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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

WESTMORLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

THE YEAR 1945



REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

1871

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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.

Educational Psychologist—L. Scobbie (appointed June, 1945).

Consultants.

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

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

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

Consulting Psychiatrist—Dr. Muriel Barton Hall.

Speech Therapist—Miss Neesham (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 1945.

Evacuation.

The Scheme for this was officially terminated this year by the Ministry of Health and the remaining evacuees consisted mainly of residual children retained for special reasons in hostels controlled by the Ministry and administered by the Local District Authorities.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

This has now been made a regular part of the Health Service, carried out each term at the schools or at some convenient centre. Pre-school children are included in the scheme which is planned to immunise the child in its first year of life, again at the age of five when it enters school, and again at the age of 10 or 11.

The District Health Visitors are responsible for bringing in the infants in their area to the clinics and the teachers arrange for the attendance of the school age groups.

Very few parents now withhold consent for the treatment and this scheme, in time, should eliminate, in so far as it is possible to do so, the incidence of diphtheria in our child population.

Nutrition.

There are no definite signs that a lower standard of physical fitness or development exists in the children examined at school inspections.

The approved method of assessment varies with the standard regarded as normal by the individual examining doctor, but taken together, the results show a generally high standard of nutrition in spite of six years of rationed war-time food.

There is little doubt that the Milk in Schools Scheme and the school canteens have been strong factors in maintaining the children's physique.

School Milk Scheme.

As will be seen from the accompanying table, some of our schools are still supplied with milk which is neither Tuberculin Tested nor Pasteurised, and I look forward to the time when a guaranteed safe milk supply will be available to every school.

This state of affairs could only be said to exist when the entire school milk supply is Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Dried.

At present Dried Milk is not available for schools which are able to obtain milk in the Accredited or Undesignated categories.

In some areas T.T. or Pasteurised Milk is not available.

Table of School Milk Supplies.

Number of schools taking part in the Scheme—104.

Category :—

Attested	...	...	...	5
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	46
Pasteurised	...	...	...	24
Accredited	...	...	...	4
Undesignated	...	...	...	21
Dried Milk (Proprietary Preparation)	...	...	...	4
				104

Number of elementary schools where no Milk Scheme is in operation—17.

Mentally Retarded Children.

Under the Education Act, 1944, these children are now to be classified as Handicapped Children and the above heading becomes obsolete.

It now becomes an obligation of the Local Authority to provide suitable educational and training facilities (in the shape of special classes or special schools) for such children in its area according to their mental capacity.

A survey to ascertain the numbers and location of such children is being carried out by the Educational Psychologist, Mr. Scobbie, and Miss Woodall, the Social Worker, and when the position has been assessed provision will be made in the general Education Plan. The problem is a difficult one in rural areas where the numbers do not warrant special classes, and the position is complicated by the lack of teachers with special training for this type of education.

Meantime there is no alternative but to retain these handicapped children in the ordinary schools, except in the Kendal Borough Schools, where, owing to the greater numbers dealt with, it has been possible to establish special classes.

Psychiatric Clinic.

This useful branch of the School Health Service continues to deal with maladjusted children from the whole area, at the Stramongate Clinic in Kendal.

The clinic is in the charge of Dr. Muriel Barton Hall, whose valuable services as consultant psychiatrist we are fortunate in retaining for the regular monthly clinic sessions. She is ably assisted by our Social Worker, Miss Woodall, and our Psychologist, Mr. Scobbie.

To complete this very efficient unit we have our Speech Therapy classes held in the same premises twice a week now by Miss Neesham, our Speech Therapist. A close liaison is maintained between these two clinics, where a great deal of very valuable work is being done.

Psychiatric Clinic.

No. of attendances	...	...	...	47
No. of children attending	...	...	...	38

Speech Therapy Classes.

No. of attendances	...	...	...	636
No. of children attending	...	...	...	41

Cases referred to the Social Worker	...	...	...	80
Visits paid	...	...	...	210

These 80 cases comprised:—

Preparation and follow-up work for psychiatric and speech clinics	72
---	-----	-----	-----	----

Background enquiries for M.D. ascertainment	1
---	-----	-----	-----	---

Arising from School Medical Inspection:—

Special School Enquiries	2
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Investigation of home backgrounds	5
-----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

—
80
—

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 School Health Service, both professional and clerical, and once again to Dr. Cockill, District and Borough Medical Officer of Health, for his continued generous and voluntary assistance with School Medical Inspection.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JESSIE WRIGHT,

Acting School Medical Officer.

THE EDUCATION AREA.

County of Westmorland (including Kendal):—

Area	...	...	...	504,903 acres
Population (estimated)	...	...	...	65,408
Estimated product of 1d. Rate for Education				
1945-46	...	...	...	£1,767
Number of Schools (Primary)	...	...	...	111
(Secondary Modern)	...	...	...	2
(Grammar)	...	...	...	9

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN 1945.

Medical Inspection (children inspected)	...	...	5,299
Dental Inspection (children inspected)	...	...	6,324
Dental Treatment (children treated)	...	...	2,523
Special Eye Examination (children examined)	...	...	290
School Nurse's visits:—			
(a) Visits to children at home	...	...	1,106
(b) To Schools	...	...	898
(d) Examinations in Schools	...	...	23,328
Children resident in the Ethel Hedley Orthopaedic Hospital School in 1945	...	...	10
No. of school children who attended Orthopaedic Clinics			148

SCHOOL CLOSURES AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During 1945, 12 school closure certificates were issued in respect of 6 schools.

Cause.	No. of Certificates.
Whooping Cough	3
Measles	3
Whooping Cough and severe weather conditions	2
Whooping Cough, Measles, Colds and other conditions	3
Weather conditions—faulty heating apparatus	1

21 low attendance certificates (Rule 23, Schedule IV of the Code) were issued in respect of 11 schools.

Cause.	No. of Certificates.
Chickenpox	6
Mumps	2
Chickenpox, Scarlet Fever	1
Measles	11
Measles and Whooping Cough	1

Cleanliness.

A high standard of cleanliness exists among the children, all of whom are examined for cleanliness at least once each term by the School Nurse.

Tuberculosis.

In 1945, 6 school children were admitted to the Westmorland Sanatorium, Meathop, Grange-over-Sands. Three children with tuberculosis of bones or joints were treated at the Ethel Hedley Orthopaedic Hospital, Windermere.

Crippling Defects.

In 1945, 11 County children received residential treatment at the Ethel Hedley Orthopaedic Hospital, Windermere. The conditions treated were as follows:—

Disease or Defect.	No. Treated.
Poliomyelitis	2
Osteomyelitis	1
Hemiplegia	1
Diplegia	1
Congenital malformations of foot or hand	3
T.B. Hip	2
T.B. Knee	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

No. of children immunised during the year 1945.

Area.	0—4 years.	5—14 years.	Total under 15 years.
Appleby	36	71	107
Lakes	70	145	215
Windermere	47	121	168
North Westmorland	253	483	736
South Westmorland	189	451	640
Borough of Kendal	169	344	513

**SPECIAL EYE EXAMINATIONS AND REFRACTION IN
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.**

	Primary.		...	Secondary.
	County.	Kendal.		
Total No. examined	132	86	...	72
Glasses prescribed	95	68	...	52
An analysis of the defects found is given below:—				
(a) Refractive Errors	125	81	...	68
Hypermetropia (longsight)—				
Simple	33	14	...	5
Simple astigmatism	23	13	...	11
Compound astigmatism	38	31	...	19
Emmetropia (incipient short sight in the child)				
	—	1	...	2
Myopia (shortsight)—				
Simple	7	7	...	15
Simple astigmatism	1	—	...	2
Compound astigmatism	9	4	...	9
High Myopia	4	1	...	—
Mixed astigmatism	10	10	...	5
(b) Defects other than Refractive Errors (sometimes occurring concurrently with refractive errors)—				
Squint Cases	28	28	...	—
Other Defects	18	5	...	6

10 cases were referred for specialist examination and treatment.

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

Of the 215 who had new glasses prescribed in 1945, it has been ascertained that 178 had obtained them at the end of that year.

**ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION IN PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOLS.**

Age group.	Number seen.	NUTRITION.			
		A.	B.	C.	D.
Entrants ...	1013	511	466	34	2
2nd age group ...	791	331	430	26	4
3rd age group ...	720	359	338	22	1
Others ...	213	74	127	12	—
	—	—	—	—	—
	2737	1275 46.6%	1361 49.7%	94 3.4%	7 0.3%
	—	—	—	—	—
Specials ...	989				

The commonest defects were as follows:—

Skin—Scabies and skin diseases.

Eye—Mainly defective vision and squint.

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

Glands, heart defects and chest conditions were also observed.

MEDICAL INSPECTION IN GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

Total number of schools:—

Westmorland Schools 9

Total pupils on roll 1790

Total number of inspections carried out in

Grammar Schools 29

Total number of pupils inspected 1573

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

ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS.**Nutrition.**

Age.	No. Inspected.	Excellent.	Normal.	Slightly Sub-normal.	Bad.
		A.	B.	C.	D.
		No.	No.	No.	No.
5	18	10	7	1	—
6	20	5	13	2	—
7	18	7	11	—	—
8	22	5	16	1	—
9	24	17	6	1	—
10	83	24	54	4	1
11	229	78	143	8	—
12	258	115	129	14	—
13	258	107	145	6	—
14	248	97	142	9	—
15	206	77	117	12	—
16	125	55	57	13	—
17	51	27	20	4	—
18	12	6	5	1	—
19	1	—	1	—	—
Total ..	1573	630 40.1%	866 55.1%	76 4.8%	1 .06%

Defects found in Grammar Schools:— 282.

Every child is examined each year in Grammar Schools, and defects requiring treatment were found to be present in 13.2%.

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

REPORT OF SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on dental inspection and treatment of primary and secondary school children in the County of Westmorland. The total figures will be found on page 18.

Staff.

Mr. D. H. Watson, L.D.S., joined the staff on 1st November, and Messrs. Fisher and Bray, our part-time dental officers in Kendal, resigned on 31st October. I am glad to report that Mr. Morton, who has been in the R.A.F. since May, 1943, is now released and resumes duty with us on 1st February, 1946. Mr. Weaver, who has been temporary dental officer for North Westmorland since September, 1942, retires on 31st January.

I have further to report that Nurse Petersen, who has been school nurse and dental attendant with both Kendal Borough and the County for 27 years, retired on 1st December. Mrs. Weaver, who was temporary dental attendant to her husband in North Westmorland, also resigned on 31st December. These two vacancies have now been filled by Miss R. Chadwick and Miss E. Procter.

Refugees.

On V.J. Night, 300 Jewish refugee children from concentration camps in occupied Europe arrived by plane in Windermere, having flown from Prague. I was immediately called upon to give emergency treatment for some of these children who were suffering with severe toothache. The Committee agreed that I should inspect all the children and report on their dental condition. Examination revealed much gross caries and sepsis—87% of the children required some form of treatment. As this treatment was considered to be first-class priority, the Committee very generously agreed that I should devote whatever time was necessary to treating these children while they remained at Windermere.

As dispersal to other hostels in various parts of the country commenced soon after their arrival here, it was not possible to complete all the necessary treatment. However, all cases of gross sepsis and gingivitis were cleared up and dentures were provided for some children whose teeth had been knocked out by blows from S.S. guards.

The attitude of these children to dentistry was quite different from that of British children. Extractions were only done after long

explanations had been given as to the reason for their necessity. Invariably they wished all teeth to be saved, by pulp extirpation, root treatment and bridges, even in the case of the most unsaveable teeth.

These children were all touchingly grateful for anything that was done for them and I am grateful to the Committee for permitting me to do this work for these children who had suffered so much.

Primary and Secondary Schools.

The routine work has gone on satisfactorily during the year, but, as was anticipated, the inclusion of the treatment for the refugee children made it impossible to complete treatment at all our own schools this year. Again, Mr. Watson, who was appointed in April, did not commence duty nearly so soon as we had hoped and we had to cope with the increased work with only part-time staff until November 1st.

A total of 6,590 were inspected during the year and 2,688 were treated. The number requiring treatment included two large schools in Kendal, where treatment had only just been started at the end of December.

The new consent forms continue to bring in a high percentage of acceptance of complete treatment throughout school life both in primary and secondary schools.

Treatment at secondary schools is behind time this year, but it is expected that with a return to normal staffing conditions in 1946 all the work should be brought up to date.

Orthodontic Treatment.

There has been a further expansion of this branch during 1945 and a total of 60 new appliances were provided. These new cases varied from simple appliances which might be expected to complete the case in a month or two to more complicated appliances where treatment is extended over some months or even a year or two. There were still 30 cases on treatment at the end of the year and 61 under observation.

The important thing in orthodontic treatment is to start the cases at as early an age as possible, e.g., a child of 7 or 8 years may have an irregularity corrected in 4 to 6 weeks, whereas a child of 12-14 might require from 6 months' to a year's treatment to correct the same irregularity.

This treatment takes up a very considerable proportion of one's time as, in many of the cases, regular visits are essential for adjustments. Actually, over 700 visits were paid by children this year for orthodontic treatment; these figures are included under other operations. Generally speaking, parents are highly appreciative of this form of treatment and I feel sure that the inclusion of orthodontics in our dental service is doing much to increase the general rate of acceptance of treatment.

During the year 8 dentures were provided for school children.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The number of cases referred for treatment continues to increase yearly and during the year 61 sessions were devoted to this branch of the dental service.

Clinics.

It has now been found possible to acquire permanent premises for fixed clinics at Ambleside and Kirkby Lonsdale and steps are being taken to have these equipped for use as soon as possible. The Committee, in conjunction with the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, has agreed to the purchase of a Mobile Dental Surgery to supply the needs of the outlying schools.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all members of the dental staff for their work and co-operation this year. I am very grateful to Mr. Weaver, Mr. Bray and Mr. Fisher for the services they have given temporarily over the last few years and we take leave of them with regret. I am particularly sorry to part with the faithful services of Nurse Petersen. Her conscientious performance of duty, her long-standing knowledge of the children and her kindly handling of them made her services invaluable to all the officers whom she has assisted over her long period of service.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. IRVINE,

Senior Dental Officer.

**DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT OF JEWISH REFUGEE
CHILDREN FROM CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN
NAZI-OCCUPIED EUROPE.**

(1) No. inspected in age groups from 3 to 18	...	...	...	266
(2) No. found to require treatment	...	...	...	230
(3) Actually treated	...	...	...	165
(4) Fillings	...	...	...	136
(5) Extractions	...	...	...	237
(6) General Anaesthetic Administrations	...	...	...	51

(7) Other operations :—

Scalings	45	} Total ... 140
Dressings	...	...	56
Bridge cemented	...	...	1
Root treatments	...	...	8
Septic Socket treatments	...	...	16
Gums sprayed	...	...	2
Other operations	...	...	8
Dentures	...	...	4

(8) Sessions devoted to: Inspection 3, Treatment 53; total 56.

In the first month of treatment there was a considerable amount of sepsis following extractions under both local and general anaesthetics and thereafter sulphanilamide suppositories were used as a routine pack in all sockets, with highly successful results. At the Sick Bay in the Camp nicotinic acid was used as a prophylactic and for treatment in all gingivitis cases. Large doses of Vitamin C were also given.

THE BOARD'S STATISTICAL TABLES.

TABLE I.—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING
MAINTAINED PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups

Entrants	...	...	...	...	1054	(15)
2nd age group	...	...	...	...	1115	(34)
3rd age group	...	...	...	...	1459	(420)
Total	...	...	...	...	3628	(469)
Number of other Routine Inspections					213	—
Grand Total					3841	(469)

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-inspections... 989

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.	%
3841	1726	44.9	1951	50.8	156	4.1	8	.2
(469)	(179)	38.2	(276)	58.8	(14)	2.9	—	—

N.B.—Figures in brackets are in respect of Inspections in Secondary Schools between 1-1-45 and 31-3-45.

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 ... 751

Group II.—Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint.

	Under the Authority's Scheme.
Errors in Refraction (including squint) ...	334
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) ...	28

362

No. of children for whom spectacles were :—

(a) Prescribed ...	215
(b) Obtained ...	178

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

Received operative treatment ...	155
Received other forms of treatment ...	—

155

TABLE IV.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) Number of Children who were Inspected by the Dental Surgeons :			
(a) Routine Age Groups	.. ..	6195	
(b) Specials	.. .. .	129	
(c) Total (Routine and Specials)	.. ..	6324	
(2) Number Found to require treatment	.. ..	3436	
(3) Number Actually treated	.. ..	2523	
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	..	3751	
(5) Half-days devoted to	{ Inspection .. 112 Treatment 703 }	Total	815
(6) Fillings	{ Permanent teeth.. 1800 Temporary teeth .. 519 }	Total	2319
(7) Extractions	{ Permanent teeth .. 571 Temporary teeth .. 1514 }	Total	2085
(8) Administration of general anæsthetics for extractions			127
(9) Other operations	{ Permanent teeth .. 979 Temporary teeth .. 130 }	Total	1109

Table V.—Uncleanliness and verminous conditions.

- (i) Average number of visits made during the year by each School Nurse, 8
- (ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses 29,210.
- (iii) Number of *individual* children found unclean, 708.

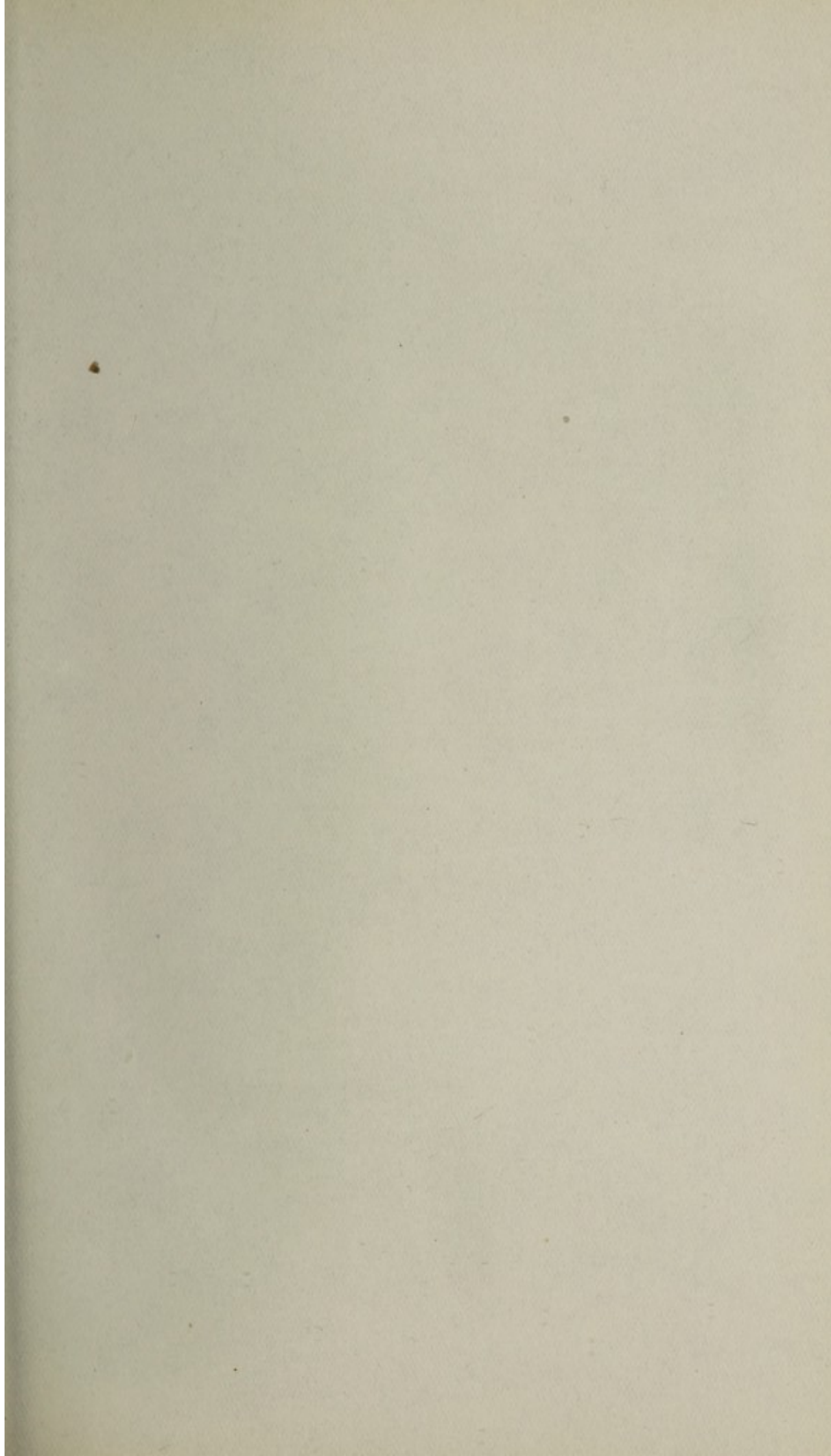


TABLE IV. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION AND RESULTS

Summary of Investigation and Results

Item	Investigation	Results
1. Material
2. Method
3. Time
4. Temperature
5. Humidity
6. Pressure
7. Light
8. Sound
9. Vibration
10. Air Pollution
11. Noise
12. Radiation
13. Magnetic Field
14. Electric Field
15. Gravity
16. Acceleration
17. Deceleration
18. Angular Velocity
19. Angular Acceleration
20. Angular Deceleration