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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

upon the

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1943.

W. S. WALTON, G.M., M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H.

School Medical Officer.

(36th of the Series.)



WEST BROMWICH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

at 31st December, 1943.

Chairman - Alderman G. S. Bache, J.P.

Deputy-Chairmen - Alderman C. B. Adams, J.P.

ATTENDANCES AND MEDICAL SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chairman - Councillor Miss C. E. Hazel, J.P.

Deputy-Chairman - Councillor Mrs. E. A. Smallman, J.P.

The Mayor - Councillor G. E. Powell, J.P.

Alderman G. S. Bache, J.P.

Alderman C. B. Adams, J.P.

Councillor H. Biddulph.

Councillor D. Collins, J.P.

Councillor J. J. Grant, J.P.

Councillor Rev. A. T. S. Talbot.

Councillor A. Turner.

Mr. F. T. D. Hall.

Mr. W. Kenrick.

Mr. J. Lawley.

Dr. J. M. Mitchell, M.B., Ch.B.

Director of Education - Leonard G. Rose, B.Sc.

STAFF OF SCHOOL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

School Medical Officer... ..	W. S. Walton, G.M., M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Senr. Asst. School Medical	Winifred N. Gibbs, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant S.M.O. (Officer	Mary Rose, M.B., Ch.B. (Till Dec. 31.)
do.	W. J. McGuire, M.B., D.P.H. (From Dec. 23.)
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon	Charles Rudd, M.B., Ch.B.
" Aural Surgeon. ...	F. Brayshaw Gillespy, M.F.C.S., L.F.C.P.
" Orthopaedic Surgeon.	J. B. Leather, F.R.C.S., M.F.C.S., L.F.C.P.
Dental Surgeon... ..	No appointment.

Part-time Dental Officers.

A. H. Bosworth, L.D.S.

A. Walker, B.D.S.

C. H. Oakes, B.D.S. (Till Sept. 30.)

Elizabeth Linley, L.D.S. (From Jan. 11.)

School Nurses.

Miss G. Twist. (Superintendent)

Miss M. B. Greasley.

Miss M. L. Jones.

Miss G. Gedrych.

Miss E. King.

Mrs. Paskin. (Temp.)

Miss D. Avery.

Miss P. Poster. (From Feb. 1.)

Clinic Nurses.

Miss H. M. Hayes. (Till Dec. 31.)

Miss N. M. Swinnerton. (From Jan. 1.)

Clerks.

Miss D. Bromley.

Miss M. Adams. (Dental Attendant.)

Miss G. L. Clark. do. (part-time)

Miss M. Reeves.



SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will remember that last year I had to report a fall in the general standard of health among the West Bromwich school children. Judging by the 1943 record of medical inspections it would appear that the fall was not continued and, while the general standard of health and mental receptivity was not so good as in the earlier years of the war, nevertheless the year 1943 showed an improvement.

The number of short term absences due to illnesses certified as "colds"; "debility" and "skin trouble" remained much higher than normal. Recovery from major and minor illnesses was longer than average time in previous years and might demonstrate a slight lowering of resistance.

The results of nutrition assessment, as set out in the Tables of this report, were encouraging in that the figures showed an improvement over those of 1942, which had shown a considerable deviation from the average of the previous six years.

The Board of Education compiled a summary return of the provision of meals and milk in public elementary schools for a single day in October 1943, and it is of interest to compare the local with the national returns: The percentage of children taking advantage of the Milk-in-Schools Scheme in West Bromwich was 91.0, much higher than that of the Country (76.4). This was very commendable and has had a considerable effect upon the welfare of the children, and especially since the scheme has now been running well in West Bromwich for some years. On the other hand 15.4 per cent of West Bromwich children took school dinners as compared with 26.5 per cent over the whole country. Two further kitchens will come into operation in early 1944 and the meal provision will be doubled. Further progress will be made during 1944 as plans made by the Committee materialise.

The incidence of infectious disease remained much the same as in previous years; scarlet fever cases decreased while measles increased. There were seven deaths from diphtheria among the school children. It is calculated that 79 per cent of children in attendance at school have been immunised against diphtheria but there is still room for improvement in these figures. The prevalence of scabies and verminous conditions remains much the same as in previous years. Treatment facilities for the former have been extended and should show results at a later stage.

When the supervision of the school medical service ceases at fourteen or thereabouts, unless something is radically wrong medical advice is rarely sought by parents and the necessity for supervision of health tends to be forgotten. This state of affairs has been, unfortunately, too well confirmed by my now extensive experience of examining boys for the Air Training Corps and Sea Cadets Corps.

The percentage of defects found, and of rejects, increases progressively in each age group from 15 to 18. In an industrial area such as ours this is probably more marked than in most. The extension of the school leaving age and the continuous medical supervision as promised up to 18 years in Section 46 of the New Education Bill, will be of inestimable value and tend to prevent that deterioration in health standard at a critical period of development. You will, no doubt increase your medical service pari passu with your educational services and, in doing so, will be carrying out a far reaching social measure for the health welfare of the Town.

I wish once again to record grateful thanks to the Director of Education (Mr. L.G. Jose) and his staff, for the close co-operation and harmonious working between our departments, and for supplying certain information relevant to this report. Special thanks also are due to the Head Teachers and Teaching Staffs for the help received throughout the year. The Annual Meeting of the Head Teachers with the School Medical Service Staff was held early in the year and was very successful in providing valuable exchange of viewpoints.

To the Rotary Club; The Poor Children's Welfare Society and the M.S.P.C.C., is due grateful acknowledgment of their continued valuable assistance, and to the Staff of the School Medical Department for their efficient and willing service throughout the year.

I should also like to express my sincere appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which has been shown by you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, and especially to Councillor Miss C.E. Hazel, the Chairman of the Medical Services Sub-Committee.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,


School Medical Officer.

2, Lodge Road,
West Bromwich.



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REPORT.

- I. - STAFF. As set out on Page One.
- II. - CO-ORDINATION. No alteration has been made in the arrangements.
- III. - SCHOOL HYGIENE. Nothing to Report.
- IV. - MEDICAL & DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT. The statistical information desired by the Board of Education is to be found on Pages 8 and 9.

Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

Treatment was continued on the usual lines, under the supervision of Mr. J.B. Leather.

Analysis of cases treated:-	1942.		1943.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Number of cases... ..	16	14	9	13
Number of consultations... ..	20	24	9	17
Number of children in-patient.	2	1	2	4
Number of children on massage.	7	10	4	8
Number of attendances.	139	268	198	219
Number of children x-rayed ...	1	1	-	1
Number of children fitted with irons, plaster cases, etc. ...	5	7	3	1

Summary of work at Remedial Exercises Clinic.

Number of sessions.:	157
Number of patients Boys 86. Girls 67..	153
Number of attendances...	3760

<u>Tuberculosis.</u>	1942.		1943.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Number of cases... ..	3	1	2	3
Number of consultations... ..	9	1	3	3
Number of children x-rayed ...	2	1	-	4
Number of children on massage.	1	4	1	4
Number of attendances:	38	-	23	-
Number of children in-patient. .	3	-	4	5.

Treatment by Artificial Sun-light.

The Ultra-Violet Light Clinic was continued during the year, the cases treated numbered 243 and attendances 3,250, compared with 176 and 2,072 respectively in 1942.

VIII. - INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There has been no alteration in the arrangements for the control of infectious disease. Diphtheria Immunisation was continued and 1,204 cases were completed during the year.

Nose and Throat Swabs, taken from school children were examined bacteriologically; these numbered 544, of which 70 were positive.

The following table shows the incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the four quarters of the year.

DISEASE.	1st. Qr.	2nd. Qr.	3rd. Qr.	4th. Qr.	Total. 1943.	Total. 1942.
Scarlet Fever	35	9	14	15	73	183
Diphtheria	17	32	10	14	73	92
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	2	2	-	4	2
Whooping Cough	24	9	14	7	54	16
Measles	157	36	1	2	196	81

Mortality in School Children.

Cause of Death.	No.	Cause of Death.	No.
Diphtheria...	7	Shock after explosion...	1
Scarlet Fever ...	2	Burns... ..	1
T.B. Meningitis..	1	Traffic Accidents...	3
Meningitis... ..	2	Other defined diseases..	3
Cardiac Failure..	1		

Total 21.

This compares with 27 deaths in 1942.

IX. - PROVISION OF MEALS.

When reporting on the Committee's Provision of Meals Scheme in the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1942, it was observed that approximately 1,600 children were receiving meals at school daily at the end of December.

This number rose approximately to 2,000 meals daily during the year under review - the increase being accounted for by the opening of the Hamstead School Canteen in January, 1943, and by an increased output from the Lodge Estate School Central Kitchen.

The number of meals served during the year was as follows:-

Meals for payment... ..	335,839
Free Meals (including Teachers and Helpers.)... ..	41,281
Total	<u>377,120</u>

For purpose of comparison the number of meals served during the year 1942 totalled 147,129.

It will be noted that at the end of the year the Authority's scheme for the provision of 2,000 meals daily had been brought into full operation, but by this time it was evident that the demand for meals was continuing to increase and accordingly, the Committee recommended that the Board of Education and the Ministry of Works should be requested to provide and erect kitchens on sites at the Cronchills and George Salter Schools. It is hoped that these Kitchens will be made available in the near future. In addition, the Committee is considering the possibility of providing further kitchen accommodation in the Charlemont area.

The charge of fivepence per meal was maintained throughout the year.

COMMITTEE'S SCHEME FOR FREE MILK AND MEALS.

The schemes for the provision of free milk and meals to mal-nourished necessitous pupils were continued throughout the year and the income scale for the determination of need was revised on two occasions to meet the changed conditions made by the War.

MILK-IN-SCHOOLS SCHEME.

This scheme continues to be well supported and 3,051,836 one-third pint bottles of milk were supplied to pupils in Public Elementary Schools during the year.

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOOLS.

During the year under review it was found possible to provide meals to pupils from the Higher Education Schools of the Borough by setting up a separate Dining Room at Lodge Estate School and approximately 130 pupils are receiving meals daily. In addition these Schools participated in the Milk-in-Schools Scheme - providing 94,717 bottles of milk during the year.

CONCLUSION.

From all the statistics collected above, it will be seen that strenuous efforts are being made to improve the standard of nutrition in the Borough and once again it is desired to place on record the fact that the Head Teachers most willingly and voluntarily undertake a great deal of additional work in this connection.

X. - CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS AND VOLUNTARY BODIES.

The number of parents attending routine medical inspection was 2,119, or 75% of the children examined.

Once more tribute must be paid to the Teachers and School Attendance Officers for the valuable assistance rendered to the Department.

Grateful thanks again are recorded for the able assistance rendered by the Poor Children's Welfare Society and the Rotary Club. The former sent 39 children to the Southport Convalescent Home for periods of one month and, in addition, distributed 165 pairs of boots to necessitous children. The Rotary Club continued the arrangement whereby deserving cases are sent to Convalescent Home, Weston-super-Mare; 34 boys were sent for fortnightly or monthly periods.

The N.S.P.C.C., continued its valuable help to the Department through the medium of Chief Inspector Pine.

XI. - BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

Blind Children. Two partially sighted children, and one totally blind, are receiving tuition in the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind.

Deaf Children. Two deaf children, and one deaf mute, are undergoing training in the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Deaf. One deaf mute is awaiting admission to this Institution and, meanwhile, is excluded from public elementary school.

Mentally Defective Children.

Formal examinations were carried out in 36 cases; 12 children were re-examined. The findings were as follows:-

Imbeciles - Notified to L.C.A.	4
Feebleminded - do.	10
Feebleminded... ..	19
Dull and Backward.. ..	14
Normal.	1
	<u>48</u>

Report on the Junior Practical School.

by Miss D. Griffin. (Headmistress.)

The number of children in the Junior Practical School has remained steady throughout 1943, and the same ratio of one girl to two boys has been maintained. The standard of health remains good, and except for the influenza epidemic there has been little absence for sickness. There has been a gradual increase in the number of children partaking of milk and the hot mid-day meal, and there is every prospect that in the near future every child will be having a hot meal every school day.

XIII. PARENTS' PAYMENTS. There was no alteration in the arrangements.

XIV. HEALTH EDUCATION. The work has continued along the usual lines. Grateful acknowledgment is made to the services rendered by the Local Press.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

(a) <u>Employed Children (12-14)</u>	<u>Boys.</u>	<u>Girls.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
No. of Registrations:			
Delivery of Newspapers or Milk.	102	2	104
Errands and Light Duties.	25	2	27
Child Performers.	-	-	-
No. of Licences surrendered:			
Delivery of Newspapers or Milk.	71	2	73
Errands and Light Duties.	23	4	27
(b) <u>Street Trading by Young Persons.</u>			
No Licences issued or surrendered.			
(c) <u>Investigating Patrols.</u>			
Number of patrols undertaken.			24
Number of offences reported.			23
Number of Warning Notices issued.			9
Number of Employers interviewed.			14
(d) <u>Prosecutions.</u>	Nil.		
(e) <u>Medical Inspection re fitness for employment.</u>			2



MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspections in Elementary Schools for the
Year Ended 31st December, 1943.

A. - ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(1) Number of Inspections:

Entrants 1,514 Second Age Group 1,296 Total 2,810

(2) Number of Other Routine Inspections Nil Total 2,810

B. - OTHER INSPECTIONS.

No. of Special Inspections & Re-Inspections. 7,155

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the Year in the Routine Age Groups.									
	No. of Children Inspected	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly Sub-normal)		D. (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	1514	64	4.23	1095	72.32	335	22.13	20	1.32
2nd Group	1296	76	5.86	934	72.06	267	20.60	19	1.47
All Groups	2810	140	4.98	2029	72.21	602	21.42	39	1.39

TABLE III.

GROUP I. - Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness)

Total number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme... .. 4,193

GROUP II. - Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint, under the Authority's Scheme.

Errors of Refraction (including squint) 274
Other defect or disease of the eyes, (excluding those in Group I.) Nil

No. of Children for whom spectacles were:

(a) Prescribed 246
(b) Obtained 214

GROUP III. - Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat, under the Authority's Scheme.

Operative Treatment 249
Other forms of Treatment 15
Total number Treated, 264



TABLE IV.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) Number of Children inspected by the Dentist:-		
(a) Routine Age-groups		3,656
(b) Specials		652
(c) Total (Routine and Specials)		<u>4,308</u>
(2) Number found to require treatment		3,188
(3) Number actually treated		3,474
(4) Number of attendances for treatment		4,867
(5) Half-days devoted to:-	(7) Extractions:-	
Inspection... .. 22	Permanent Teeth... .. 819	
Treatment... .. 527	Temporary Teeth... .. 4,603	
		<u>5,422</u>
(6) Fillings:-	(8) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction.	1,556
Permanent Teeth 2,860	(9) Other Operations:-	
Temporary Teeth 6	Permanent Teeth... .. 594	
	Temporary Teeth... .. 1,259	
		<u>2,353</u>

TABLE V.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised persons... ..	3
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons.. ..	22,489
(iii) Number of individual children found unclean.. ..	1,063
(iv) Number of individual children cleansed under Sections 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921.	NIL.
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:-	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	NIL.
(b) Under School Attendance Bye-laws.	NIL.

TABLE VI.

BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.

Number of totally or almost totally blind and deaf children who are NOT at present time receiving education suitable for their special needs.

	At a Public Elementary School.	At an Institution other than a Special School.	At no school or Institution.
Blind Children	-	-	-
Deaf Children	-	-	1

