

**[Report 1949] / School Medical Officer of Health, Tynemouth County Borough.**

**Contributors**

Tynemouth (England). County Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1949

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bg65knvk>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

AC 44777

17/9.  
1276.

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL  
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,  
OXFORD



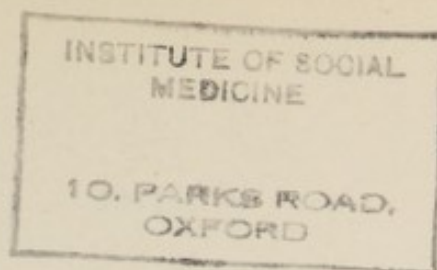
County Borough of Tynemouth

---

FORTY-FIRST  
ANNUAL REPORT  
on the  
Medical Inspection of School  
Children

1949






County Borough of Tynemouth

---

FORTY-FIRST  
ANNUAL REPORT  
on the  
Medical Inspection of School  
Children

1949

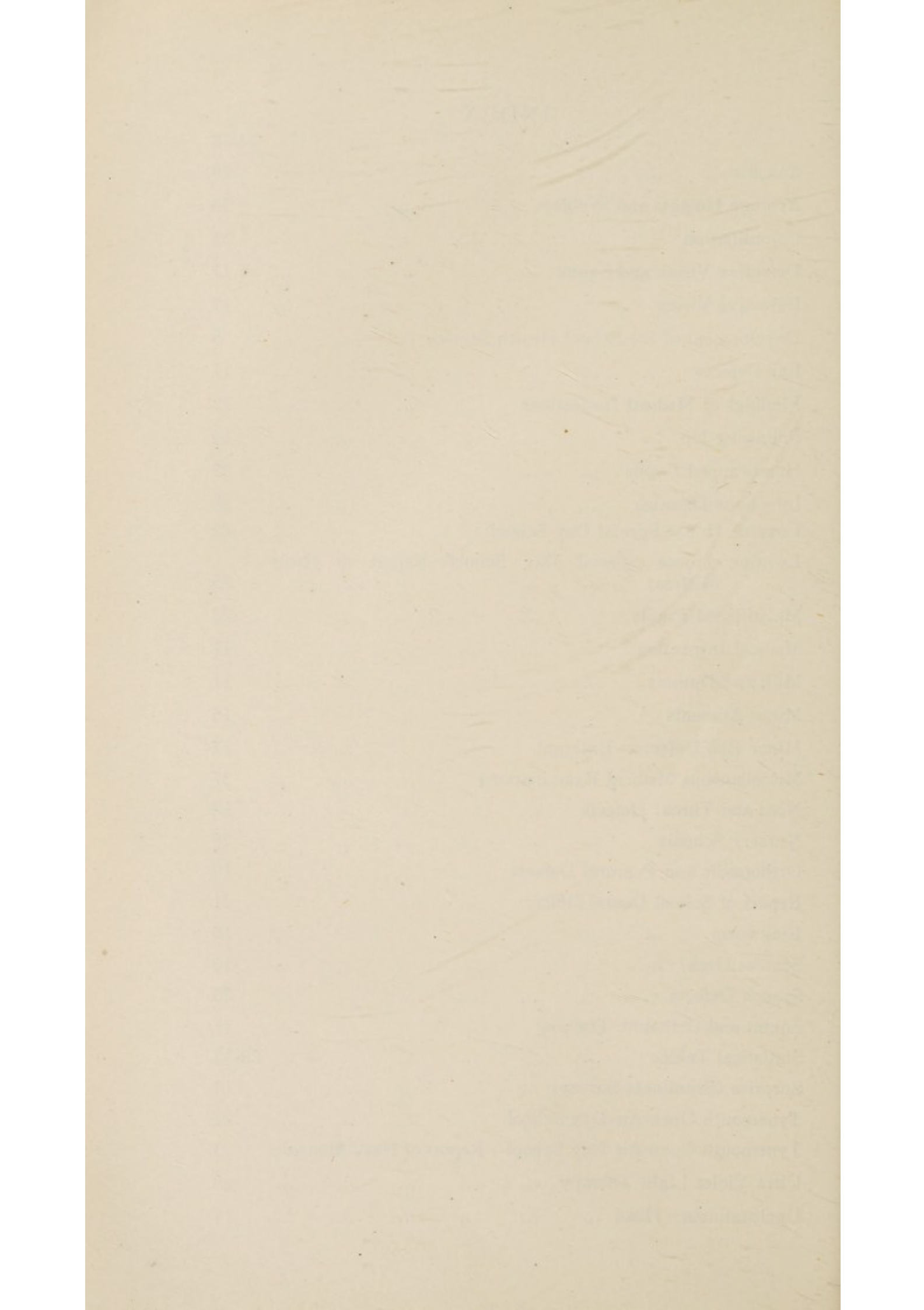


Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b3019930x>

# INDEX

|   | PAGE  |
|---|-------|
| Anæmia .. ...   | 19    |
| Average Heights and Weights ...                                 | 13    |
| Co-ordination ...   | 11    |
| Defective Vision and Squint ...                                 | 17    |
| Defective Vision ...  | 17    |
| Development of the School Health Service ...                    | 6     |
| Ear Defects ...   | 17    |
| Findings of Medical Inspections ...                             | 12    |
| Following Up ...  | 16    |
| Handicapped Pupils ...  | 22    |
| Infectious Diseases ...   | 20    |
| Lovaine House Special Day School ...                            | 22    |
| Lovaine House Special Day School—Report of Head<br>Mistress ... | 25    |
| Maladjusted Pupils ...  | 22    |
| Medical Inspections ...   | 11    |
| Milk and Dinners ...  | 11    |
| Minor Ailments ...  | 16    |
| Minor Eye Defects—External ...                                  | 17    |
| Miscellaneous Medical Examinations ..                           | 27    |
| Nose and Throat Defects ...                                     | 18    |
| Nursery Schools ...   | 26    |
| Orthopædic and Postural Defects ...                             | 19    |
| Report of School Dental Officer ...                             | 21    |
| Ringworm ...  | 16    |
| Scabies (Itch) ...  | 16    |
| Speech Defects ...  | 26    |
| Squint and Orthoptic Training ...                               | 17    |
| Statistical Tables ...  | 28-32 |
| Surprise Cleanliness Surveys ...                                | 14    |
| Tynemouth Open-Air Day School ...                               | 22    |
| Tynemouth Open-Air Day School—Report of Head Mistress           | 23    |
| Ultra Violet Light Therapy ...                                  | 20    |
| Uncleanliness—Head ...  | 14    |



SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,  
EDUCATION OFFICES,  
SOUTH PRESTON VILLA,  
NORTH SHIELDS.  
7TH JUNE 1950.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
COUNTY BOROUGH OF TYNEMOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Forty-first Annual Report on the work of the School Health Service for the year ending 31st December 1949.

This has been an historic year for the County Borough. On 6th August 1949, the Centenary of the granting of the Charter of Incorporation was celebrated. In view of this, an account of the growth of, and changes in, the School Health Service since its inception in 1908, has been set out at the beginning of this Annual Report.

It is with regret that I report that Dr. R. M. White severed his connection with the School Health Service on being transferred to a full-time appointment with the South East Northumberland Hospital Management Committee during the year. Our sincere thanks are due to Dr. White for the valuable work he has done in the School Health Service, particularly during the difficult war years when staffing problems were acute.

This gap in the Medical Staff has been partially offset by the appointment of a part-time School Medical Officer. Dr. Sheila L. Harrison commenced duty on a sessional basis of three half days a week on 31st October 1949, and at present these sessions are devoted to periodic medical inspections and re-inspections in the schools.

Certain delays which became evident when the National Health Service started in July 1948, continue, particularly with regard to the supply of glasses and operative treatment for tonsils and adenoids. There is no doubt that these delays often constitute a handicap to the children concerned, and it is hoped that conditions will be ameliorated in the near future. This problem is discussed at greater length in the body of the report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Surgeons and Staffs of the various hospitals who have so willingly given their services and co-operated with the School Health Service and I express the hope that, in the future, we shall continue to have similar co-operation.

R. H. DAWSON,  
*Medical Officer of Health and Chief School Medical Officer.*

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
TYNEMOUTH CORPORATION SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE  
SINCE 1908, BASED ON INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM  
THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORTS.**

---

The County Borough of Tynemouth School Health Service came into operation in 1908 in accordance with the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act 1907. To start with, the School Health Service was concerned only with medical inspection of school children and the recording of defects, but in later years it was realised that this in itself was not sufficient, and further legislation was introduced from time to time for the establishment of various Local Education Authority treatment schemes, at first on a repayment basis but eventually free.

In 1908 there were 9 council and 7 voluntary schools in the Borough, with an average of 10,080 pupils on the roll, and up to the end of the year 501 children (entrants and leavers) were medically inspected. Of this number, 122 or 24.3 per cent. had a verminous condition of the head and 61 or 12.1 per cent. had a verminous condition of the body. 78 per cent. of the children had one or more decayed teeth and 45 children had rickets. Obviously, even from the comparatively small numbers inspected, ample evidence was found of the need for some form of child health supervision.

The entire staff of the School Health Service at this time consisted of the School Medical Officer, assisted by a District Nurse, but in July 1909, the School Health Service was amalgamated with the Public Health Department, the Medical Officer of Health being made responsible for the organisation and supervision of the medical inspection of school children whilst the School Medical Officer was redesignated Assistant Medical Officer of Health to carry out the actual clinical work of the service. The Assistant Medical Officer of Health was assisted at the inspection of senior girls by a Nurse from the local Dorcas Society.

2,054 entrants and leavers were examined during this, the first full year of the School Health Service, and 16.2 per cent. of the children inspected were found to be in a verminous condition, while 89.8 per cent. had one or more unsound teeth. Percy Main Council, Percy St. John's, and King Edward Infant Schools were closed during a part of the year on account of measles epidemics, a common method of dealing with school epidemics at that time. From the very beginning, close liaison was maintained between the School Health Service and the Public Health Department in the control of infectious disease.

In 1910 the Assistant Medical Officer of Health was allocated two rooms in a building adjoining the Public Health Department, and was given clerical assistance. Much work was done during this year to improve the cleanliness of the schools by having a "cleansing register" in which the remarks of the School Visitors and the work

done by the caretakers were entered, and by issuing a "Memorandum on the Cleansing and Disinfection of Schools" to each caretaker. In November the Provision of Meals Act 1906, was adopted, and a free, hot mid-day meal was made available to necessitous children. The meals were prepared at the Wellington Street Soup Kitchen and sent in special containers to convenient feeding centres where they were served by voluntary workers. This service also operated during the school holidays.

In the following year, the Provision of Meals Sub-Committee was established with the Assistant Medical Officer of Health as a co-opted member, and children referred by parents, Head Teachers, School Attendance Officers, and the School Medical Officer as requiring this extra nourishment were dealt with. From December 1910 to March 1911, 731 children were provided with 18,091 meals at two-pence half-penny a meal, the total cost to the rates being £305 6s. 2d.

Charitable organisations such as the Invalid Children's Aid Association were helping at this time to provide free treatment such as cod liver oil, ointments and spectacles for certain children. The School Medical Officer reported in 1911 "The voluntary fund for the provision of spectacles to children of necessitous parents on terms suitable to their earnings has been instrumental in providing 28 children with glasses." In 1949, 374 children were provided with spectacles free of charge.

1912 saw some changes in the School Health Service and progress in providing treatment. A whole-time School Nurse was appointed and arrangements were made with the Board of Guardians to use facilities at the "Union" as a Cleansing Station under Section 122 of the Children's Act 1906.

Much good work by Voluntary Bodies was reported for this year. The Invalid Children's Aid Association arranged for 76 children to be tested for, and provided with, glasses. Assistance was given to make it possible for other children to have tonsils and adenoids operations carried out, surgical appliances provided and cod liver oil issued. In all, 136 children were helped in one way or another. The County Borough of Tynemouth Holiday Agency made arrangements for 43 ailing children to be sent to the country for periods of 7 to 14 days each during the summer months.

The School Medical Officer reported as follows on the state of the children's clothing "The proportion of badly clad children is much the same as in previous years. Quite a number of the boys discard their footgear during the summer months of their own free will. The overclad child with its seven or eight garments is still occasionally to be found. Still too often one finds the different articles of wearing apparel amongst the girls of all ages in the poorer districts held together by pins only, and the shirts of the younger boys sewn up at the neck, evidently having to serve for both day and night wear."

Mention was also made in this report of the proposed scheme for making provision in the new Department to be erected at the King Edward Centre, for the tuition of the extremely dull and backward children in small classes.

In 1913 the Medical Inspection Sub-Committee was appointed a standing Committee of the Education Committee, and, on the 1st August, the School Health Department moved to the Education Offices. Wider treatment schemes were now undertaken at the School Clinic and at the local hospitals, while the various voluntary organisations continued their good work. During this year also, for the first time, periodic medical inspection of 3 age-groups (entrants, 8-9 years old, and leavers) were undertaken, 3,823 being examined during the year.

Next year, due to further legislation, other changes became necessary. With the coming into force of the Mental Deficiency Act 1913, and the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act 1914, a Sub-Committee was appointed to deal with the further education of Mentally and Physically Defective Children. It was proposed to visit other institutions in the Country and report back to the Education Committee.

In accordance with the Education (Provision of Meals) Act 1914, a further scheme for the provision of meals to school children came into operation on the 21st September and a School Canteen Committee was appointed to supervise this work. The food was prepared at a Central Cooking Depot at the Soup Kitchen and Feeding Centres were established at St. Faith's Mission, Hudson Street, Salvation Army Hall, Prudhoe Street, Howdon Road Co-operative Store, Chirton Co-operative Store and at Cullercoats. 18,606 meals were provided up to 31st December 1914, on the five school days a week, including holidays. The cost of this service amounted to threepence a meal, the actual food costing twopence.

In 1915, due to war conditions, the schemes for the education of educationally retarded and physically handicapped children had to be suspended. Two of the schools in the Borough were requisitioned, taking 2,590 places out of a total of 11,198. Refraction work was started at the School Clinic this year, 27 cases being dealt with; and a part-time School Nurse/Attendance Officer was appointed in addition to the full-time School Nurse already on the staff. The duties of the part-time School Nurse involved visiting special absentees, assisting at the School Clinic, following up home cases and paying surprise visits to the schools in connection with cleanliness, etc.

The hot mid-day meal service ceased on 21st May, 1915, 12,126 meals having been provided during the year.

On the 15th July, 1918, a temporary tented Open-Air School was opened on the site obtained for the new Elementary School at Spring Gardens. It consisted of three large marquees, one small marquee and an old ship's cooking galley with a new stove installed.

The small marquee was used as a cloak and store room, the largest marquee as a dining room, and the remaining marquees as classrooms. 40 children aged 7—11 years, were on the roll when the school opened and 10 were admitted later. Food provided included breakfast, a mid-day meal and a glass of milk in the afternoon. The school remained open during the summer holidays and closed for the winter on the 31st October. The School Medical Officer reported enthusiastically on the beneficial effects of this form of special educational treatment on children with sub-normal health.

In the following year the school was in operation from 5th May to 28th October, and stayed open until 6 p.m. This necessitated providing the children with an additional tea meal. In this year also, free meals were provided to certain children at various feeding centres in the Borough in accordance with the Provision of Meals Acts already mentioned.

The Lovaine House Special School for educationally retarded children was opened in 1921. By this time, two full-time nurses and two clerks were engaged on School Health Service work.

1925 saw several changes in the School Health Service as the provisions of the Education Act 1918 were fully implemented. A permanent Open-Air School was opened on the 9th February, the School Health Service along with the rest of the Education Staff moved to their present offices at South Preston Villa, on 25th March, and a full-time School Dental Officer was appointed on 25th June. During the year, a third nurse and a part-time School Medical Officer were also appointed.

During the following year, a class for children with speech defects was instituted. This continued to function until 1947 when the Speech Therapist resigned and a successor could not be found.

In the School Medical Officer's report for 1934, we read of the start of the Milk-in-Schools scheme in November. Prior to this, 1,396 children in 35 departments were having milk or other mid-morning beverage. When the scheme started whereby one third of a pint of milk became available to each child for one halfpenny a day, this figure rose to 5,887, but fell to 4,310 by the end of December.

In May 1936, Orthoptic Training for Tynemouth school children was undertaken at the Newcastle upon Tyne Eye Infirmary. Two sessions a week were devoted to this work and 35 children were dealt with during the first year.

The immunisation of children against diphtheria was undertaken in conjunction with the Public Health Department in 1941. 4,503 school children were protected against diphtheria during the first year of this scheme, which has done much to decrease the incidence of diphtheria in the Borough.

In May 1943 dinners for payment were provided at Tynemouth High School, Ralph Gardner and Linskill Modern Secondary Schools. This service was extended to embrace all the schools in the area two years later, and in 1946 one third of a pint of milk a day was made available free of charge to every school child.

More recent changes in the School Health Service have become necessary due to the Education Act 1944, which came into operation on 1st April, 1945, and the National Health Service Act 1946. Under the Education Act, all treatment, including operative; the supply of orthopaedic appliances and glasses to school children became free of charge to parents, the Local Education Authority being responsible for the cost. Treatment at Child Guidance Centres had also to be made available to children who required this.

The National Health Service Act which became effective on 5th July, 1948, will have far reaching effects on the future of the School Health Service, as children can now have free treatment through two separate agencies. As we are still in a more or less transitional period at the moment, it is difficult to forecast the eventual result.

---

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

### Co-ordination.

Co-ordination with the other health services in the Borough continued on the same lines as in previous years. It is particularly important that close liaison be maintained with the Maternity and Child Welfare Service and the Day Nursery Schools to ensure continuity of medical supervision of children when they start school.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Service and the School Health Service also co-operate in the Borough's diphtheria immunisation scheme. The normal procedure of this scheme is to give the child two injections of Diphtheria Prophylactic Alum Precipitated Toxoid at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre when about one year old, and a "boosting" dose just before it starts school. It has been found that the pre-school visit of the Health Visitor is a good opportunity for bringing this matter to the notice of the parent.

Immunisation is also carried out at the School Clinic, 56 children receiving the full course of injections, 8 a first injection only and 52 a supplementary injection during the period under review.

### Milk and Dinners.

#### PROVISION OF MILK MEALS.

According to a one-day summary made in October 1949, with a school population of 8,606 (excluding Open-Air and Lovaine House Special Schools) the number of pupils taking milk was 7,468 or 86.77 per cent., and the number of pupils taking dinners was 3,426 or 39.8 per cent.

#### PROVISION OF FREE DINNERS.

585 school children remained on the free meals list at the beginning of the year, and, during the year, 102 were added and 17 discontinued, making a total at the end of December 1949 of 670 children receiving free dinners.

During the school period in December 1949, the average number of dinners supplied daily (including adults), free and for payment, at all schools was 3,853.

### Medical Inspections.

Periodic Medical inspection of school children in the various age groups stipulated by the Ministry of Education continued throughout the year. The thanks of the School Health Service are due to the Head Teachers of the various schools for their help and co-operation in connection with these inspections.

Statistical particulars of the inspections are set out in Table 1 on page 28.

The percentage of parents present at periodic medical inspections in the schools was 62.1, compared with 76.4 in 1937, 76.9 in 1938, and 66.2 in 1948. From these figures, it will be seen that there has been a distinct drop in the percentage of parents attending medical inspections during the post-war years. It is considered that the main reason for this is that probably more mothers are now going out to work than in the years before the war.

### **Findings of Medical Inspections.**

In Table 2 on page 29 will be found a classification of the defects found at the various periodic and special medical inspections. The former were carried out at the schools only, the latter at the schools and the school clinics. In this table is also recorded a classification of the general condition of children inspected in the three age groups.

The Table on page 13 shows the yearly variation in height and weight of boy and girl entrants since the first complete year of periodic medical inspections in 1909. It will be seen, generally speaking, that the average heights and weights have tended to increase consistently over the years. For example, the average weight of boy entrants in 1909 was 37.9 lbs. compared with 43.4 lbs. in 1949, an increase of no less than 5.5 lbs.

TABLE SHOWING THE AVERAGE HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS  
OF BOY AND GIRL ENTRANTS  
FOR THE YEARS 1909 TO 1949.

| YEAR  | BOY ENTRANTS    |                 | GIRL ENTRANTS   |                 |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|       | Average Heights | Average Weights | Average Heights | Average Weights |
|       | ft. ins.        | lbs.            | ft. ins.        | lbs.            |
| 1909  | 3 3.7           | 37.9            | 3 3.5           | 37.5            |
| 1910  | 3 4.5           | 38.6            | 3 4.0           | 37.6            |
| 1911  | 3 3.7           | 38.5            | 3 3.5           | 37.7            |
| 1912  | 3 4.5           | 39.1            | 3 4.0           | 37.6            |
| 1913  | 3 4.2           | 37.6            | 3 4.0           | 36.7            |
| 1914  | 3 4.2           | 39.1            | 3 4.2           | 37.9            |
| 1915  | 3 4.7           | 37.6            | 3 4.2           | 37.6            |
| *1916 | — —             | —               | — —             | —               |
| 1917  | 3 5.7           | 38.1            | 3 4.7           | 36.9            |
| 1918  | 3 4.7           | 39.1            | 3 4.0           | 38.5            |
| 1919  | 3 4.2           | 39.0            | 3 4.2           | 37.7            |
| 1920  | 3 5.0           | 39.0            | 3 4.5           | 37.5            |
| 1921  | 3 5.0           | 39.5            | 3 4.5           | 38.0            |
| 1922  | 3 5.0           | 39.2            | 3 4.7           | 38.0            |
| 1923  | 3 5.0           | 39.5            | 3 4.7           | 37.9            |
| 1924  | 3 5.0           | 39.3            | 3 4.7           | 38.1            |
| 1925  | 3 5.0           | 39.7            | 3 4.9           | 38.3            |
| 1926  | 3 5.4           | 40.3            | 3 5.3           | 38.9            |
| 1927  | 3 5.2           | 40.1            | 3 5.0           | 38.5            |
| 1928  | 3 5.3           | 40.2            | 3 5.1           | 38.7            |
| 1929  | 3 7.7           | 40.6            | 3 4.9           | 38.4            |
| 1930  | 3 5.3           | 40.4            | 3 5.1           | 38.2            |
| 1931  | 3 5.7           | 40.6            | 3 5.5           | 39.1            |
| 1932  | 3 5.6           | 40.6            | 3 5.3           | 38.7            |
| 1933  | 3 5.9           | 40.5            | 3 5.3           | 37.9            |
| 1934  | 3 5.8           | 40.5            | 5 5.5           | 38.7            |
| 1935  | 3 6.1           | 41.1            | 3 5.4           | 38.9            |
| 1936  | 3 6.2           | 41.1            | 3 6.1           | 39.3            |
| 1937  | 3 5.9           | 40.8            | 3 5.6           | 39.1            |
| 1938  | 3 6.3           | 41.3            | 3 5.8           | 39.8            |
| 1939  | 3 6.2           | 41.4            | 3 5.9           | 40.4            |
| 1940  | 3 6.2           | 41.4            | 3 6.5           | 39.7            |
| 1941  | 3 6.2           | 40.1            | 3 5.7           | 39.6            |
| 1942  | 3 6.2           | 40.8            | 3 6.2           | 39.8            |
| 1943  | 3 6.0           | 40.6            | 3 5.8           | 39.4            |
| 1944  | 3 6.5           | 42.8            | 3 6.5           | 42.7            |
| 1945  | 3 7.0           | 40.2            | 3 7.0           | 41.3            |
| 1946  | 3 6.7           | 41.8            | 3 6.5           | 40.5            |
| 1947  | 3 7.0           | 42.5            | 3 6.6           | 41.3            |
| 1948  | 3 6.9           | 42.9            | 3 6.5           | 41.2            |
| 1949  | 3 7.9           | 43.4            | 3 6.6           | 41.1            |

\*No record available.

### Uncleanliness—Head.

(i) GIRLS. Only one case (an intermediate girl) was recorded as being verminous during the year.

33 or 6.8 per cent. of entrants, 87 or 19.08 per cent. of intermediates and 46 or 8.69 per cent. of leavers were recorded as having nits only present in the hair. 100 or 59.88 per cent. of the total number in the three age groups having nits or vermin however, were graded as having a minor infestation only.

(ii) BOYS. Of the 1,603 boys examined in the three age groups, only 27 were recorded as having nits and of this number, 19 were graded as having a minor infestation.

### Surprise Cleanliness Surveys.

The results of the first and second cleanliness surveys carried out by the School Nurses in the various school departments are summarised in the table on page 15. Progress made in these inspections was reported at the meetings of the School Health Services Sub-Committee.

## SURPRISE CLEANLINESS SURVEYS

|                               | NUMBER<br>EXAM-<br>INED | CLEANLINESS OF: |             |        |        |       |       |        |                   |                     |       | CLOTHING |     | NOTICES<br>SERVED |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------------------|---------------------|-------|----------|-----|-------------------|
|                               |                         | HEAD            |             |        |        |       | BODY  |        |                   |                     |       |          |     |                   |
|                               |                         | Clean           | Few<br>Nits | Nits   | Vermin | Clean | Dirty | Vermin | Satis-<br>factory | Unsatis-<br>factory |       |          |     |                   |
|                               |                         |                 |             |        |        |       |       |        |                   |                     |       |          |     |                   |
| <u>FIRST ROUTINE SURVEY.</u>  |                         |                 |             |        |        |       |       |        |                   |                     |       |          |     |                   |
| BOYS                          | Infant Departments      | 1,074           | 1,042       | 23     | 5      | 4     | 1,067 | 7      | —                 | —                   | 1,065 | 9        | 43  |                   |
|                               | Other Departments       | 2,618           | 97.02%      | 2.14%  | 0.47%  | 0.37% | 2,603 | 15     | —                 | —                   | 2,615 | 3        | 51  |                   |
| GIRLS                         | Infant Departments      | 971             | 98.01%      | 1.60%  | 0.35%  | 0.04% | 969   | 2      | —                 | —                   | 970   | 1        | 139 |                   |
|                               | Other Departments       | 2,522           | 84.86%      | 12.25% | 2.68%  | 0.21% | 2,519 | 3      | —                 | —                   | 2,522 | —        | 349 |                   |
| <u>SECOND ROUTINE SURVEY.</u> |                         |                 |             |        |        |       |       |        |                   |                     |       |          |     |                   |
| BOYS                          | Infant Departments      | 987             | 968         | 16     | 3      | —     | 981   | 5      | 1                 | —                   | 987   | —        | 21  |                   |
|                               | Other Departments       | 2,057           | 98.08%      | 1.62%  | 0.30%  | —     | 2,044 | 13     | —                 | —                   | 2,038 | 19       | 42  |                   |
| GIRLS                         | Infant Departments      | 962             | 98.10%      | 1.65%  | 0.20%  | 0.05% | 956   | 6      | —                 | —                   | 961   | 1        | 76  |                   |
|                               | Other Departments       | 1,788           | 92.00%      | 6.55%  | 1.35%  | 0.10% | 1,784 | 4      | —                 | —                   | 1,780 | 8        | 195 |                   |

225 re-examinations were made.

Grouping the two surveys of the girls, it will be seen that 0.1 per cent. were actually verminous, while 13.5 per cent. still continued to have some infestation of nits.

### Following Up.

During the year the School Nurses followed up 1,938 cases who were under observation or having treatment. This surveillance involved 1,028 home visits and 1,665 examinations at the schools. Last year 1,926 children were followed up; 1,093 home visits and 1,811 school visits being made.

### Minor Ailments.

Minor Ailment Clinics continued to be held at the School Clinic, Education Offices, South Preston Villa, The Chase, North Shields. One School Nurse in turn was always on duty during office hours for the treatment of children with minor injuries, sores, and minor skin conditions, etc., referred from the schools or by the School Medical Officer. 928 cases attended the Clinic, making a total of 7,135 attendances. This compares with 1,143 cases and 8,042 attendances during 1948.

General Clinics were held bi-weekly by the School Medical Officer at the same address, as well as refraction clinics, clinics for special cases, etc.

### Scabies (Itch).

Only 8 children were recorded as having received treatment for scabies during the period under review and all but 1 were treated under the Local Education Authority's scheme. During the past eight years there has been a marked decrease in the number of children requiring treatment at the School Clinic as the following comparative table shows.

| <u>Year.</u> | <i>Number of cases<br/>of Scabies treated<br/>at the School Clinic.</i> |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1942         | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 572 |
| 1943         | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 489 |
| 1944         | ..  | ... | ... | ... | 353 |
| 1945         | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 227 |
| 1946         | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 136 |
| 1947         | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 91  |
| 1948         | ...   | ..  | ... | ... | 47  |
| 1949         | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 7   |

### Ringworm.

During the year 5 children were reported as having ringworm of the scalp. 2 of these cases required X-ray treatment at the General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne. 10 cases of ringworm of the body were treated at the School Clinic.

### **Minor Eye Defects—External.**

Treatment was reported as having been provided for 135 cases of minor eye defects; 124 through the agency of the School Clinic, 4 at the Newcastle upon Tyne Eye Infirmary and 7 elsewhere. As reported last year, conjunctivitis (49 cases), styes (36 cases) and blepharitis (38 cases) still continue to be the commonest conditions treated.

### **Defective Vision and Squint.**

7 children were referred to the Newcastle upon Tyne Eye Hospital for further advice or treatment.

### **Defective Vision.**

508 children suspected to have defective vision were tested for spectacles; 430 through the School Health Service and 78 elsewhere. Spectacles were prescribed in 375 cases attending the School Eye Clinic and 78 by opticians or privately. During the year glasses were supplied to only 240 of these 453 cases. 134 children who had their eyes tested in 1948 but were still waiting for their spectacles at the end of that year, finally received them in 1949, some having to wait anything up to one year.

This considerable delay in the supply of spectacles to children consequent upon the initial rush on the Supplementary Ophthalmic Services is regrettable, particularly in cases with the more pronounced errors of refraction or with a squint, where doing without glasses for comparatively long periods often constitutes a substantial handicap in their school work.

### **Squint and Orthoptic Training.**

Children requiring special treatment for squint have continued to be referred to the Newcastle upon Tyne Eye Hospital. Progress reports on all our cases attending for regular treatment were received from time to time, and I have to thank the staff of the Hospital for the interest they have taken in our children and for the help and co-operation they have given us at all times. There were 74 children attending the Orthoptic Department during the year. 22 attended for regular treatment; 25 for occlusion; 13 for observation before treatment and 14 attended monthly.

15 children were discharged for the followings reasons:—

5 cured; 6 cosmetic end result only; 3 improved but not up to orthoptically cured standard; 1 left to have private treatment.

During the year 11 operations were performed.

### **Ear Defects.**

Most of the children attending the School Clinic for treatment of ear defects, suffered from chronic suppurative otitis media. This condition accounted for 123 of the 190 cases dealt with during the year.

1 mastoid case was operated on at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne.

### Nose and Throat Defects.

During the period under review, 50 children had a tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy operation performed. 28 cases had treatment at the Newcastle upon Tyne Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, 9 at the Tynemouth Victoria Jubilee Infirmary and 13 out with the Authority's treatment scheme.

The interim arrangement with the Newcastle upon Tyne Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, whereby 4 children were referred weekly to the out-patient department for specialist treatment and inclusion on the waiting list for operation if considered necessary, came to an end in November with the establishment of the out-patient department of a proposed Ear, Nose and Throat Unit at Preston Hospital. All Tynemouth children at present on the Newcastle upon Tyne Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital waiting list for operation, will have their names transferred to the Preston Hospital waiting list when the Unit is opened in 1950. Cases are still referred to the Tynemouth Victoria Jubilee Infirmary, as reported last year, for specialist advice and operative treatment.

Since the National Health Service came into being in 1948, the average length of time a child's name is on the waiting list for tonsils and adenoids operation has increased considerably, as has the number of names on the list. In December 1949, 140 children were still waiting for this form of treatment and it is to be hoped that these arrears will soon be made up when the Preston Hospital Unit is opened.

The following table shows the number of children, attending maintained schools, who have had operative treatment for tonsils and adenoids in each of the past ten years. It will be seen that the number of cases who had treatment this year is almost as low as those reported for the early years of the 1939-45 war, when, due to difficulty in obtaining hospital accommodation for this type of case, operative treatment was almost at a standstill.

| <u>Year.</u> | <i>Number of cases<br/>operated on for<br/>tonsils and adenoids.</i> |     |     |     |
|--------------|--|-----|-----|-----|
| 1940         | ...  | ... | ... | 68  |
| 1941         | ...  | ... | ... | 38  |
| 1942         | ...  | ... | ... | 28  |
| 1943         | ...  | ... | ... | 58  |
| 1944         | ...  | ... | ... | 175 |
| 1945         | ...  | ... | ... | 227 |
| 1946         | ...  | ... | ... | 281 |
| 1947         | ...  | ... | ... | 250 |
| 1948         | ..   | ... | ... | 186 |
| 1949         | ...  | ... | ... | 50  |

One case had a turbinectomy performed at the Tynemouth Victoria Jubilee Infirmary.

Non-operative treatment was provided for 106 throat and nose cases; 83 at the School Clinic and 23 privately.

### **Anæmia.**

Of the 51 cases of anæmia reported during the year, all but 2 were treated at the School Clinic.

### **Orthopædic and Postural Defects.**

Of the 53 children recorded as having orthopædic and postural defects, 8 were treated as in-patients and 45 as out-patients.

The in-patients were treated for the following defects:—

| <u>Defects.</u>   | <u>No. of Cases.</u> |
|---|----------------------|
| Bone or Joint Tuberculosis ... ..                                 | 3                    |
| Perthe's Disease ... ..   | 1                    |
| Spastic Diplegia and Congenital Dislocation<br>of the Hips ... .. | 1                    |
| Osteo-myelitis of Femur... ..                                     | 1                    |
| Talipes Equino-Varus ... ..                                       | 2                    |

The 45 children who received out-patient treatment suffered from the following defects:—

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Fractures ... ..                           | 13 |
| Displacement of Knee Cartilage ... ..      | 1  |
| Metatarsalgia ... ..                       | 1  |
| Dyschondroplasia ... ..                    | 1  |
| Hemiplegia ... ..                          | 1  |
| Bilateral Talipes Equino-Varus ... ..      | 2  |
| Anterior Poliomyelitis (old cases) ... ..  | 5  |
| Tuberculous Spine ... ..                   | 3  |
| Tuberculous Hip ... ..                     | 1  |
| Osteitis Femur (old case) ... ..           | 1  |
| Arthritis Knee ... ..                      | 1  |
| Scoliosis ... ..                           | 1  |
| Coxa Vara ... ..                           | 1  |
| Genu Valgum ... ..                         | 2  |
| Pes Planus ... ..                          | 9  |
| Miscellaneous Orthopædic Conditions ... .. | 2  |

### Ultra Violet Light Therapy.

During the year artificial sunlight treatment was given to 81 school children in the sun-ray clinic at the Health Department. This clinic is run in conjunction with the Tynemouth Chest Clinic and the children are under the supervision of the Medical Staff attached to the clinic. The children attend twice weekly, and during the year 62 were pronounced much improved while 2 remained stationary, 7 ceased attending for various reasons and 10 had treatment for a period longer than a year.

### Infectious Diseases.

An extract from the Head Teachers' Weekly returns of children absent from school on account of Infectious and Other Diseases for the past ten years is as follows:—

| DISEASE               | YEAR |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                       | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..  | 16   | 12   | 51   | 64   | 124  | 77   | 48   | 18   | 47   | 27   |
| Diphtheria ... ..     | 59   | 87   | 119  | 45   | 69   | 47   | 32   | 5    | 1    | 2    |
| Measles ... ..        | 668  | 113  | 384  | 196  | 456  | 151  | 401  | 80   | 317  | 245  |
| German Measles ... .. | 105  | 4    | 9    | 31   | 621  | 17   | 50   | 15   | 12   | 107  |
| Whooping Cough ... .. | 7    | 75   | 174  | 78   | 203  | 85   | 136  | 78   | 105  | 70   |
| Chicken Pox ... ..    | 184  | 210  | 127  | 470  | 289  | 251  | 174  | 353  | 279  | 123  |
| Mumps ... ..          | 26   | 314  | 474  | 75   | 141  | 503  | 20   | 192  | 490  | 25   |
| Ringworm ... ..       | 7    | 11   | 5    | 6    | 7    | 4    | 2    | 5    | 6    | 10   |
| Impetigo ... ..       | 73   | 103  | 69   | 64   | 81   | 83   | 57   | 35   | 28   | 40   |
| Scabies ... ..        | 309  | 667  | 407  | 236  | 171  | 118  | 46   | 45   | 17   | 5    |
| Verminous Conditions  | 8    | 4    | 19   | 11   | 16   | 17   | 12   | 8    | 18   | 15   |

The figures for scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough, chicken-pox and mumps are all down on those recorded for 1948. This is a very satisfactory state of affairs.

There has been an increase in the number of cases of German measles and a slight increase in the incidence of impetigo.

*Note.*—The two cases reported by Head Teachers as suffering from diphtheria during the year subsequently turned out to be negative after admission to hospital; so that, in fact, no cases of diphtheria actually occurred among children of school age during 1949.

I have pleasure in submitting the Twenty-fifth Report on School Dental Inspection and Treatment.

## REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1949.

"I have pleasure in submitting my Twelfth Annual Report on the School Dental Inspections and Treatment for the year ending 31st December, 1949, this being the Twenty-fifth Annual Report.

Statistics relating to the inspections and treatment undertaken during the year can be found elsewhere in this Report, and the following is a brief outline of the work completed at the School Dental Clinic and elsewhere.

The routine dental inspection of the Primary Schools continued as in former years and of the 3,312 children examined only 1,705 required treatment, this figure showing a distinct improvement in the general condition of the teeth of the school children in the Borough.

The number of "special" or emergency cases again showed a considerable increase and was responsible for a delay in dealing with the routine cases requiring treatment. The rate of acceptance of treatment was the highest yet reached, being 90.0 per cent.

The usual weekly session at Preston Hospital was continued each Monday afternoon and a total of 355 operations were performed under general anæsthetics. Thanks are again due to the Medical Superintendent and the Staff of the Hospital for their valued co-operation and unfailing courtesy at these sessions.

A short session was also held each Monday at the Public Health Department where 74 expectant and nursing mothers and 107 pre-school children were examined. Of this number, 85 children received treatment and this service was much appreciated by parents who, in most cases, were unable to obtain private treatment.

The number of attendances by pupils from the Tynemouth High (Grammar) School was 230 and the work completed for them included 102 extractions, 163 fillings and 43 other operations.

The annual inspection of the Open-Air Day School and Lovaine House Special Day School was made in December, and 120 children were examined. Of this number, 57 required treatment and during the year 49 were treated at the Clinic.

Other forms of dental treatment not specified in the statistics included 125 scaling and cleaning operations, 990 dressings for various purposes and many cases requiring gum treatment and the correction of misplaced teeth.

Further work has been done during the year by Dr. G. N. Jenkins of King's College, Newcastle, who continues to conduct scientific investigations into the cause of the excessive dental decay in this area. As an extension of this work, certain schools were visited by members of his staff and specimens of saliva were collected for examination. The co-operation of the Head Teachers and Teachers on these 5 occasions was much appreciated by the visitors. No definite information can yet be published on the results of the many experiments which have been done but at present the condition of the teeth of the children of North Shields and those of West Hartlepool are being compared.

In conclusion my sincere thanks are again due to the School Medical Staff, the Head Teachers and their Staffs, the Staffs of Preston Hospital and the Public Health Department and to Miss H. Gray, the School Dental Attendant, for their loyal co-operation and valued assistance rendered throughout the year.

(Signed) RICHARD W. ESSENHIGH.  
*School Dental Officer."*

### Handicapped Pupils.

The number of children in the following categories of "Handicapped Pupils" were receiving their education in special schools at the end of the year 1949.

|                                 |     |     |     |   |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Blind Pupils                    | ... | ... | ... | 1 in a residential school.  |
| Partially Sighted Pupils        | ... | ... | ... | 2 in a residential school.  |
| Deaf Pupils                     | ... | ... | ... | 5 in a residential school.  |
| Delicate Pupils                 | ... | ... | ... | 74 in the Tynemouth Open-Air Day School.  |
| Educationally Sub-normal Pupils | ... | ... | ... | 47 in the Lovaine House Special Day School and 3 in residential schools.                        |
| Physically Handicapped Pupils   | ... | ... | ... | 14 in the Tynemouth Open-Air Day School, 4 in residential schools and 1 in a sanatorium school. |
| Maladjusted Pupils              | ... | ... | ... | 3 in the Tynemouth Open-Air Day School.   |

### Maladjusted Pupils.

Arrangements for referring cases for advice or treatment by the Child Guidance Clinic team of Psychiatrist, Educational Psychologist and Psychiatric Social Worker continued as in past years. 6 children were treated there during 1949 and discharged for the following reasons:—

1 ceased to attend at parent's request; 1 left school; 1 discharged for observation by the Probation Officer and School Medical Officer; 2 discharged for observation by the School Medical Officer; 1 discharged as improved and admitted to the Tynemouth Open-Air Day School under observation by the School Medical Officer.

### Tynemouth Open-Air Day School and Lovaine House Special Day School.

Medical arrangements in both of the Borough's Special Schools continued on the same general lines as indicated in the last Annual report.

Regular visits were paid to the Open-Air School by the School Medical Officer and the School Nurse. 211 re-examinations were carried out to check on the children's progress, and to determine when they were fit to return to an ordinary school. The progress made by children in this school continued on the whole to be satisfactory.

Of 15 children referred for examination with a view to admission to the Lovaine House Special School, 14 were actually recommended for admission by the School Medical Officers. It was considered that the remaining case should continue at a Modern Secondary Boys' School. 37 periodic medical inspections were carried out and 21 children re-examined mentally by the School Medical Officers during the year. 15 children were reported by the Local Education Authority to the Local Health Authority—4 in accordance with Section 57 (5) and 11 in accordance with Section 57 (3) of the 1944 Education Act.

Towards the end of the year, the Education Committee approved the appointment of an additional teacher, to take place in 1950. This should do much to relieve the pressure on the present staff, as there are several young, rather difficult children in the school at the moment, on trial in accordance with the Ministry of Education Circular No 71 (addendum).

I have pleasure in submitting the Reports of the Head Mistress, Miss M. A. Peacock, giving details of the work of the two Special Schools.

### TYNEMOUTH OPEN AIR DAY SCHOOL

#### Report for 1949.

"After admitting 3 children on the first school morning of 1949 we had 98 children, 49 girls and 49 boys, on the roll. Throughout the year 46 children, 21 boys and 25 girls, were admitted, and 29 boys and 27 girls, making a total of 56 were discharged. The average number on the roll for the year was 92 and the average attendance 76 or 82.6 per cent.

The ailments of the children admitted during the year may be classified as follows:—

Admitted by the School Medical Officer:—

|                                   |     |     |     |    |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Anæmia and/or Debility            | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Bronchitis                        | ... | ... | ... | 6  |
| Asthma                            | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| Heart Disease                     | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Acute Rheumatism                  | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Perthe's Disease                  | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Arthritis (Knee)                  | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Effects of Spastic Diplegia       | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Epilepsy                          | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Dyschondroplasia                  | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Ectopic Bladder, Epispadias       | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Tuberculosis of Spine (quiescent) | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Psychological Maladjustment       | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Total                             |     |     |     | 35 |

## Admitted by the Tuberculosis Officer:—

|                              |     |     |     |    |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Primary Tuberculosis         | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Tuberculosis Contacts        | ... | ... | ... | 5  |
| Tuberculosis of Lumbar Spine | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Tuberculous Hilar Glands     | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Tuberculosis of Right Hip    | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Debility                     | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Total                        |     |     |     | 11 |

The children who were discharged by the School Medical Officer during the year may be divided into the following groups:—

## Transferred to Primary or Secondary Modern

|  |     |       |    |
|--|-----|-------|----|
| Schools as fit after medical examination | ... | ...   | 34 |
| Transferred to Special School            | ... | ...   | 2  |
| Left at the age of 15 years              | ... | ...   | 1  |
| Left the district                        | ... | ...   | 4  |
| Discharged at parent's request           | ..  | ...   | 3  |
| Unfit to attend any school               | ... | ...   | 1  |
|  |     | Total | 45 |

## Discharged by the Tuberculosis Officer:—

## Transferred to Primary or Secondary Modern

|  |     |       |    |
|--|-----|-------|----|
| Schools as fit after medical examination | ... | ...   | 9  |
| Transferred to Special School            | ... | ...   | 1  |
| Left at the age of 15 years              | ... | ...   | 1  |
|  |     | Total | 11 |

There were no changes in the staffing or routine arrangements of the school. Breakfast, consisting of porridge and milk, cocoa, bread and butter or bread and jam was prepared on the school premises as usual, and satisfactory mid-day meals were supplied from the Linskill Kitchen. Under the Milk-in-Schools Scheme two-thirds of a pint of milk was provided daily for each child.

Monthly medical examinations were carried out in school by the School Medical Officer, thus ensuring that every child was medically examined once in three months. The Tuberculosis Officer visited the school at intervals to examine the children put in by him, and a School Nurse paid two or three visits to the school each week. Minor ailments were dealt with at the School Clinic.

During the summer holidays the inside of the school was painted in cream and two shades of green, and all of us have appreciated the brighter colouring. Re-diffusion was installed at the beginning of the autumn term and has been of great benefit to all the classes.

In concluding this report, I express my appreciation of the assistance and advice I have had from the School Medical Staff and the Dental Officer, and of the very willing help and co-operation I have had from all connected with the school.

(Signed) MARGARET A. PEACOCK.

*Head Teacher."*

## LOVAINE HOUSE SPECIAL DAY SCHOOL.

### Report for 1949.

"The past year has been rather a difficult one because we had more young children and a greater age range of both sexes. With only two teachers for all, many difficulties arose. Fortunately, the staff is to be augmented at the beginning of 1950, and the additional teacher for the young children should contribute very much to the smooth working of the school.

We began the year with 43 children, 24 boys and 19 girls on the roll. During the year, 14 children, 8 boys and 6 girls were admitted, and 12 children, 10 boys and 2 girls were discharged. The average number on the roll for the year was 45 and the average attendance 40 or 88.8 per cent.

The children discharged during the year may be classified as follows:—

|   |        |    |
|---|--------|----|
| Left at the age of 16 years (3 boys, 1 girl)            | ..     | 4  |
| Unable to benefit by further education (5 boys, 1 girl) |        | 6  |
| Transferred to Secondary Modern School (1 boy)          |        | 1  |
| Disorderly behaviour (1 boy)                            | ... .. | 1  |
| Total   |        | 12 |

The children on the roll on the last school day of the year may be divided into the following grades:—

| Intelligence Quotients           | 80 to 70 |       | 69 to 60 |       | 59 to 50 |       | Below 50 |       | Unable to Assess |       |
|----------------------------------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Number of Children in each grade | Boys     | Girls | Boys     | Girls | Boys     | Girls | Boys     | Girls | Boys             | Girls |
|                                  | 5        | 6     | 10       | 7     | 6        | 7     | 2        | 1     | 2                | 1     |
|                                  | 11       |       | 17       |       | 13       |       | 3        |       | 3                |       |

There were no changes in the general routine. Under the Milk-in-Schools Scheme a third of a pint of milk was provided daily for each child. The mid-day meal was supplied from the Linskill Kitchen. At the wish of their parents a few of the older children went home for this meal.

Minor ailments were dealt with daily at the School Clinic, and bathing of certain children was carried out at the Open-Air School as usual.

Re-diffusion was installed at the beginning of the autumn term, and the children have enjoyed the news commentaries and several of the lessons given in the Broadcasts to Schools.

In conclusion, I would thank all who are connected with the work of the school in any way for their loyal co-operation and valuable assistance throughout the year.

(Signed) MARGARET A. PEACOCK,  
*Head Teacher.*"

### **Speech Defects.**

Despite repeated advertisements by the Local Education Authority, efforts to fill the vacant post of Speech Therapist have been unsuccessful. One of the Authority's teachers has agreed to take the 3 year speech therapy course in London so that this staffing problem should be overcome in time.

4 cases referred to the Speech Therapist at the Hospital for Sick Children, Newcastle upon Tyne, received treatment.

### **NURSERY SCHOOLS.**

#### **The Sir James Knott Nursery School, Tynemouth, and The Howdon Road Nursery School, North Shields.**

During the year the Honorary Medical Officer paid six visits to the Sir James Knott Nursery School and four visits to the Howdon Road Nursery School. The Health Visitors for the areas in which the Schools are situated paid frequent visits, weekly if possible, and their advice was freely available at any other time. In addition, regular meal times and a daily rest period contributed greatly to the well-being of the children in the Nurseries.

I am indebted to Mr. David Robinson, Honorary Secretary, Tynemouth Nursery Schools Committee, for the following notes on the development of Nursery School facilities in this area.

"The North Shields Nursery School in Howdon Road, largely built by voluntary labour and with the aid of a grant from the 'Save the Children Fund', was opened on 19th February, 1934, and was soon filled to its maximum capacity enabling 40 children between the ages of 2 and 5 years to benefit from the regular routine and training provided.

Such was the need for additional accommodation that plans were soon in hand for extending the school to complete the original plans to have a Nursery for 80 children within the Housing Scheme of the Square Building Trust Ltd. The extension was officially opened on 12th June 1936.

There has always been a long waiting list and the Nursery has continued to meet an urgent need. Operations had to be interrupted during the war when the buildings were converted into a Naval Hospital.

The Sir James Knott Memorial Nursery School, Percy Square, Tynemouth, opened in September 1937, provides accommodation for another 80 children under ideal conditions. Built and maintained by the Trustees of the late Sir James Knott, Bart., this Nursery was also closed during the war years.

Both nursery schools are recognised by the Ministry of Education and substantial grants are received from the Local Education Authority towards the running costs. However the nurseries are both "voluntary" and there is a financial deficit each year which, as costs rise, give cause for concern to the Managing Committee.

The two nurseries provide 160 young children with the opportunities of a balanced development but there is a long waiting list of other young people in similar need and the provision of more nurseries is urgent."

#### **Miscellaneous Medical Examinations.**

114 children referred by the School Attendance Department were medically examined in accordance with the Children and Young Persons Act 1936, and employment certificates granted in 112 cases. In addition, 36 miscellaneous medical examinations were carried out by the School Medical Officer during the year.

---

# STATISTICAL TABLES.

Statistical tables required by the Ministry of Education follow.

## MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS

Year ended 31st December, 1949.

**TABLE I.**

Medical inspection of Pupils attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools (including Special Schools).

### A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :

|                                      |     |     |     |     |             |       |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-------|
| Entrants                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...         | 969   |
| Second Age Group                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...         | 990   |
| Third Age Group                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...         | 1,114 |
|                                      |     |     |     |     | Total       | 3,073 |
| Number of other Periodic Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...         | —     |
|                                      |     |     |     |     | GRAND TOTAL | 3,073 |

### B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

|                               |     |     |     |       |       |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| Number of Special Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 919   |
| Number of Re-Inspections      | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 3,882 |
|                               |     |     |     | Total | 4,801 |

### C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

| Group.                     | For defective vision (excluding squint). | For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA. | Total <i>individual</i> pupils. |
|----------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Entrants ... ..            | 1  | 187  | 188                             |
| Second Age Group ...       | 135                                      | 159  | 274                             |
| Third Age Group ... ..     | 175                                      | 148  | 305                             |
| Total (prescribed groups)  | 311                                      | 494  | 767                             |
| Other Periodic Inspections | —  | —  | —                               |
| Grand Total ... ..         | 311                                      | 494  | 767                             |

TABLE II.

## A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

| Defect Code No. | Defect or Disease      | PERIODIC INSPECTIONS |   | SPECIAL INSPECTIONS |   |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------|---|
|                 |                        | No. of defects       |   | No. of defects      |   |
|                 |                        | Requiring Treatment  | Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment | Requiring treatment | Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment |
| 4               | Skin ...               | 50                   | 5   | 93                  | 1   |
| 5               | Eyes—                  |                      |   |                     |   |
|                 | a. Vision ...          | 311                  | 4   | 92                  | 2   |
|                 | b. Squint ...          | 125                  | 5   | 30                  | 1   |
|                 | c. Other ...           | 21                   | 5   | 34                  | 1   |
| 6               | Ears—                  |                      |   |                     |   |
|                 | a. Hearing ...         | —                    | 5   | 3                   | 5   |
|                 | b. Otitis Media ...    | 51                   | —   | 78                  | —   |
|                 | c. Other ...           | 6                    | 5   | 56                  | —   |
| 7               | Nose or Throat ...     | 77                   | 64  | 149                 | 34  |
| 8               | Speech ...             | 2                    | 16  | 4                   | 6   |
| 9               | Cervical Glands ...    | 6                    | 6   | 12                  | —   |
| 10              | Heart & Circulat'n ... | 33                   | 29  | 16                  | 2   |
| 11              | Lungs ...              | 37                   | 20  | 63                  | 4   |
| 12              | Developmental—         |                      |   |                     |   |
|                 | a. Hernia ...          | 4                    | 6   | —                   | —   |
|                 | b. Other ...           | 9                    | 13  | 3                   | —   |
| 13              | Orthopaedic—           |                      |   |                     |   |
|                 | a. Posture ...         | 1                    | 3   | 1                   | —   |
|                 | b. Flat foot ...       | 9                    | —   | 3                   | 1   |
|                 | c. Other ...           | 21                   | 19  | 8                   | —   |
| 14              | Nervous System—        |                      |   |                     |   |
|                 | a. Epilepsy ...        | 1                    | —   | 2                   | —   |
|                 | b. Other ...           | 7                    | 3   | 23                  | 1   |
| 15              | Psychological—         |                      |   |                     |   |
|                 | a. Development ...     | 38                   | 1   | 16                  | 1   |
|                 | b. Stability ...       | —                    | 1   | 4                   | 1   |
| 16              | Other ...              | 43                   | 17  | 174                 | 13  |

## B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS.

| Age Groups                     | Number of Pupils Inspected | A.<br>(Good) |             | B.<br>(Fair) |             | C.<br>(Poor) |             |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                |                            | No.          | % of col. 2 | No.          | % of col. 2 | No.          | % of col. 2 |
| (1)                            | (2)                        | (3)          | (4)         | (5)          | (6)         | (7)          | (8)         |
| Entrants ...                   | 969                        | 360          | 37.2        | 604          | 62.3        | 5            | 0.5         |
| Second Age Group ...           | 990                        | 311          | 31.4        | 676          | 68.3        | 3            | 0.3         |
| Third Age Group ...            | 1,114                      | 487          | 43.7        | 600          | 53.9        | 27           | 2.4         |
| Other Periodic Inspections ... | —                          | —            | —           | —            | —           | —            | —           |
| Total ...                      | 3,073                      | 1,158        | 37.7        | 1,880        | 61.2        | 35           | 1.1         |

TABLE III.

## Infestation with Vermin.

|       |  |        |
|-------|--|--------|
| (i)   | Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorized persons ... ..                    | 13,204 |
| (ii)  | Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested ... ..   | 920    |
| (iii) | Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944) ... | 881    |
| (iv)  | Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944) ...  | —      |

TABLE IV.

## TREATMENT TABLES.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table III).

| (a)  | Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year |
|--|---|
| SKIN—  |   |
| Ringworm—Scalp—  |   |
| (i) X-Ray treatment. If none, indicate by dash ...   | 2   |
| (ii) Other treatment .. .. .   | 3   |
| Ringworm—Body ... .. .   | 10  |
| Scabies ... .. .   | 8   |
| Impetigo ... .. .  | 35  |
| Other skin diseases ... .. .   | 217   |
| Eye Disease ... .. .   | 135   |
| (External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to hospital)  |   |
| Ear Defects ... .. .   | 214   |
| (Treatment for serious diseases of the ear ( <i>e.g.</i> operative treatment in hospital) is not recorded here but in the body of the School Medical Officer's Annual Report). |   |
| Miscellaneous ... .. .   | 498   |
| ( <i>e.g.</i> minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)  |   |
| Total ... .. .   | 1,122   |

|     |  |       |
|-----|--|-------|
| (b) | Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinics ... .. . | 7,135 |
|-----|--|-------|

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

|  | No. of defects<br>dealt with |
|--|------------------------------|
| Errors of refraction (including squint). (Operations for squint should be recorded separately in the body of the School Medical Officer's Report) ... .. | 508                          |
| Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) .. ... ..  | 102                          |
| Total ... ..   | <u>610</u>                   |

No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| (a) Prescribed ... .. | 453 |
| (b) Obtained ... ..   | 240 |

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

|   | Total number<br>treated |
|---|-------------------------|
| Received operative treatment—                   |                         |
| (a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis ... .. | 50                      |
| (b) for other nose and throat conditions ... .. | 1                       |
| Received other forms of treatment ... ..        | 106                     |
| Total ... ..                                    | <u>157</u>              |

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| (a) No. treated as in-patients in hospitals or hospital schools ... ..             | 8  |
| (b) No. treated otherwise <i>e.g.</i> in clinics or out-patient departments ... .. | 45 |

GROUP V.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT AND SPEECH THERAPY.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| No. of pupils treated (a) under Child Guidance arrangements ... .. | 6 |
| (b) under Speech Therapy arrangements ... ..                       | 4 |

TABLE V.

## Dental Inspection and Treatment.

|  |  |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|--|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| (1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers— |  |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| (a)  | Periodic age groups                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,312 |
| (b)  | Specials   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,500 |
| (c)  | TOTAL (Periodic and Specials)                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,812 |
| <hr/>  |  |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| (2)  | Number found to require treatment                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,771 |
| (3)  | Number actually treated                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,431 |
| (4)  | Attendances made by pupils for treatment             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,832 |
| <hr/>  |  |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| (5)  | Half-days devoted to: (a) Inspection                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20    |
|  | (b) Treatment  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 458   |
| <hr/>  |  |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Total (a) and (b)  |  |     |     |     |     |     | 478   |
| <hr/>  |  |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| (6)  | Fillings: Permanent Teeth                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 639   |
|  | Temporary Teeth                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43    |
|  | Total  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 682   |
| <hr/>  |  |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| (7)  | Extractions: Permanent Teeth                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 634   |
|  | Temporary Teeth                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,704 |
|  | Total  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,338 |
| <hr/>  |  |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| (8)  | Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 355   |
| (9)  | Other Operations: (a) Permanent Teeth                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 220   |
|  | (b) Temporary Teeth                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | NIL   |
|  | Total (a) and (b)                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 220   |