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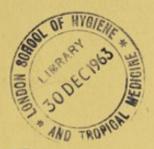
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WEST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL





ANNUAL REPORT

of the

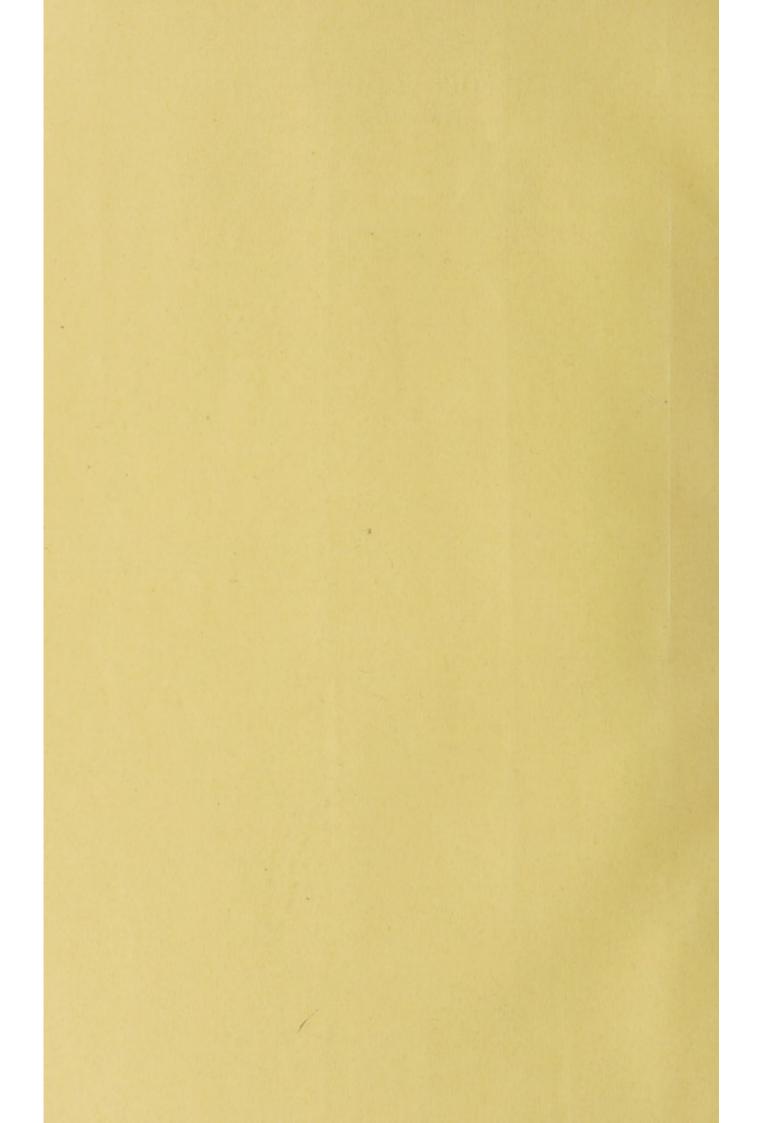
Principal School Medical Officer

for the

YEAR 1959

D. A. McCRACKEN, M.D., D.P.H.,

Principal School Medical Officer.



To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting my report on the work of the School Health Service for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

A number of routine medical inspections have again been curtailed owing to prolonged staff illness and the present need to immunise the child population against poliomyelitis. In this sphere of preventive medicine, it is satisfactory to recall that over 80% of the eligible child population had received treatment at the end of the year. This was possible through the enthusiasm of the Health Department Staff and the parents of children who took full advantage of the unlimited amount of vaccine which was available. Whilst it is too early to claim that this method of protection will be completely successful, there are grounds for thinking that this form of immunisation is raising the general resistance of the community to such a degree that we have had no proven cases of poliomyelitis during the past year. In order to maintain this happy position, it is essential that every child should receive full protection.

The School Dental Service continues to suffer from the lack of an adequate number of Dental Surgeons and at the present time there appears to be no satisfactory solution to the problem.

Cordial relationships with the hospital staffs, the general medical practitioners and the teaching staffs of the County and non-provided schools have been maintained and in many cases consolidated. The further exchange of clinical information respecting pupils between the three sections of the Health Service has ensured that all children who may require it obtain all the benefits provided under the Education and Health Service Acts.

The ever helpful interest taken by the members of the Committee and the cordial co-operation of the Chief Education Officer and his Staff have sustained the efforts of the medical and lay staff of the Department and I would like to express my feeling of indebtedness for their assistance and wholehearted support, because without that help such success as has been achieved would not have been possible.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID ANDREW McCRACKEN, Principal School Medical Officer.

14th July, 1960.

STAFF OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Principal School Medical Officer Deputy Principal School Medical Office	er		D. A. McCracken, M.D., D.P.H. A. J. Rae, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P H.
School Medical Officers			*G. P. Barclay, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. *P. Coggin Brown, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Principal School Dental Officer Dental Officers (all part-time)			S. H. Pollard, L.D.S. J. Dewar, L.D.S. K. Garland, B.D.S. (from 28.7.59) R. E. Lee, L.D.S. Mrs. E. Leggett, L.D.S. (from 2.12.59)
Superintendent School Nurse/Health	Visitor	9444	Mrs. M. P. Williams, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert
School Nurses, etc			Sixteen School Nurse/Health Visitors (one par time) and six Dental Attendants (five par time).
Speech Therapist			Miss H. E. Kingston, L.C.S.T. (to 17.10.59). Miss B. M. Elton, L.C.S.T. (from 25.4.60).

*Also Medical Officer of Health for County Districts.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The County of West Suffolk has an area of 390,916 acres. The estimated population at mid-1959 was 127,400. There are no county boroughs within the County.

The average number of children on the rolls of the schools during 1959 was 18,125, and the average attendance was 16,276.

At the end of the year there were 129 schools in the County, five being grammar schools (including one bilateral school), 11 modern secondary schools, 112 primary schools and one a nursery school. Forty-seven were county schools, 66 controlled voluntary schools and 16 aided voluntary schools.

There are no day or residential special schools. Children recommended for special education are normally placed in residential schools or hostels outside the county.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The prolonged illness of a School Medical Officer at the beginning of the year reduced the medical staff available for carrying out routine medical inspections. It will be remembered that large numbers of adults decided to accept protection against poliomyelitis and their immediate treatment was given priority over routine work. It was possible, however, to arrange for "special" cases to be seen as usual without delay.

The findings at routine inspections in recent years showed that in this County since the introduction of the National Health Service very few, if any, serious untreated defects and few minor untreated defects, except defective vision, came to light at these inspections.

When, therefore, some medical staff became available in the autumn for routine school work, it was decided that, instead of using their time mainly in carrying out routine medical inspections at relatively few schools, they should visit more schools and spend most of the time on "special" cases and in carrying out a rapid survey of large numbers of children at all ages. An attempt was made to collect evidence as to the ages at which routine vision testing could most profitably be carried out in this County, whilst particular attention was paid to finding any deaf children and to encouraging good deportment. The remainder of the time available was utilised in carrying out full medical inspections of the entrants and a sample of the school leavers.

During the surveys, of 1,413 children examined, only one major untreated defect, and very few trivial untreated defects, except defective vision, were found. The major defect, a case of otorrhoea of a few hours' duration, would almost certainly have been noticed that day and appropriately dealt with even if the Medical Officer had not visited the school. Discussions with headteachers were considered to be the most profitable part of the proceedings. There were usually some matters upon which they were glad to have the help of the School Medical Officer, although the number of "special" children brought to notice for the first time at these interviews was almost negligible. This is gratifying and understandable in view of the fact that for several years now headteachers have been urged to refer such cases to the School Medical Officers or, where appropriate, via the parent to the family doctors, as soon as they come to light and not to wait for a school medical inspection.

Among 821 children given the full medical inspection, no important, and very few trivial untreated defects, except defective vision, were detected. Under the present national system of record keeping these inspections involve a considerable amount of clerical work, apart from the time of Medical Officers and School Nurses, and they are not easily fitted into the very varied timetable of the secondary schools. It is felt that most, if not all, of the Medical Officers' time and peculiar skills could profitably be given not to routine inspections but to the consideration of "special" cases and of the impact of changing social conditions on the mental and physical health of children in general.

The condition of the feet of the "teenage" girls continues to occupy a prominent place in the minds of the School Medical Officers, but there is difference of opinion about the matter and no decision has yet been reached of any steps that should be taken, except to encourage girls to take a pride in having useful feet. Although, on the whole, better feet and footwear are to be found where general standards and education are at their highest, there is some reason to fear that a deterioration takes place soon after the girls leave school. Not all secondary schools were visited during this year, but amongst those that were, Newmarket Grammar School had the highest proportion of girls with suitable shoes.

School Clinics.

No minor ailment clinics were held but, where necessary, children were seen at the weekly clinic held in Bury St. Edmunds or at certain child welfare centres. A list of these centres as at 1st June, 1960 appears below. Most of the children attended for inoculation against diphtheria or poliomyelitis; for examination regarding their fitness for employment outside school hours; because they were thought to need some modification of school routine or because their behaviour or educational progress was causing concern.

Bury St. Edmunds	 Lower Baxter Street Clinic Saturday mornings	
Hadleigh	 Congregational Church Schoolroom 1st & 3rd Mondays in each	month
Long Melford .	 Village Hall 1st Tuesday	**
Newmarket .	 Fitzroy Street 1st & 3rd Tuesdays	**
Bildeston	 Chapel Schoolroom Ist Wednesday	,,
Wickhambrook .	 Women's Institute Hall Ist Thursday	,,
P1	 Village Hall 2nd Thursday	,,
0 11	 Youth Club Premises 1st & 3rd Thursdays	"
TT	 Welfare Hall, Lordscroft Lane 1st & 3rd Fridays	
	 Guildhall 2nd Tuesday	"
Cl	 British Legion Hall 4th Wednesday	"
D1-1-1111	 Village Hall 2nd Friday	"
A	 Women's Institute Hall 2nd Wednesday	"
A 471 A . 11 . 11	Bunbury Rooms 2nd Friday	"
Mariland	Control of the state of the sta	**
	01 1 77 11	**
Exning		**
Ixworth	Village Hall 3rd Thursday	55
Rougham	Village Hall 3rd Friday	**
Glemsford	Old School 4th Tuesday	39
Brandon	 Church Institute 2nd Tuesday	**
Lakenheath .	 Peace Memorial Hall 4th Thursday	**
Gt. Cornard .	 Church Hall 4th Friday	**
Barrow	 Village Hall 4th Friday	33

HANDICAPPED PUPILS.

The following table shows the numbers of handicapped pupils receiving or awaiting special education at the end of the year. It includes one American boy attending a special school for educationally subnormal children.

The second of th	Blind	Partially Sighted	Deaf	Partially Deaf	Delicate	Physically Handicapped	Educationally Subnormal	Maladjusted	Epileptic	Total
At special schools or hostels At independent schools Awaiting admission to special schools or hostels	1 -	2	11 _	1	5 -	4	17 2	5 - 4	1 -	47 - 8
Total	1	2	13	1	5	4	19	9	1	55

Education in Hospitals.

Fifteen West Suffolk children received education in hospitals—two from the peripatetic teachers at Newmarket General Hospital, one in the West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, and twelve in hospitals outside the county.

Education at Home.

Five children received education at home. One, a girl subject to attacks of asthma, was taught at home throughout the year, her parents having refused to let her attend a special residential school. Two boys were suffering respectively from rheumatic fever and osteomyelitis, and were subsequently able to return to ordinary schools, as also was a girl who had been absent for many months on account of her nervous condition. The fifth child was awaiting an operation on his heart, for which he was admitted to hospital early in January, 1960.

Psychiatric Clinics

Forty-one children attending ordinary maintained schools were seen as new patients at the child and family psychiatry clinics provided by the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

The number of children absent from school because of emotional difficulties, is found to be growing. Removal from home is not always advised and, where such a step is recommended, the parents sometimes withhold consent. The problem is found mainly amongst children of secondary school age and where the child lives some distance from the school. The situation continues to be watched.

Ineducable Children.

Two children were reported to the local health authority under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act, 1944, as being ineducable.

Seven children were reported to the local health authority under Section 57 (5) of the Education Act, as being in need of supervision after leaving school.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

The school doctors (as assistant county medical officers) devoted part of their time to special clinics for vaccination against poliomyelitis. During the year, children born in the years 1943 to 1959 inclusive were vaccinated as follows:

By private practitioners	itali est hes	1	First and Second doses. 1,623 2,451	Third doses. 3,217 13,511
	Totals		4,074	16,728

Inoculation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

The following table shows the number of school children treated, the figures given for private practitioners being those received from the practitioners themselves:

Assistant County Medical Officers	Private Practitioners				
5	2		 	{ Primary Reinforcing	Inoculations
56	63		 	Reinforcing	against diphtheria
-	- 10		 11	f Primary	Inoculations against
the off-	bold -can	**	 ***	Reinforcing	whooping cough
2	23			Primary	Combined inoculations
19	175		 	Reinforcing	
= 2	_ 		 	Primary Reinforcing	Inoculations against whooping cough

"B.C.G." Inoculation.

The inoculation with "B.C.G." vaccine of susceptible child contacts of tuberculosis was continued by Dr. Hay, the chest physician, whose services the County Council share with the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board for this purpose. During 1959, 74 school children were treated.

VERMINOUS CHILDREN.

The school nurses carried out 40,543 hygiene inspections and found 111 individual children verminous—a proportion of 0.68 per cent. of the average number of children in attendance at school, as compared with 0.69 per cent. in 1958. This is the lowest figure yet recorded.

The nurses' practice is to inspect all the children termly and to get in touch with the parents of all found to have live vermin or nits, giving them printed directions for cleansing and, where necessary, an emulsion. Small-tooth combs are lent or sold to parents requiring them. Where desirable the children are excluded from school. In any case they are followed-up by the nurses until their freedom from infestation is assured.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS.

In accordance with the County Council's byelaws the school doctors examined 286 children wishing to follow employment outside school hours. In only one case, that of a girl suffering from synovitis, was a certificate of fitness withheld.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXAMINATION OF CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

The medical officers inspected children in the long-term care of the County Council and the dental officers inspected all aged three years and over. Special examinations were also carried out when asked for by the Children's Officer.

As in previous years, a number of children boarded-out in this county by the East Suffolk

County Council, were examined on behalf of that authority.

EXAMINATION OF ENTRANTS TO COURSES OF TRAINING IN TEACHING AND TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

In accordance with Ministry of Education Circular 249, the school medical officers examined 23 entrants to teachers' training colleges and 31 entrants to the teaching profession.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER.

"Staff.

The continuing shortage of dental surgeons makes it impossible to provide a service capable of dealing with the high level of dental disease existing among the children of the county. This is in spite of the fact that an appreciable number, in some areas, are receiving regular attention through the National Health Service.

Some additional part-time help has been obtained during the year. Arrangements were made with the Royal Air Force enabling their dental officer at Honington to undertake two two-hour sessions per week for the treatment of "priority class patients at the Base surgery. For geographical reasons this service applies principally to Royal Air Force families, although it has been agreed that other patients shall be treated when they are able to attend. At the end of the year another part-time dental officer was engaged to work for two sessions per week during term time at the Sudbury clinic. This will enable a redeployment of our meagre forces to benefit other parts of the county.

Inspection and Treatment.

The figures given in Table V do not differ greatly from those for the preceding year. The number of children treated is slightly less and the total number of operations per child treated has increased. This may indicate that the dental condition of the children is becoming even worse. Thirty-eight X-ray examinations were made during the year.

Clinics and Equipment.

The equipping of the Sudbury dental clinic was completed during the year. It is hoped that the Newmarket clinic will be in use before the next report is made."

S. H. POLLARD, Principal School Dental Officer.

PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK IN SCHOOLS.

The Chief Education Officer has kindly furnished the following report:

"The number of meals served has continued to increase during 1959, due largely to the fact that a higher proportion of the children attending School are in Secondary Schools, where there is a higher percentage of diners than in Primary Schools. The daily average for the Spring Term was 9,900, in the Summer Term, 10,000 and in the Autumn Term, an average of almost 11,000 was achieved.

The final unit cost for food for the Financial Year 1958/59 was 10.10d., against an estimated cost of 10.25d., and for Overheads the final figure was 12.82d. against an estimated cost of 13.4d. The number of School days in 1959/60 was several more than in the previous year, and this had the effect of reducing the unit cost for overheads which is estimated at 12.36d. Due to the fact that Contracts have been made for various foodstuffs, it has been found possible to maintain the cost of food at its previous level and a unit cost of 10.25d has been estimated for this period.

During 1959 new kitchens have been opened at the following Schools:-

Moulton V.P. School Gazeley V.P. School Barrow V.P. School

Haverhill Modern Secondary School

A new Central Kitchen has been opened at Lavenham and the kitchen at Hadleigh Junior Girls' School has been re-equipped, and cooking recommenced. At the first two kitchens named, Calor Gas is used, Barrow uses electricity, while at Haverhill, Lavenham and Hadleigh, town gas is used as the main cooking fuel.

As a result of the opening of the Lavenham Central Kitchen, it was possible to close Hadleigh Central Kitchen. In accordance with the agreement with the Ministry of Works, these premises were then demolished, and the site handed back to the Ministry. The Schools formerly supplied from Hadleigh are now served from Lavenham Central Kitchen, with the exception of Hadleigh Modern Secondary School and Hadleigh Hall School, which are served from the Hadleigh Junior Girls' Kitchen. Tuddenham V.P. School kitchen was also closed, and the meals are now served from Newmarket

There have been few changes in personnel during the year, and generally there has been no difficulty in recruiting staff. However, some difficulties have been experienced in the Clare area, where new factories have offered attractive alternative employment.

Consideration has been given to the report of the Joint Committee set up by the Ministry of Education to consider various matters connected with the School Meals Service, with particular reference to mid-day supervision. It has been decided to employ Supervisory Assistants at the discretion of the Chief Education Officer. In this connection the Eastern District Council have included a special rate of pay for Supervisory Assistants who are now included under the general scheme for the employment of School Meals employees."

Milk in Schools.

One third of a pint of milk (either pasteurised tuberculin-tested, pasteurised or tuberulin tested) was available on every school day to every child attending a maintained school. On a day chosen in October, 13,260 children had milk, representing about 73 per cent of the school population.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

I am also indebted to the Chief Education Officer for the following report:

"Staffing

The general position is still in a constant state of flux. Continuity of staffing on the P.E. side is rare owing to the high marriage rate amongst women teachers and the wide choice of vacancies offering similar teaching facilities but with additional allowances. There is also still a severe shortage of fully qualified men teachers to take full advantage of the facilities in the Secondary Schools.

Playing Fields.

Two new areas have been sown at Mildenhall and Silver Jubilee Modern Secondary Schools to increase the playing field accommodation.

Games.

The County Hockey Tournament, held in November at the County Grammar School Playingfield, was attended by 18 teams from 10 schools.

The Senior Netball Tournament held in March at the Clare Secondary Modern School was attended by 20 teams from 11 schools, and in May a Junior Netball Tournament was arranged at which 11 schools were represented by 18 teams.

A most successful Tennis Tournament was again held at Newmarket in July.

The Annual Cross Country Race which was held at King Edward VI Grammar School was attended by 11 teams. The Soccer Championship was won by Mildenhall Secondary Modern School. West Suffolk again competed in the All England Schools Soccer Championship and did reasonably well.

In December a number of Primary Schools combined for an evening of Folk and National Dancing. Both teachers and children enjoyed seeing each other's repertoire and joining in new dances.

Athletics.

The Primary Schools held area meetings in Bury St. Edmunds, Brandon, Ixworth, Stoke-by-Nayland and Wickhambrook and these were all extremely well arranged and much enjoyed by nearly

The Secondary Schools had a very successful season winning the County Championship for the eighth consecutive year, and sending children to the Inter-County Championship Meeting.

Suffolk sent a team to the All-England Championship Meeting in Cheshire in July and some members from West Suffolk were included.

Winter Sports.

At Easter a mixed party of children again visited Celerina, a village approximately one mile from St. Moritz, for a ten-day Winter Sports holiday. As in previous years all the children learned to ski and several more Bronze Medals were obtained.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

For the following report I am indebted to the County Architect:

"The extensions to the Silver Jubilee Modern Secondary Schools were completed and brought into use during April, 1959; the first phase of the Haverhill Modern Secondary School was completed during the autumn and the building occupied; the extensions to Newmarket Modern Secondary School were commenced in April and the Practical Block was completed and brought into use at the beginning of the autumn term. Work on the erection of the first phase of the new Grammar School at Newmarket commenced in November.

"With regard to primary schools, the alterations at Barrow were finally completed and brought into use in April and the new schools at Gazeley and Moulton were completed and occupied in May. Terrapin classroom units with sanitary offices were erected at Brandon and Tollgate County Schools, so as to provide badly needed additional accommodation. Additional classrooms and sanitary offices have been added at Acton Controlled Voluntary School and an additional classroom is being erected at Newmarket Laureate County School. Improvements to sanitary offices have been made at Clare and Stanton County Schools, and additional sanitary offices, including connection to sewer, provided at Honington and Rattlesden Controlled Voluntary Schools. Contracts for the provision of sanitary offices and connection to sewer at Bures Controlled Voluntary School, also for provision of new classrooms, sanitary offices and connection to sewer at Bardwell Controlled Voluntary School, were placed towards the end of the year.

"Tenders for additions to the new school at Barnham, for sanitary offices and connection to sewer at Cavendish, and for a replacement school at Monks Eleigh, are now being obtained.

"The playgrounds at six primary schools have been resurfaced and an additional area formed at Rattlesden Controlled Voluntary School."

STATISTICS.

TABLE 1.

PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED SCHOOLS, SHOWING THOSE FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (INCLUDING PUPILS ALREADY RECEIVING SUCH TREATMENT).

Age Groups Inspected (by year of birth)	Number of pupils	For defective vision (exclud-	For any of the other defects re-	Total individual
(6) year o, on m,	inspected	ing squint)	corded in Table III	pupils
1955 & later		EST EST EN LINE DE LA CONTRACTOR DE LA C	OLD BUILDING	MANUAL TO THE
1954	139	1	2	2
1953	153	4	6	7
1952	42	5	_	5
1951	21	3	_	3
1950	18	3	_	3
1949	23	2	1	3
1948	169	23	11	30
1947	2	- 120	1	1
1946	10	-0.01	1	1
1945	119	5	2	6
1944 & earlier	125	10	4	13
Totals	821	56	28	74

TABLE II. OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections Number of Re-inspections	**	::	182 146
	Total		328

TABLE III.
RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

		Periodic II	nspections.	Special	Inspections.		
		No. of	defects.	No. of defects.			
Defect or Dise	ease.	Requiring treatment	Requiring observation only	Requiring treatment	Requiring observation only		
Skin		6	-	-	-		
Eyes Vision Squint		56 8	17 3	6	2		
Other Ears Hearing	:: ::	2	2	3	1		
Otitis media Other	::	-	_	_			
Nose and Throat		1	11 2				
ymphatic glands		-	2 2	=	_		
Lungs Developmental—		3	3	= -	-		
Hernia Other		2	1 2	-	-		
Orthopaedic—				1	-		
Posture Feet			5 3	=			
Other Nervous system—		3	5	1	-		
Epilepsy Other		No magning			Tobas		
sychological— Developme	ent		7	3	2		
Stability Abdomen		_	1 -	3	3		
Other		1	-	1			

TABLE IV.

AVERAGE HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN. (December, 1959)

Children Measured and Weighed.	Year of Birth	Average Ft.	Height Ins.	Average Sts.	Weight Lb.
22 boys	1954	3	91	3	53
29 ,,	1953	3	103	3	103
25 ,,	1952	4	19	4	31
25 ,, 35 ,, 46 ,,	1951	4	31	4	103
46 ,,	1950	4	3½ 5½	5	23
35 ,,	1949	4	81	5	103
59 ,,	1948	4	91	5	121
35 ", 59 ", 65 ",	1947	4	10	6	53
63 ,,	1946	5	1	7	21
63 ,,	1945	5	31	8	32
64 ,,	1944	5	61	9	12½ 5¾ 2½ 3¾ 0½
24 girls	1954	3	83	3	4
39 ,,	1953	3	113	3	91
28 ,,	1952	4	11	4	4 9½ 1½ 9
25 ,,	1951	4	3	4	
18 ,,	1950	4	4	4	82
40 ,,	1949	4	73	5	134
30 ,,	1948	4	81	5	101
35 ,,	1947	4	103	6	63
43	1946	5	1	7	63 73
42 ,,	1945	5	21	7	132
42 ",	1944	5	2½ 3	8	122

TABLE V.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1)	Number of pupils inspected	by the Aut	hority'	s Denta	l Office	rs—				
	(a) At Periodic Inspect	ions								8,363
	(b) As Specials									111
							Total			8,474
(2)	Number found to require tre	atment								3,829
(3)	Number offered treatment									3,628
(4)	Number actually treated									1,641
(5)	Attendances made by pupils	for treatme	ent, inc	luding	those re	core	ded under	r 11 (h)		4,600
(6)	Half-days devoted to: Period	tic Inspecti	ion							87
	Treati	ment								746
							Total			833
(7)	Fillings — Permanent Teeth									3,580
	Temporary Teeth									312
							Total			3,892
(8)	Number of Teeth filled — Pe	rmanent T	eeth							3,146
	Te	emporary 7	Teeth							292
							Total			3,438
(9)	Extractions — Permanent Te	eeth								226
2.5	Temporary T	eeth								349
							Total			575
(10)	Administration of general an	aesthetics	for exti	raction						188
(11)	Orthodontics: (a) Cases co									11
		rried forwa				r				15
		mpleted du scontinued	-							13
		eated with			11	* *				10
		ble appliar								10
		pliances fit								_
		endances								152
(12)	Number of pupils supplied w	ith artificia	al teeth			***		.,	**	8
(13)	Other operations: Permanen	t teeth								958
	Temporar	ry teeth								358
							Total (1	3)		1,316

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	(CAN)	