Judged according to age and standard.

TABLE V. INSPECTION, TREATMENT & CARE OF CHILDREN
DURING 1918.

(1) The total number of children medically inspected (whether code group, special or ailing child.)	1063 (groups) 72 (specials) 963 (ailing)
	Total 2098
(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 treat- ment.)	223
(3) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	954
(4) The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	929