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**CITY OF WAKEFIELD
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

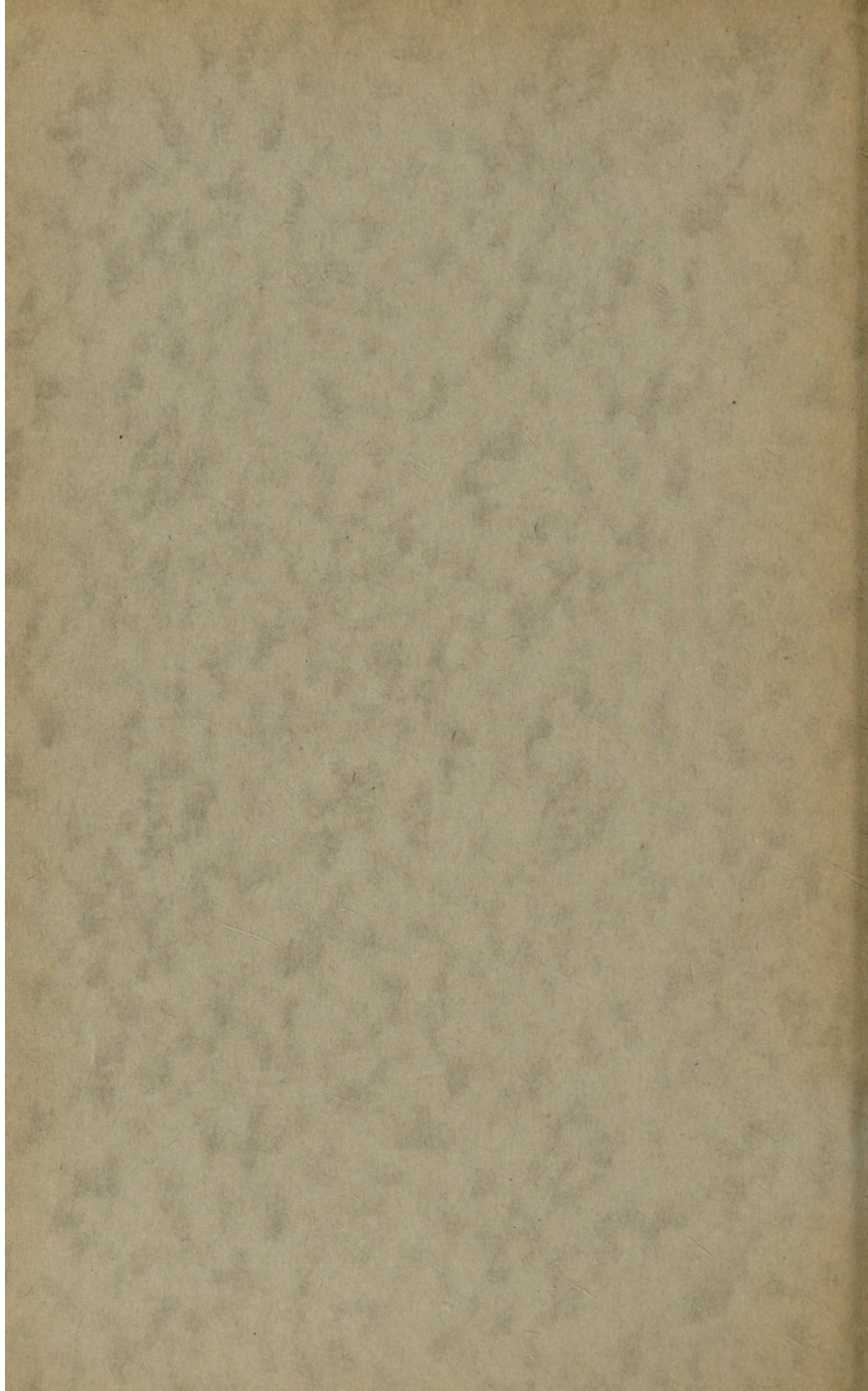
10. PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

REPORT

OF THE

**SCHOOL MEDICAL
OFFICER**

FOR THE YEAR 1949



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

Public Health Department,
Town Hall Chambers,
King Street,
Wakefield.
May, 1950.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Wakefield Education Committee.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the School Health Service for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

During the year, several changes occurred in the staff. Dr. P. L. Karney commenced duty as an Assistant School Medical Officer in January. Miss Pearson joined the permanent staff of School Nurses in April and Miss Miskell was appointed in a temporary capacity at the same time. Mrs. Clayton succeeded Miss Milner as School Clinic Nurse in April and Mrs. Tayler came in October to lend a hand as a temporary part-time School Nurse. Miss Pearson's appointment to the permanent staff was to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Miss Oates.

Miss Heaver, Dental Attendant, left the department in October and was replaced by Miss Jowett, who is now Mrs. Casburn.

I must make special mention of Miss Milner's retirement. She was quite unique as a School Clinic Nurse and because she belonged to Wakefield she had an intimate knowledge of the families from which the children came for treatment by her. She possessed a comprehensive knowledge of the work of a Minor Ailments Clinic and her dexterity in carrying out difficult and sometimes painful procedures won for her the complete confidence of the children and a large measure of their affection. Her successor has undertaken a difficult task, in that it will be a long time before many of the parents can become accustomed to the King Street School Clinic without Miss Milner in it. I should say at once, however, that Mrs. Clayton is steadily gaining regard and has been remarkably readily accepted by the children.

The opening of a new Infants School on the Flanshaw Housing Estate was one of the high lights of the year. The official

ceremony took place in November, although part of the premises had already been in use for some months. This school, which is built on an easily accessible site and at a good elevation, is a model of what a modern Infants School should be and of what very few of those built in the next ten years will be, in view of the tragic curtailments in space, fittings and equipment imposed by the latest Regulations dealing with the provision of School Buildings. On entering the school, one experiences a sense of spaciousness and freedom. The fittings and equipment are convenient and substantial and the children move about with confidence and purpose. The cloakrooms are ample and the arrangements for the preparation and serving of meals are excellent. There is special provision for medical inspection.

It was possible during the year to carry out a considerably greater number of medical inspections than in 1948. Periodic inspections amounted to 2,697, compared with 1,187 and there were 6,157 supplementary inspections compared with 6,354 in 1948. The respective grand totals for 1949 and 1948 were 8,854 and 7,541. At the end of the year, there remained three Primary Infants Schools awaiting periodic inspections.

It will be seen from the statistics dealing with the heights and weights of the children, that in six of the age and sex groups, there was an average increase in height ; in five of them it amounted to a quarter of an inch, but reached three-quarters of an inch in the 14—15 year boys, in whom there was an average increase in weight of 14 ounces. A decrease in both height and weight occurred in the 10-11 years age group of boys and girls and also in the 11-12 years age group of boys. This is a matter for some concern and may be related to insufficiency of sleep.

The slightly greater percentage of children with unsatisfactory clothing and footwear is not very significant, but it may mean that the spending value of money in the home has been reduced.

The general condition of the children was satisfactory in that only 2.44 per cent were poorly nourished, compared with 3.65 per cent in 1948. The standard of nutrition of the scholars may be related to the degree to which the provision of school meals is accepted by parents. During 1949, the daily average number of school meals served to children was 4,673, for a daily average school population of 8,472, giving a percentage provision of 55.16. The average total daily number of meals provided in schools was 5,037, including 363 staff meals.

The standard of cleanliness of the children was comparable with that in the previous year, but even so, there should not have been 6.1. per cent of girls with dirty heads, having regard to the present hair styles for children and the resulting comparative simplicity of ensuring cleanliness of the hair.

In the School Dental Officer's section of the report, it is noted that although a higher percentage of school children required dental treatment during the year, "it is true to say that the situation in Wakefield compares very favourably with that in most areas and there is evidence of an increased appreciation of the value of regular dental care".

The School Clinics for Minor Ailments continued to serve a large number of children during 1949. The total number of attendance recorded was 14,427 of which 13,824 referred to the Central School Clinic in King Street. The School Clinics for Minor Ailments are now almost traditional. They have done good work for a long time and have prevented much suffering, as well as having contributed to the minimising of absenteeism during treatment for comparatively unimportant conditions. It is greatly to be desired that the "School Clinic", as it is popularly known, will continue undisturbed in the future. I strongly oppose the view that the Hospital Out-Patients Department should deal with the treatment of minor ailments or, for that matter, with a number of special defects and disabilities for whose treatment Local Education Authorities have long been responsible.

I should like to mention three special types of provision at present made in the School Health Service in relation to their possible future. They are the Orthopaedic Clinic, the Ophthalmic Clinic and the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic. All of these are essentially preventive as well as curative and children attending are not necessarily ill. Parents bring the girls and boys along with the greatest confidence and look upon these special clinics as branches of the ordinary School Clinic, as indeed they are, unassociated in most instances with real illness. I strongly contend that the Specialist Clinics, of which I have given examples, should continue to form an integral part of the School Health Service. Children should not attend at any hospital out-patient department for treatment of conditions which should be regarded as "episodes" in an otherwise normal childhood. The tendency to associate school life with the word "hospital" will always be strongly condemned by me, however much satisfaction certain parents may derive from recounting at length and with dramatic

emphasis how their Johnnie or Mary was never more than a few months away from the Hospital Out-Patient Department throughout the whole of his or her school life.

The number of new cases examined at the Ophthalmic Clinic was 559, compared with 522 in 1948, and the respective total attendances were 763 and 801.

The Orthopaedic Clinic continued to do excellent work under the able Consultant control of Dr. Crockatt. Before indicating the scope of his work, I should be lacking in my duty as well as unjust if I did not say, with the greatest sincerity, that it was with a real sense of personal loss that I said good-bye to Dr. Crockatt soon after the end of the year. Wakefield Education Authority can indeed consider itself to have been fortunate in having Dr. Crockatt looking after crippling defects in the school children. He is not only a great Orthopaedic Surgeon but a great friend to the children. He will long be remembered and loved and many little people will grow up to be thankful every day of their lives that Dr. Crockatt's skill made possible a fuller and happier life for them.

The total number of attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinic was 902, compared with 869 in 1948. The Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon (Dr. Crockatt) dealt with 123 individual children, slightly more than in the preceding year.

Artificial sunlight continues to fill a place in the treatment of various conditions. It has now settled down into its niche and is no longer the panacea it was considered to be in the early days of its use. There are still many children who benefit quite remarkably from it, but there are many others for whom, apart from some psychological effect on the parent, the treatment is a waste of time for all concerned.

Our Ear, Nose and Throat Consultant Surgeon (Mr. Otty) has, like Dr. Crockatt, been "forcibly" withdrawn from the School Health Services, since the end of the year. During 1949, he held 24 Specialist Clinics and examined 307 children referred to him. Of that number, 222 were recommended for hospital treatment and 104 of these completed the treatment during the year. In addition, 58 cases from the previous year also had hospital treatment.

Mr. Otty was not perhaps "built into" the department like Dr. Crockatt, but he had a place which was all his own. I have never known a distinguished specialist like Mr. Otty more humble than he was and more friendly towards the children. He had their

complete confidence and what was even more remarkable, the complete trust of the parents from the first. We shall miss him, however well served we may be in the future.

The number of children who were able to spend two or three weeks at Hornsea Seaside School during the season was 801, which was 133 more than in 1948. I was unable to make any personal visits to the School, but my Deputy Medical Officer visited and was greatly pleased with all he saw.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all the members of the staff of the School Health Service for the assistance I have received from them during the year. My special thanks are due to Mr. H. W. Tate for compiling the bulk of the body of this Report and for extracting the summary of which I have made use in writing this introductory letter.

My thanks are also due and are freely given to the Director of Education (C. L. Berry, Esq, M.A.,) for his interest and helpful co-operation in the work of the School Health Service. The members of his staff, administrative and clerical, have been most helpful and deserve a sincere expression of appreciation. Perhaps most of all, the teachers and school inquiry officers have been intimately concerned with the details of the Service and all of them have given unstintingly of their interest and practical help to make the School Health Service a living thing serving young life. To them especially and to all connected in any way with the work we are trying to do from year to year, I express my gratitude.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

FRANK ALLARDICE,

School Medical Officer.

1.—STAFF.

The Staff employed in the School Health Service during 1949, was as follows :—

FRANK ALLARDICE, M.D., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Edin.),
School Medical Officer and Ophthalmologist.

RICHARD J. DODDS, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Deputy School
Medical Officer.

JESSIE EELES, M.D., Ch.B. (Edin.), Assistant School Medical
Officer.

PATRICK LAWRENCE KARNEY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,
Junior Assistant School -Medical Officer. Appointed
January, 1949.

GEORGE S. CUBITT, L.D.S., R.C.S., (Eng.), School Dental
Officer.

*HOWARD L. CROCKATT, M.B., Ch.B. (Leeds), Consultant
Orthopaedic Surgeon.

*SIDNEY K. SLEDGE, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S. Specialist
Refractionist.

*JOHN H. OTTY, F.R.C.S., Consultant for Diseases of the Ear,
Nose and Throat.

*IVOR T. LLOYD, F.R.C.S., Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon.

*BERNARD R. TOWNEND, F.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.), Consultant
Orthodontist.

Hilda Robertshaw	Senior School Nurse	} School Nurses
Hannah Bell		
Enid Oates	Resigned February, 1949.	
Bessie Price	Resigned September, 1949.	
Roxby Pearson	Appointed April, 1949.	
Mary Kate Miskell	Temporary from April, 1949	
*Martha Tayler	Temporary from October, 1949.	

Louie Milner, School Nurse at Central Clinic for Minor Ail-
ments. Retired April, 1949.

Marjorie Clayton, School Nurse at Central Clinic for Minor
Ailments. Appointed April, 1949.

Olive I. Burton, Orthopaedic and Ultra Violet Ray Nurse.

Joan R. Heaver, Assistant to School Dental Officer. Resigned
October, 1949.

Mavis Jowett, Assistant to School Dental Officer. Appointed
October, 1949.

H. Watson Tate, Clerk.

Doreen Blanshard, Assistant to Clerk.

*Part time.

2.—CO-ORDINATION.

The School Health Service is completely co-ordinated with the Public Health Service of the City. The Medical Officer of Health is also the School Medical Officer and the other medical staff combine appointments in the Public Health and the School Health Services.

Each of the Health Visitors, of which there are normally six, but whose numbers have been depleted throughout the year, is also a School Nurse. In addition, the Health Visitors are concerned with the home visiting in the Tuberculosis Service, the Child Welfare Services and in connection with the home circumstances and Supervision of Mental Defectives. Since the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, they also carry out considerable home visiting in relation to the care and after-care of persons suffering from illness or who require supervision and assistance for other reasons. This statement of the most important duties of the School Nurses is given to make clear the unique position occupied by them in the City. They are "all-purpose" visitors, each serving a definite area and by this arrangement they are enabled to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of the family circumstances of the homes from which the school population is drawn. The Health Visitor-School Nurse is the general practitioner nurse in Social Medicine and she occupies an important place in the Service. It is, in my opinion, right that there should, as a rule, be one home visitor only in any district of the City, so that families are not labelled "Tuberculous" or "Mentally Defective" and so on by gossip, following visits by specialised nurses.

Although the School Dental Officer, the Dental Attendant and two School Health Service Clerks (Mr. Tate and his assistant) are whole-time officers in the School Health Service and carry out much of the administrative detail, there is a happy liaison with the Director of Education's Department, whereby effective co-ordination is made possible.

2a.—SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION.

There are 33 Primary Schools in Wakefield of which 3 contain senior pupils, 11 have junior pupils only, 5 have junior and infant pupils combined, and 14 have infant pupils only. There are 5 Modern Secondary Schools and one Municipal Grammar School, whilst there are also secondary pupils in the Commercial, Technical and Art Departments of the Technical College.

The new Flanshaw Infants School accommodates 270 pupils from the recently built houses in the adjoining housing development area. It is a single storey building, with a flat roof. The windows are of the pivot hung type, with hoppers forming the lower portions.

The classrooms are spacious and light and they all face south. There are six altogether and each classroom has its own store. The floors are of coloured asphalt, laid on concrete.

The cloakroom accommodation is very excellent and adjacent to each cloakroom, there is a drying room, heated by electricity.

The Assembly Hall, which is also the Dining Hall, has a special Granwood floor.

Medical Inspection accommodation which is so desirable but unlikely in schools built in the near future, is ample and most acceptable.

The Nursery Block is well conceived, being self-contained and very well appointed. It has its own kitchen and there is ample bathroom and cloakroom accommodation. The introduction of mobile cloakroom and towel equipment allows each child to have an individual rack.

3.—SCHOOL SANITATION.

The following Schools, etc., were decorated during the year :—

- Gaskell's Infants School. Internal and External.
- St. Austin's Nursery School. Internal.
- Christ Church Infants' School. Internal.
- St. Catherine's C.E. School. Internal.
- Sandal Endowed School. Internal.
- Thornes House Grammar School. Internal (Portion).
- Technical College. Internal (Portion).
- Manygates Secondary and Infants Schools. External.
- Eastmoor Junior and Infants Schools. External.
- Eastmoor Kitchen. Internal and External.
- Snapethorpe Kitchen. Internal and External.

4.—MEDICAL INSPECTION FINDINGS.

A. Periodic Medical Inspection.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXAMINED AT PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Group	Total	Boys	Girls
ENTRANTS	7105	570	535
INTERMEDIATES	915	451	464
LEAVERS	677	349	328
Totals ..	2697	1370	1327

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT.

Age Group Years	BOYS				GIRLS			
	Average Height				Average Height			
	1949		1948		1949		1948	
	Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.
3—4	3	1½	3	1¼	3	1¼	3	1¼
4—5	3	3	3	2¾	3	3¼	3	3½
5—6	3	5¾	3	5½	3	5½	3	5½
10—11	4	3¼	4	3½	4	3½	4	3¾
11—12	4	5¾	4	6	4	6	4	5½
13—14	4	7½	4	7¾	4	7¾	4	8
14—15	4	10¾	4	10	4	11¼	4	11

Age Group Years	BOYS				GIRLS			
	Average Weight				Average Weight			
	1949 Lbs. Ozs.		1948 Lbs. Ozs.		1949 Lbs. Ozs.		1948 Lbs. Ozs.	
3—4	33	10	33	6	33	2	32	14
4—5	36	12	36	9	36	8	36	4
5—6	39	13	40	8	40	8	40	5
10—11	61	14	62	4	61	12	62	5
11—12	69	11	70	2	70	5	70	2
13—14	82	5	81	14	81	13	81	12
14—15	94	1	93	3	96	14	97	7

CONDITION OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR.

Group	Total unsatisfactory Clothing		Poor Clothing		Bad Clothing	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Entrants ..	13	1.1	12	1.08	1	0.09
Intermediates	20	2.1	18	1.9	2	0.21
Leavers ..	18	2.5	18	2.5	—	—
Totals ..	61	1.9	48	1.7	3	0.11

Group	Total unsatisfactory Footwear		Poor Footwear		Bad Footwear	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Entrants ..	17	1.2	16	1.4	1	0.09
Intermediates	21	2.2	19	2.07	2	0.21
Leavers ..	18	2.5	17	2.5	1	0.14
Totals ..	26	2.07	52	1.9	4	0.14

GENERAL CONDITION.

Classification	Entrants		Intermediates		Leavers	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Good	170	15.39	130	14.21	144	21.27
Fair	900	81.45	772	84.37	515	76.07
Poor	35	3.16	13	1.42	18	2.66

CLEANLINESS

A. Cleanliness of the Head.

Percentage of children found with Dirty Heads in 1949 and 1948.

GROUP	BOYS		GIRLS	
	1949	1948	1949	1948
Entrants	1.03	0.32	5.4	4.5
Intermediates	0.88	0.93	7.3	8.6
Leavers	0.28	—	6.09	5.9
Totals	0.80	0.53	6.1	6.9

These figures represent in actual numbers 92 children (11 boys and 81 girls).

4 girls (0.30 per cent) had lice in their heads at the time of inspection.

B. Cleanliness of the Body.

There were 6 children (0.33 per cent) noted with dirty bodies compared with 0.26 in 1948.

No child was found with verminous clothing.

**RESULTS OF SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION BY
SCHOOL NURSES OF CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS AS
REGARDS CLEANLINESS, ETC.**

Total number examined:	20,017 (9890 boys and 10127 girls).
Number with Dirty Heads (Nits only and Nits and Vermin)	741 (3.7 per cent)
Number of Boys with Dirty Heads ..	92 (0.93 per cent)
Number of Girls with Dirty Heads ..	649 (6.4 per cent)
Number with Nits only	694 (3.4 per cent)
Number of Boys with Nits only ..	88 (0.88 per cent)
Number of Girls with Nits only ..	606 (5.9 per cent)
Number with Vermin in Head	47 (0.23 per cent)
Number of Boys with Vermin in Head	4 (0.04 per cent)
Number of Girls with Vermin in Head	43 (0.42 per cent)
Number with Verminous Clothing ..	5 (0.02 per cent)
Number with Dirty Bodies	87 (0.43 per cent)
Number with Dirty Clothing	92 (0.45 per cent)
Number with Dilapidated Clothing or Footwear	404 (2.01 per cent)

CONDITION OF THE TEETH.

	Total	Percentage
Number with Good Teeth	1432	53.09
Number with Poor Teeth	894	33.1
Number with Bad Teeth	371	13.7
Number with Dirty Teeth	785	29.1

CONDITION OF THE THROAT AND NOSE.

536 children (251 boys and 285 girls) had defects of the throat and nose. 303 had enlarged tonsils, 181 had enlarged tonsils and adenoids, 19 adenoids, and 33 had other throat and nose defects. The total percentage was 19.8 compared with 18.6 in 1948. The percentage with marked defect and definitely in need of surgical treatment was 5.5 compared with 5.2 in 1948.

ENLARGED GLANDS.

144 children (77 boys and 67 girls), 5.3 per cent, had enlarged cervical glands.

EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES.

56 children (2.07 per cent) had external eye diseases as compared with 2.2 in 1948. 7 had Blepharitis, 3 Conjunctivitis, and 46 Strabismus or Squint.

VISION.

Total with Defective Vision	..	277 (132 boys and 145 girls)	17.3 per cent.
Number with Poor Vision	..	214 (97 boys and 117 girls)	13.4 per cent.
Number with Bad Vision	..	63 (35 boys and 28 girls)	3.9 per cent.

165 children were wearing spectacles and in 126 instances the spectacles were satisfactory and in 39 instances had become unsatisfactory.

EAR DISEASES AND HEARING.

97 children (3.5 per cent) had defects or diseases of the ear, 88 being cases of Otorrhoea or running ears, and 8 cases of obstruction of external meatus by wax.

20 children were noted with defective hearing of which 8 cases were referred for treatment.

SPEECH.

23 children (0.85 per cent) had speech defects, 3 being stammerers, and 20 with defective articulation.

LUNGS.

61 children (2.2 per cent) were affected with lung disease. 55 children (2.03 per cent) were affected with bronchitis. No case of definite or suspected tuberculosis was noted.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

No case was noted.

EDUCATIONALLY SUB-NORMAL CHILDREN.

15 educationally sub-normal children were noted, 9 intermediates and 6 leavers.

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

2 cases of Epilepsy were noted. 15 children (6 boys and 9 girls) were noted with other affections of the nervous system.

HEART AND CIRCULATION.

7 children (3 boys and 4 girls), 0.25 per cent. were affected with abnormal hearts, 2 organic and 5 functional.

12 children (0.44 per cent) were reported as anaemic, as compared with 0.46 in 1948.

ORTHOPAEDIC.

32 children were noted with postural defects and 35 had flat feet. 66 other children had other slight defects.

CONTAGIOUS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 5 children found with Impetigo.

The other skin diseases included Dermatitis 6 cases, Ichthyosis 4 cases, Eczema 3 cases, Scabies 1 case and Seborrhoea 1 case.

One case of Chickenpox and 2 cases of Mumps were noted.

OTHER DISEASES OR DEFECTS.

These included Enuresis 6 cases, Worms 4 cases, Rheumatism 3 cases, Undescended Testicles 2 cases, Hernia 2 cases, and Obesity 1 case.

General Summary.

Number of children without defect ..	551 (20.4 per cent)
Number of children with one defect ..	1232 (41.6 per cent)
Number of children with two defects	729 (26.02 per cent)
Number of children with three defects	141 (5.2 per cent)
Number of children with more than three defects	44 (1.6 per cent)
Number of children referred for treat- ment (including cleanliness but not dental defects)	659 (24.8 per cent)
Number of children referred for ob- servation	1487 (55.1 per cent)

B. SUPPLEMENTARY INSPECTION.

This includes children examined at the Inspection Clinics and in the schools, apart from Periodic Inspections. During 1949, the number of new cases examined in this way was 4241 and the re-examinations amounted to 1916, a total of 6157 examinations compared with 6354 in 1948.

5.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 325 cases of Measles, 49 cases of Whooping Cough, 193 cases of Chickenpox, 54 cases of Mumps, and 55 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported. No case of Diphtheria amongst school children was notified during the year. There were also 16 cases of Scabies. One case of Ringworm (Skin) was reported during the year. No school was closed during the year on account of any infectious disease.

Scarlet Fever.

Excluding cases where the diagnosis was revised, the number notified during 1949 was 107, and of these cases 55 (51.4 per cent) were school children.

Scarlet Fever cases amongst school children were less prevalent in 1949, there having been 55 cases compared with 215 in 1948.

There was no death from Scarlet Fever during 1949.

The attack rate was 6.4 per 1000 of the school population as compared with 1.9 in the City generally.

Diphtheria.

Excluding cases where the diagnosis was revised there were only 2 cases during 1949, and neither was a school child.

During the year, 176 school children between the ages of 5 years and 15 years were immunised at the Anti-Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic.

A proportion of the 656 children dealt with under the age of 5 years also attended school.

6.—FOLLOWING-UP.

The following-up of the children found to be defective or in need of attention either at Periodic or Supplementary Inspection is carried out by the School Nurses. The results of following-up are given under section 7 of this Report.

The following is a statistical summary of the work done by the School Nurses during 1949, in connection with the School Health Service :—

Number of visits to schools	434
Number of examinations in schools <i>re</i> Cleanliness, Condition of Clothing, Footwear and Treatment	21744
Number of Home Visits <i>re</i> Contagious Diseases ..	453
Number of Home Visits <i>re</i> Verminous and Neglected Children	36
Number of Home Visits for Other Purposes	439

7.—MEDICAL TREATMENT.

651 children were found at periodic or supplementary inspection to require treatment and 74.9 per cent received treatment. The corresponding percentage in 1948 was 75.6

1 case of Ringworm (Skin) was treated during the year.

There were 16 cases of Scabies or Itch, all treated at the Central Minor Ailments Clinic, King Street.

There were 327 cases of Otorrhoea and other ear diseases and 306 were treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics.

Of Ophthalmia and other external eye diseases there were 311 cases and 291 were treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics.

During the year, 259 children with defective vision were referred for treatment. 544 of the children on the waiting list were submitted to refraction, 530 at the Ophthalmic Clinic, King Street, and 14 otherwise. Spectacles were prescribed in respect of 362 children and at the end of the year 221 (61.1 per cent) had obtained spectacles.

216 children suffering from diseases of the Throat and Nose, chiefly enlarged tonsils and adenoids, were referred for treatment. During 1949, 153 of the children on the waiting list received operative treatment and 17 medical treatment.

Tuberculosis.

During 1949, 9 school children were examined at or in connection with the Dispensary by the Medical Officers. 3 cases of pulmonary and 5 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were diagnosed. 1 case was non-tuberculous.

At the end of 1949, 38 children of school age, 9 pulmonary and 29 non-pulmonary remained on the notification register.

Crippling (other than Tuberculosis).

During 1949, 4 school children were admitted to the Adela Shaw Orthopaedic Hospital, Kirbymoorside, and 4 school children were discharged.

MINOR AILMENTS CLINICS.

(Central Clinic, King Street; Branch Clinics at Manygates Park and Snapethorpe School).

The following Table gives the number of Minor Ailments treated at the above Clinics during 1949.

Disease	Number of Defects Treated
Ringworm (Skin)	1
Eye Disease (External and other)	291
Ear Defects	306
Impetigo and other Skin Diseases	479
Scabies	16
Miscellaneous	2095
Total	3188

2722 cases were treated at the Central Clinic, King Street, with 13,824 attendances; 46 were treated at Manygates Park Clinic with 281 attendances, and at Snapethorpe Clinic 420 cases were treated with 1,322 attendances

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

During 1949, 604 cases were examined at the above-named Clinic by Mr. S. K. Sledge, the Specialist Refractionist, of which 559 were new cases while 45 were re-examinations. The total attendances during the year were 763, and the number of prescriptions issued was 358.

Analysis of Eye Refractions and Defects (1118 eyes).

1. Emmetropia	6 eyes
2. Hypermetropia	314 eyes
3. Myopia	48 eyes
4. Simple Hypermetropic Astigmatism	10 eyes

5. Compound Hypermetropic Astigmatism	583 eyes
6. Simple Myopic Astigmatism	10 eyes
7. Compound Myopic Astigmatism	114 eyes
8. Mixed Astigmatism	30 eyes
9. Defects other than Refractive Error	3 eyes
	— — —
	1118
	— — —

Strabismus (Classified as a separate defect) .. 139 eyes

(26 cases of Strabismus were of the alternating type.)

The following cases of defective vision were specially noted because of the presence of conditions complicating the refractive error :—

1. External Eye Disease	10 cases
2. Opacities of the Cornea	3 cases
3. Defects of the Lens	4 cases
4. Defects of the Retina and Choroid	6 cases
5. Nystagmus	6 cases
6. Marked Amblyopia	5 cases

152 children attended for the verification of the correcting lenses.

ORTHOPAEDIC AND ULTRA VIOLET RAY CLINICS.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

This clinic is held in the Principal Child Welfare Centre, children needing to see the Specialist being referred by the Medical Officers by appointment.

During 1949, there were 902 attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinic. The Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Mr. H. L. Crockatt, held eleven sessions during the year, seeing 43 new cases and 90 old cases with a total attendance of 207.

The cases seen by Mr. Crockatt and the Orthopaedic Officer fall into the following categories:—

Classification of Defects	Cases seen in the current year	
	Cases seen for the first time in 1949	First seen in previous years.
Congenital dislocation of hip joints ..	1	5
Congenital neuromuscular defects (<i>e.g.</i> hemiplegia and spastics)	—	8
Other congenital defects (including talipes)	3	10
Birth Paralysis (all Erb's type)	1	3
Non-tubercular deformities of spine (including torticollis):	5	8
Deformities of legs (knock knee, etc.) ..	13	3
Flat foot and valgus ankle	10	21
Other deformities of feet and toes ..	6	6
Tuberculosis of bones and joints ..	1	7
Deformities due to paralytic poliomyelitis	—	13
Miscellaneous defects	3	6
Totals	43	90

Summary of Attendances of Cases seen by Mr. H. L. Crockatt—11 sessions.

Authority Responsible	Attendances
Wakefield Education Committee	108
Wakefield Mental and Child Welfare Committee	85
Wakefield Health Committee	14
Total	207

The following is an analysis of the Wakefield cases treated at the Adela Shaw Orthopaedic Hospital, Kirbymoorside in 1949.

Committee responsible	Cases remaining in Hospital at end of 1948	Admitted during 1949	Discharged during 1949	In Hospital at end of 1949
Education ..	1	4	4	1
Health	3	1	1	3
Mental and Child Welfare ..	1	2	2	1
Totals ..	5	7	7	5

Artificial Sunlight Clinic.

The Table below summarises the numbers of attendances and the amount of treatment for the various conditions. Cases are referred from all Clinics, from the Tuberculosis Dispensary, and by private practitioners.

Defect	Total Attendances	Number of cases						Ceased to attend		Discharged	Remaining on Register	
		Total Cases	New			Old			After more than 10 exposures			After less than 10 exposures
			Education	Health	Mental and Child Welfare	Education	Health	Mental and Child Welfare				
Debility after Infectious Disease	411	18	8	—	2	6	—	2	2	1	10	5
Debility with Nervous Symptoms ..	503	24	17	—	3	4	—	—	1	2	15	6
Debility with Malnutrition	42	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Debility with Catarrhal Symptoms ..	294	14	5	—	4	5	—	—	3	—	7	4
Debility with Cervical Adenitis	783	35	21	—	4	9	—	1	3	4	21	7
Rickets ..	54	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Skin Diseases ..	28	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bronchitis and Asthma ..	914	49	23	—	6	18	—	2	4	4	29	12
Chorea ..	28	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Rheumatism ..	68	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	30	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Miscellaneous conditions ..	256	9	4	—	4	—	—	1	—	2	5	2
Totals ..	3411	160	83	—	26	44	1	6	14	13	91	42

**DENTAL CLINIC AND DENTAL INSPECTION.
REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER.**

By G. S. Cubitt, L.D.S., R.C.S.

The difficulties associated with understaffing became more apparant during the year, and for the first time since 1941, it was impossible, even under the restricted scheme to inspect and treat all the schools.

The increased number of children in the schools, the raising of the school-leaving age, and an increased demand for treatment,

are having an effect which can be illustrated by a comparison of the statistics with those of 1948 :—

Year	Routine Inspections	Percentage requiring treatment	Number treated	Attendances	Fillings	Extractions	Casuals
1948	6043	50.24	2228	2847	1806	1888	88
1949	5204	56.39	2417	3043	1611	2524	218

An increased interval between inspections is inevitably accompanied by a rise in the percentage needing treatment, in the number of unsaveable teeth, and in the number of children attending without appointment for the relief of pain. These often presented an embarrassing problem, made more acute by the increased reluctance of private practitioners to treat children.

Nevertheless, it is true to say that the situation in Wakefield compares very favourably with that in most areas ; and that there is evidence of an increased appreciation of the value of regular dental care.

The number of permanent teeth extracted, 320, was the highest since 1942, but 155 of these were sound teeth extracted, sometimes at the request of the orthodontic consultant, Mr. Townend, in order to secure a better arrangement of the teeth.

Seventeen new cases were referred to Mr. Townend during the year, and it is gratifying that, despite his own staffing difficulties, he has been able to continue this valuable specialist work.

Increased use has been made of continuous nasal gas and oxygen for extractions, and my thanks are due to Dr. Dodds for his services as anaesthetist.

The new clinic at Snapethorpe was partly equipped at the end of the year, and was used for two sessions. When in full operation it will be a most useful addition to treatment facilities, and a boon to mothers and children in that area.

(1) Number of pupils inspected :				
(a) Periodic age groups	5204			
(b) Specials (Casuals)	218			
	—————			
(c) Total	5422			
	—————			
(2) Number found to require treatment ..	3153			
(3) Number actually treated	2417			
(4) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	3043			

(5)	Half-days devoted to				
	(a)	Inspection	..	..	53
	(b)	Treatment	..	..	445
		Total	..	..	<hr/>498
(6)	Fillings :	Permanent Teeth	..	..	1496
		Temporary Teeth	..	..	115
		Total	..	..	<hr/>1611
(7)	Extractions :	Permanent Teeth	..	..	320
		Temporary Teeth	..	..	2204
		Total	..	..	<hr/>2524
(8)	Administrations of general anaesthetics for				
	extractions:	..	..	..	232
(v)	Other operations :	Permanent Teeth	..	..	674
		Temporary Teeth	..	..	119
		Total	..	..	<hr/>793

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC.

This Clinic continued to be held during 1949 at the Central School Clinic, King Street. Mr. Otty, Consultant for diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat, held 24 sessions during the year and examined 307 children (276 cases and 31 re-examinations) Of these 222 were recommended for Hospital treatment. 162 received Hospital treatment during 1949 including 58 children who had been examined by Mr. Otty during 1948.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

During the past year two Organisers of Physical Education have been appointed—Miss J. M. Carryer on 1st January, 1949, and Mr. C. Wilkinson on 1st May, 1949, Mr. Wilkinson's appointment being a joint one with Dewsbury.

During the year decided progress in adopting the newer outlook and approach to the Physical Training lesson has been observed. There has been less formality, more stress on a better performance of a few good movements rather than a scanty knowledge of a multitude of exercises, and a more general recognition of the importance of correct clothing and footwear and a shower or towelling afterwards. As a whole, the Secondary

Schools have adopted the idea of a change of clothing more thoroughly than the Primary Schools: this is probably due to the fact that these Schools have better facilities and more specialised teachers.

In many of the Primary Schools, however, good work is being done on these lines and the non-specialist teachers have adopted the newer methods of teaching with enthusiasm.

Attempts have been made to solve the problem of changing and storing facilities by the provision of wire-mesh lockers. The question of the provision of showers remains acute.

One of the chief problems—the question of Physical Training during inclement weather—has been largely overcome. There are now only three schools without some sort of indoor accommodation where Physical Training can be carried out in bad weather.

Classes and demonstration lessons have been organised for teachers in all types of schools and have on the whole been well attended. The main courses have been:—June—Course for Junior Schools at Lawefield Lane; December—January—Demonstration lessons for Secondary Modern Schools; February—Infant Lesson at Manygates Infant School. The Halifax Physical Education Films were shown at the Teachers' Forum and proved of great interest and value to all.

All Junior and Senior Schools attend the Baths and have maintained good attendances. The experiment of extending the Summer Swimming Time-Table from October to December has proved of value, as beginners in September have had more opportunity to learn to swim. The Winter Time-Table allows more time to be spent on Life Saving Classes, and the provision of hot drinks does much to encourage attendance.

The provision with regard to playing fields has shown great improvement. During the year, Ings Road Secondary School field and the Barnsley Road Playing Field have become available after a period of reconditioning. Progress continues in the preparation of a new field at Balne Lane and five acres are now being used. A field of $12\frac{1}{4}$ acres has been purchased and placed at the disposal of Manygates Secondary School. Arrangements have been made for the children at Snapethorpe to have increased facilities by the kindness of the Lighting and Open Spaces and Housing Committees. Plans are well advanced for the conversion of a $3\frac{3}{4}$ acre field at Alverthorpe and for the purchase of a $3\frac{1}{2}$ acre field in the St. John's area.

Schools are being encouraged to widen their outlook on the School Sports Day and include more Field Events (Shot, Discus and Javelin) and to pay more attention to detailed coaching and all-the-year-round training for track and Field events.

Excellent camping facilities for older children, Youth and other similar organisations, will be available at Chevet Hall during next Summer Term and in the ensuing holidays.

PROVISION OF MILK AND MEALS.

The average number of children who were supplied with milk in schools during 1949, was 6,895 daily. This is an increase of 133 on the previous year.

The total number of dinners provided from the School Meals Kitchens during the year was 997,922—an increase of 27,291. A daily average of 5,037 dinners was served. This figure includes children and staff. 375 were supplied to children free of charge.

During the year, the following building programme has been commenced.

Snapethorpe Infant School—Scullery.

Thornes House Grammar School—Extension.

Snapethorpe Senior School—Dining Hall.

Snapethorpe Junior School—Dining Hall.

Christ Church Hall, Mark Street, and Sandal Youth Club Hut have also been hired for the service of school meals.

With the opening of the Flanshaw Infants' School, a further Kitchen was brought into operation, which also supplies Alverthorpe Junior and Infants' Schools.

The number of staff employed in the School Meals Central Kitchens is 62, and the number employed in the School Dining Centres 173—42 of which are Children's Supervisors.

PROVISION OF CLOTHING.

Under the provisions of Section 5 of the Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1948, the Authority assisted the parents of 64 children in the provision of clothing. This figure is much higher than in the previous year when 29 children were provided with clothing.

OPEN-AIR TREATMENT.

HORNSEA SEASIDE SCHOOL.

This School was open from the 21st March, 1949, until the 24th October, 1949, when the last batch of pupils returned home.

During the period 801 children (406 boys and 395 girls) were in residence for a period of three weeks each, being sent in batches of approximately 80 of one sex at a time.

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS.

During 1949, 69 per cent of the parents, generally the mother, attended at periodic medical inspection.

CO-OPERATION OF TEACHERS.

The teachers give, as they always have done, the greatest possible help and co-operation in the work of the School Health Service. It is impossible to speak too highly of their assistance without which the work would lose much of its efficiency.

CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL INQUIRY OFFICERS.

The co-operation of the Inquiry Officers with the School Health Service is close, active and invaluable. They send many children to the School Clinics, and they also assist in securing medical or other treatment when other means have failed. Their help in securing the cleansing of verminous children has been particularly useful.

CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES.

The two Societies that afford most help in connection with the School Medical Service are the Wakefield Social Service Council and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The former Society, which includes an Active Guild of Help undertakes much of the care work of the Corporation, and is of great assistance in supplying food and clothing in necessitous cases of a temporary character. Cases of apparently wilful neglect are referred to the latter Society for investigation and any necessary action and Inspector White has proved a most helpful and zealous coadjutor. The Mayor's Boot Fund has also done a most useful work during 1949 and supplied 144 pairs of boots or shoes to necessitous children.

CHILD GUIDANCE SERVICE.

The Children's Special Clinic continued to be held by Dr. Wilson, Consultant Psychiatrist, at Margaret Street on Tuesday mornings until the 15th November, and during this time 37 clinic sessions were held and 140 attendances made.

During the year two new appointments were made, a full time Social Worker (Mrs. L. M. Walker) and a part-time Educational Psychologist (Mr. J. McNally), Mrs. Walker commencing duty on 1st September, and Mr. McNally on 1st November.

From 15th November, the clinic sessions have been held at Snapethorpe Hall, premises much roomier and more suitable for a Child Guidance Centre. Additional test equipment and play material have been purchased and this, with a large play-room, has enabled us to include play therapy in increasing measure in the treatment of children referred.

Since the 22nd November, two sessions per week have been held on Tuesdays, bringing the total number of sessions for the year to 48. Total number of attendances for the year was 172.

On 1st January, 1949, children undergoing treatment, numbered 22. 28 new cases were accepted during the year, 1 re-opened and 27 discharged for various reasons. The number of cases receiving treatment at the 31st December, 1949, was 24, made up as follows:—

Age Range (Years)	No. of Children		Totals
	Boys	Girls	
5—7	3	—	4
7—11	10	3	13
11—15:	4	4	8
	—	—	—
	17	7	24
	—	—	—

Referring Agencies.

	<i>No. of Children.</i>
By Schools	6
Parents	3
Probation Officers	3
School Medical Officer	10
Children's Officer	1
Transfer from Other Authority	1
	—
	24
	—

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

(a) **Blind Children.**

At the end of the year there were 2 children (boys) in Residential Special Schools.

(b) **Partially Sighted Children.**

There were 3 children (boys) in Residential Special Schools.

(c) **Deaf Children.**

There were 8 children (6 boys and 2 girls) in Residential Special Schools. One child (a girl) was awaiting admission to a Residential Special School at the end of the year.

(d) **Partially Deaf Children.**

One child (a girl) was in a Residential Special School.

(e) **Diabetic Children.**

One child (a girl) was in a Residential Special School.

(f) **Educationally Subnormal Children.**

At the end of the year there were 60 children (37 boys and 23 girls) on the Register. 59 were in primary or secondary schools and one child (a girl) was in a Residential Special School.

THORNES HOUSE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Periodic and Special Inspections were carried out at the above schools during 1949.

228 pupils were examined, 133 at Periodic Inspections and 95 at Inspections of Specials.

20 pupils were referred for treatment and 129 required to be kept under observation.

