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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

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OXFORD

WESTMORLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

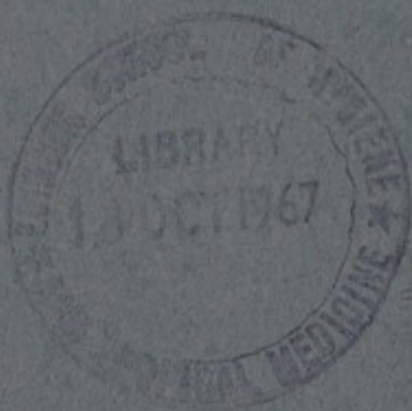
OF THE

School Medical Officer

THE YEAR 1944

Westmorland Gazette Ltd., Printers, Kendal.

107



**MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL INSPECTION
SUB-COMMITTEE**

Chairman: Dr. J. L. COCHRANE

Mrs. BROWNE

Mr. F. A. CAPSTICK

Miss CARPENTER

Mr. G. DUGUID

Miss C. JEFFERYS

Mr. G. N. PATTINSON

The Rev. W. KING

Mr. J. C. ROBINSON

Mr. H. SMITH

Mr. H. I. TURNER

Miss GILSON

Mr. H. L. GROVES

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STAFF OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

School Medical Officer—J. Wright, L.R.C.P. & S.Edin.,
L.R.F.P. & S.Glas. D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officers (Temporary—part-time)—

Enid Byrd, M.R.C.S. Eng.

Mary Ainscow, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.

Isobel Fraser, M.B., Ch.B.

School Dental Officer—J. Irvine, L.D.S.

Assistant School Dental Officer (Temporary)—

E. A. Weaver, L.D.S.

Orthopaedic Nurse—Mrs. D. Williams, S.R.N.

Social Worker—E. C. Woodall, M.A. (appointed July, 1944).

Consultants.

Diseases of the Eye—S. Sumner, Hon. Surgeon, Preston Royal Infirmary.

Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat—Mr. Smalley, Hon. Surgeon, Westmorland County Hospital.

Diseases of the Chest—Dr. Munro Campbell, County Tuberculosis Officer.

Consulting Psychiatrist—Dr. Muriel Barton Hall.

Speech Therapist—Miss Neesham (appointed November, 1944, part-time).

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

to the

Chairman and Members of the MEDICAL INSPECTION SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the work of the School Medical Service for the year 1944.

Evacuation.

The number of evacuees (including secondary school children) had fallen by the end of the year to 944.

Immunisation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria has been carried out continuously throughout the year. At the end of the year 91% of the school children had been treated and 60% of the pre-school children between the ages of 0 to 5.

Nutrition.

A high standard of nutrition has been maintained, and generally the physical development of the children appears to have improved considerably during recent years.

This may be due partly to the increase in milk consumption under the Milk in Schools Scheme, partly to the beneficial effects of school canteens which are increasing steadily in number, but it may also be attributed to the growing interest in dietetic values which is shown by the public as a whole.

School Milk Scheme.

Number of elementary schools taking part in the Scheme, 88.

Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	33
Accredited Milk	...	...	9
Pasteurised	...	...	11
Undesignated	...	...	28
Dried Milk	...	...	7

(Proprietary Préparation)

—
88
—

Number of elementary schools where no Milk Scheme is in operation, 20.

Mentally Retarded Children.

No further progress has been made in dealing with this problem. The establishment of Special Classes for the high grade defectives is prevented by the lack of teachers specially qualified for this work.

Only two special classes exist, one in Staveley and one in Kirkby Stephen, and these serve a useful purpose in these areas in dealing with slightly retarded children.

Psychiatric Clinic.

Dr. Muriel Barton Hall holds monthly clinics at Kendal for cases referred from the School Medical Inspection. Eleven clinics have been held in 1944:—

No of attendances	...	...	...	62
No. of children attending	...	...	...	42

Speech Therapy.

A weekly class is held in Kendal to deal with cases of stammer and other defects.

Cases referred to the Social Worker	...	...	...	59
Visits paid	...	...	...	142

These 59 cases comprised:—

Preparation and follow-up work for psychiatric and speech clinics	...	28
Background enquiries for M.D. ascertainment	...	18
Evacuation problem	...	1
Arising from School Medical Inspection:—		
Follow-up of special cases	...	6
Investigation of home backgrounds	...	6
		—
		59
		—

Detailed statistics of the work of the School Medical Service may be found in the following tables.

My thanks are again due to all the members of the staff of the Health Department, both professional and clerical.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JESSIE WRIGHT,

School Medical Officer.

THE EDUCATION AREA.

County of Westmorland (excluding the Borough of Kendal):—

Area	...	...	...	501,212 acres
Population (estimated)	...	...	...	49,510
Estimated Product of 1d. Rate for Elementary Education, 1944-45	...	...	...	£1,234
Education Rate (Elementary)	...	...	...	3/4
Estimated Product of 1d. Rate for Secondary Education, 1944-45	...	...	...	£1,756
Education Rate (Secondary)	...	...	...	1/5
Number of Schools (Elementary)	...	...	...	*108
(Secondary)	...	...	...	9

*This figure does not include premises taken over for official evacuees.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN 1944.

Medical Inspection (Children inspected)	...	3,145
Dental Inspection (Children inspected)	...	5,497
Dental Treatment (Children treated)	...	1,688
Special Eye Examination (Children examined)	...	221
School Nurses' Visits:—		
(a) Visits to children at home	...	1,084
(b) To Schools	...	942
(c) Examinations in Schools	...	26,515
Children resident in the Ethel Hedley Orthopaedic Hospital School in 1944	...	9
School children attending Orthopaedic Clinics	...	122

SCHOOL CLOSURES AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During 1944, 17 school closure certificates were issued in respect of 10 schools.

Cause.	No. of Certificates.
Measles	15
Scarlet Fever	1
Chicken-pox	1

39 low attendance certificates (Rule 23, Schedule IV of the Code) were issued in respect of 24 schools.

Cause.	No. of Certificates.
Whooping Cough and Measles	3
Measles	25
Chicken - pox	7
Whooping Cough	2
Coughs, Colds and Influenza	2

Cleanliness.

A high standard of cleanliness now exists among the children all of whom are examined for cleanliness at least once each term by the school nurse.

Tuberculosis.

In 1944, 2 County children were admitted to the Westmorland Sanatorium, Meathop, Grange-over-Sands, and 2 were admitted to Oubas House Children's Sanatorium, Ulverston.

One child with Tuberculosis of bones or joints was treated at the Ethel Hedley Orthopaedic Hospital, Windermere.

Crippling Defects.

In 1944, 10 County children received residential treatment at the Ethel Hedley Orthopaedic Hospital, Windermere. The conditions treated were as follows:—

Disease or Defect.			No. Treated.
Congenital Dislocation of Hip	...	...	2
Osteomyelitis	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis	...	...	2
Hallux rigidus	...	...	1
Hemiplegia	...	...	2
T.B. spine	...	...	1
Diplegia	...	...	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Proportion of immunised school children in December, 1944	...	91%
Proportion of immunised pre-school children in Dec., 1944	...	60%
No. of school children immunised during the year	...	868
No. of pre-school children immunised during the year	...	585
Total number of children attending school	...	6515
No. of these children immunised at any time	...	5923
Total number of pre-school children	...	2898
No. of these children immunised at any time	...	1761

SPECIAL EYE EXAMINATIONS AND REFRACTION IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The total number of children examined this year was 221, and 169 of these were new cases. Refraction cases numbered 205 and 172 had glasses prescribed.

An analysis of the defects found is given below:—

(a) Refractive Errors	...	...	...	...	212
Hypermetropia (Longsight):—					
Simple	...	...	...	...	44
Simple Astigmatism	...	...	...	...	38
Compound Astigmatism	...	...	...	...	75
Emmetropia (Incipient short sight in the child)	...				2
Myopia (Shortsight):—					
Simple	...	...	...	...	16
Simple Astigmatism	...	...	...	...	4
Compound Astigmatism	...	...	...	...	11
High Myopia	...	...	...	...	0
Mixed Astigmatism	...	...	...	...	22
(b) Defects other than Refractive Errors (sometimes occurring concurrently with refractive errors):—					
Squint Cases	...	...	...	...	54
Other Defects	...	...	...	...	12

Two cases were referred for specialist examination and treatment.

One child was referred for treatment at the Lancaster Orthoptic Clinic.

Of the 172 who had new glasses prescribed in 1944 it has been ascertained that 153 had obtained them, at the end of that year.

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Age Group.	No. seen.	Found to require treatment.	NUTRITION.					
			A.	%	B.	%	C.	D, %
Entrants	... 914	100	510		391		13	—
2nd Age Group	... 560	81	276		270		14	—
3rd Age Group	... 645	73	385		251		9	—
Others	... 262	32	112		146		4	—
	—	—	—		—		—	—
	2381	286	1283	53.9%	1058	44.4%	40	1.6%
	—	—	—		—		—	—
Specials	... 764	291						

Total No. of defects requiring treatment is 577, which represents 18% of all children examined.

The significant defects were as follows:—

Skin—Scabies, impetigo and ringworm.

Eye—Mainly defective vision and squint.

Ear, Nose and Throat—Deafness and enlarged tonsils and adenoids.

Glands—43 cases were added to the defect list. This large number points to the desirability of supplying to the schools only milk which is guaranteed to be free from Tubercle or Pasteurised.

Speech defects—13 new cases were referred for treatment.

Heart defects—98 cases are being kept under observation.

Chest conditions were the other principal defects.

MEDICAL INSPECTION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Total number of schools:—

Westmorland Schools. ... 9

Total pupils enrolled (including evacuees) ... 1756

Total number of inspections carried out in

Secondary Schools ... 25

Total number of pupils inspected ... 1242

The number inspected, their ages, the number requiring treatment and the nutrition were as follows:—

ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS.**Nutrition.**

Age.	No. Inspected.	Found to require Treatment.	Excellent.	Normal.	Slightly Sub- normal	Bad.
			A. No.	B. No.	C. No.	D. No.
5	4	—	1	3	—	—
6	3	—	2	—	1	—
7	5	1	1	4	—	—
8	10	2	5	5	—	—
9	35	5	8	24	3	—
10	71	11	25	43	3	—
11	206	40	67	135	4	—
12	133	15	43	87	3	—
13	238	28	68	155	15	—
14	270	35	93	166	11	—
15	155	19	77	74	4	—
16	83	5	41	39	3	—
17	22	3	6	16	—	—
18	7	2	4	3	—	—
Total ..	1242	166	441 35.5%	754 60.7%	47 3.8%	—

Defects found in Secondary Schools:—283.

Every child is examined each year in Secondary Schools, and defects requiring treatment were found to be present in 13%.

The defects were mainly defective sight, flat feet, enlarged tonsils and heart conditions.

REPORT OF SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER, 1944.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on dental inspection and treatment of elementary and secondary school children in the County of Westmorland. The figures will be found on page 13.

Elementary Schools.

It has not been possible to complete inspection and treatment of all elementary schools this year, owing to the time which I have devoted to Kendal Borough children. Mr. Weaver in North Westmorland has been able to complete all the schools in his area and in Kirkby Lonsdale, but 10 schools in my areas of South Westmorland and Lakes were still untreated at the end of the year.

5,497 children were inspected, and 2,816 or 51.2% were found to require treatment. This is the lowest percentage ever found to require treatment since the commencement of the school dental service in the county. 1,688 children were treated and 2,326 attendances were made by children at the clinics for treatment. There was a slight increase of fillings per child and an increased number of fillings in temporary teeth. 404 permanent teeth extracted constitutes another low record, and it is of interest to note that about a quarter of this number were extracted for regulation purposes.

Secondary Schools.

837 children were inspected, 478 were found to require treatment and 212 were treated, but, as in the case of the elementary schools, it was found impossible to undertake all the necessary treatment, and Kendal High and Heversham Grammar Schools had not been commenced by the end of the year. The bulk of the treatment in the secondary schools is of a conservative nature and fillings far exceed extractions.

Orthodontic Treatment.

During the year this branch of the school dental service has been greatly expanded and has also become very popular with both parents and children. Many classes of irregularity have been treated successfully by means of appliances in 48 county cases, 26

of which were completed during the year. In addition to these, 85 cases were treated by means of extractions. A very considerable amount of time was spent by the staff in the treatment of these irregularities, as many of the children have had to attend the clinics at frequent intervals for adjustment of appliances. Close on 400 attendances were made by county children for impressions, fittings and adjustments during the year. A special report on Orthodontia in Westmorland has been prepared and submitted to the Education Committee.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

There was a marked increase over last year in the number of cases referred for treatment, and 56 sessions were devoted to the work.

With the expected increase in the numbers of secondary school children eligible for treatment under the new Education Act and the inclusion of Kendal Borough in the County Dental Service, it will be necessary to increase the dental staff by the appointment of an additional dental officer at as early a date as possible.

I should like to thank all the members of the dental staff for their very excellent work during the year. I was particularly grateful to Mr. Weaver for his help and co-operation in taking over the Kirkby Lonsdale area at no little inconvenience to himself. My thanks are also due again to the Head Teachers for the very valuable assistance which they render as liaison officers between patients and dental officers.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. IRVINE,

Senior Dental Officer.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1944.

(1) No. inspected:—

(a) Age groups 10-17	...	...	...	813
(b) Specials	...	...	...	24
				—
			Total	837
				—

(2) No. requiring treatment ... 478

(3) No. actually treated ... 212

(4) Total attendances ... 343

(5) Fillings ... 327

(6) Extractions:—

Permanent Teeth	...	...	133
Temporary Teeth	...	...	23
			— 156

(7) Other operations ... 59

(8) General Anaesthetics ... 5

(9) Half-days devoted to:—

Inspection	...	...	...	7
Treatment	...	...	...	69
				— 76

THE BOARD'S STATISTICAL TABLES.

TABLE I.—MEDICAL INSPECTIONS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups					
Entrants	...	..	...	.	914
2nd age group	...	...	..	...	560
3rd age group	...	...	...	...	645
Total	...	...	...	...	2119
Number of other Routine Inspections			...	...	262
Grand Total					2381

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections & Re-inspections	...	764
--	-----	-----

TABLE II.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED DURING
THE YEAR IN THE ROUTINE AGE GROUPS.

No. of Children Inspected	A (Excel- lent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly sub- normal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2381	1283	53.9	1058	44.4	40	1.6	—	—

TABLE III.

Group 1.—Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanness).

Total number of defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme ...	106
--	-----

Group II.—Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint.

	Under the Authority's Scheme.
Errors of Réfraction (including squint) ...	266
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) ...	10
	276

No. of children for whom spectacles were:—

(a) Prescribed ...	172
Obtained ...	153

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Received operative treatment ...	89
Received other forms of treatment ...	—
	89

TABLE IV.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) Number of Children who were :—

Inspected by the Dental Surgeons :

(a) Routine Age Groups	..	..	5474
(b) Specials	..	..	23
(c) Total (Routine and Specials)	..	..	5497

(2) Number Found to require treatment 2816

(3) Number Actually treated 1688

(4) Attendances made by children for treatment .. 2326

(5) Half-days devoted to	{	Inspection .. 120	}	Total	592
		Treatment 472			

(6) Fillings	{	Permanent teeth .. 1541	}	Total	.. 1763
		Temporary teeth .. 222			

(7) Extractions	{	Permanent teeth .. 404	}	Total ..	2552
		Temporary teeth .. 2148			

(8) Administration of general anæsthetics for extractions 19

(9) Other operations	{	Permanent teeth .. 522	}	Total	565
		Temporary teeth .. 43			

Table V.—Uncleanliness and verminous conditions.

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses, 8.8.

(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses 26,515.

(iii) Number of *individual* children found unclean, 422.

(iv) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority, nil.

(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :

(a) Under the Education Act, 1921, Nil.

(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws, Nil.