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County Borough of Wolverhampton.

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

W. SPENCER BADGER, M.B., Ch. B. (Vict.), D.P.H. (Camb.),

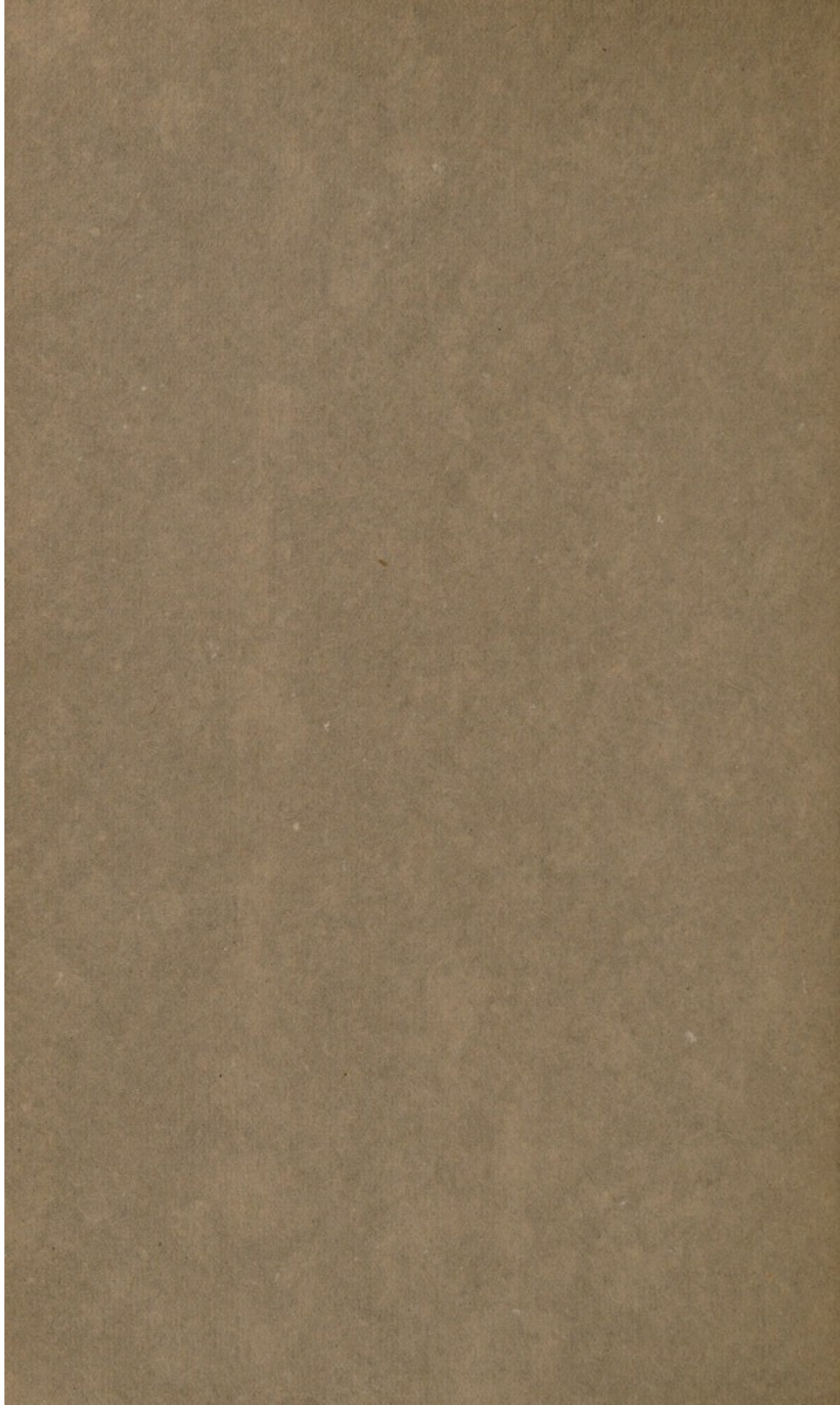
MEDICAL OFFICER TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(Now Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps).

EDITH SERJEANT, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Edinburgh,

ACTING SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

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County Borough of Wolverhampton.

TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the Eighth Annual Report, which deals with the work performed during the year ending December 31st, 1916. In accordance with instructions from the Board of Education, the Report will be a simple one, indicating the character and volume of the work done, and the result of "following up" and treatment.

Dr. Badger is still serving with the R.A.M.C. and has obtained his Captaincy. There has been one change in the School Medical Staff, an additional Nurse (Nurse Grigg) being appointed in July to cope with the epidemic of Scabies (itch) which arose from soldiers infected with this disease returning to their homes from home camps and abroad.

The Treatment Centre became so overcrowded that it was impossible to deal with all the cases, and for a time home visiting and other work had to be dropped. When these circumstances were brought to the knowledge of the Education Committee, steps were at once taken to appoint another Nurse, and the epidemic was kept within bounds and all the children treated.

An important work has been carried on during the year at the Inspection and Treatment Clinics; this will be seen by the large number of children who have attended and the number of dressings which have been applied. In this connection I wish to thank all the ladies who have sent old linen. It has been of the greatest value, and we should like further supplies. The price of lint and bandages has become so high that it is an important item in the Treatment outlay, and the parcels sent us have saved a considerable sum of money.

The results of Routine Inspection will be found in an abbreviated Table II. (page 10), and the following work of the Nurses in Table IV. (page 11). The Clothing and Footgear of the children remain satisfactory.

	CLOTHING.		FOOTGEAR.
	SUFFICIENCY.	CLEANLINESS.	SATISFACTORY.
1915	91·9	99·2	94·9
1916	93·9	97·4	93·3

The work at the Special School for Mentally Defective Children has gone on as usual. His Majesty's Inspector recommended that an additional twelve children should be admitted in the existing accommodation, and as this was sanctioned by the Board of Education, fifty-two children are now in attendance.

ADMINISTRATION—SUMMARY OF WORK.

Year.	Routine Inspection.	Special Cases.	Re-Examinations.
1915	5,173	372	246
1916	3,788	1,002	422

398 printed notifications of Medical Defects were issued.

EXCLUSIONS BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

2,507 children were excluded from school during the year, either suffering from infectious disease or as contacts with it. The following departments were closed for Measles:—Causeway Lake Infants, St. Stephen's Infants, Bingley Street and Brickkiln Street Boys, Girls and Infants, Graiseley, St. John's, and St. Peter and St. Paul's Infants.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL NURSES.

The number of visits paid by the Nurses to the Schools was 1,060; home visits, 998; number of children examined, 18,034. In addition to this, 340 children have attended the Treatment Centre and 6,400 dressings have been applied. The number of home visits has dropped owing to the time spent at this Centre, but more good can be done in relieving cases where we can, than in constantly calling at the homes about children, for whom, owing to war conditions, it is almost impossible to obtain treatment.

SPECIAL SCHOOL.

During the year twelve children have left the School and thirteen have been admitted. Four still remain on the waiting list. Twenty-four children were examined for admission—four were idiots, twelve mentally defective, six referred for subsequent examination after a lapse of six months, one was unfit for school, and one backward. Eight from the previous year were re-examined.

THE INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CLINICS.

Inspection Clinics are held twice a week—Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning. The children summoned are mainly those whose names appear on the lists of absentees furnished by the School Attendance Officers. Others are sent by the Head Teachers and Nurses, and some are brought by the parents. From the Inspection Clinics, cases requiring treatment are drafted on to the Treatment Centre, which is open each day, morning and afternoon (Saturday, morning only) and one Nurse is always in attendance. The child is furnished with a card bearing its

name, &c., and disease, and each dressing is recorded on it. The number of children who have attended for treatment during the year is 340, and the number of dressings applied 6,400—an average of 18 dressings each.

The epidemic of Scabies was very severe in character, giving the impression of a mixed infection, with deep ulcers, requiring treatment from fourteen days to two months.

CONTINUATION OF SPECIAL ENQUIRY INTO “BILIOUS ATTACKS.”

The number of cases enquired into is 38. Of these three were genuine bilious attacks, *i.e.*, temporary sickness following unsuitable food. From the remaining 35 the following data was obtained:—56.5% were girls, the vomiting was accompanied by severe headache in 94.1%, lasting from one day to a week and of a recurring nature.

A family history of sick headache was obtained in 89%, often several members of the family being affected. History of consumption 26.4%—this is probably not higher than would be obtained from other families. Other troubles noted in the family:—Nervous spasms of head, “nerves,” alcoholism, asthma, epilepsy, and giddiness. Many of the sufferers are bad travellers. The following are some of the more severe cases:—

- 1.—Girl—sick headaches, spasmodic tic. The mother had much trouble during the pregnancy. She herself is nervous and gets worse. Mother marked spasms of whole head.
- 2.—Girl.—vomits, not attributed to food—nervous, bites nails, bad sleeper, very heavy-eyed, delicate, thin. Mother and mother’s sister, sick headaches. Mother nervous.
- 3.—Girl—nervous, attacks of vomiting and severe headache lasting a few days to a week. Bad traveller—twitches. Mother nervous and subject to sick headache. Mother’s father confirmed drunkard and bad lot.

- 4.—Sickness associated with severe headache—epicanthic folds—head poor shape—low grade type. Mother sick headaches when young.
- 5.—Girl—severe sick headaches, very difficult to stop. Has to have a doctor and injections (? morphia). May last a fortnight—seems likely to die in the attacks—they come on after excitement or strain. Vomits so severely in trains and trams that she cannot travel—mentally defective, twelve years old, in Standard II. Father and Mother died Phthisis—no other history obtainable.
- 6.—Girl—sick headaches and “faint” attacks (? minor epilepsy) occur every fortnight and last one day. Bad traveller. Mother, mother’s father and mother sick headaches—mother’s uncle, grandmother, and great-grandmother, fits. Mother bad traveller.
- 7.—Boy—sick headaches lasting all day, come on after exertion (football or errands or picture palaces). Usually has one on Saturday as he goes errands. Nervous, bites his nails, thin, bad traveller. Father suffers in the same way. Family history—Consumption.
- 8.—Boy—sick headaches, last one day and occur about every three months. Grandmother, mother, and all the family the same. Boy nervous. Father’s side, Consumption.
- 9.—Girl—sick headaches, lasting a day, follow excitement. Bitten nails—mother and three other children the same. Mother’s side nervous.

These are the most typical examples, the other cases are on the same lines in a lesser degree.

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE CHILDREN INSPECTED.

No detailed comment will be made this year. The return of the defects will be found in Table II. (page 10).

THE CLEANSING STATION.

The parents of 131 children received notifications under Section 122—Children Act, 1908. Cleansing was effected in 43 cases. In 1915 110 children had to be cleansed, and in 1914, 193. This steady drop is very encouraging and fully justifies the procedure.

Our thanks are due, in conclusion, to the Teachers and School Attendance Officers who have assisted us in 1916.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obdient Servant,

EDITH SERGEANT,

Acting School Medical Officer.

JANUARY 31ST, 1917.

TABLE 1.—Number of Children Inspected 1st January to 31st December, 1916.
Code Groups.

	ENTRANTS.	LEAVERS.		GRAND TOTAL.
Age	5	12		
Boys	937	987		1924
Girls	998	866		1864
Totals	1935	1853		3788

Abbreviated form of Table No. II.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.					CODE GROUP, 3,788.		SPECIALS	
					Number referred for treatment.	Number not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number not referred for treatment.
Malnutrition	...	...	...	...	50	480	—	3
Uncleanliness	{	Head	...	...	193	1210	16	14
		Body	...	...	—	—	—	—
Skin	{	Ringworm :—						
		Head	...	...	16	—	49	—
		Body	...	...	7	—	63	—
		Scabies	...	...	19	—	150	—
		Impetigo	...	...	14	3	35	57
		Other Disease	...	...	15	62	27	23
Eye	{	Def. Vision and Squint			254	76	9	—
		External Eye Disease	...	...	9	184	17	37
Ear	{	Defective Hearing			12	140	1	—
		Ear Disease	...	...	6	21	11	7
Teeth		Dental Disease	...	...	—	—	—	—
Nose and Throat	{	Enlarged Tonsils			60	675	—	—
		Adenoids						
		Enl. Tonsils and Adenoids						
		Defective Speech	...	...	—	107	—	—
Heart and Circulation	{	Heart Disease :—						
		Organic	...	...	3	35	6	—
		Functional	...	...	—	191	—	—
		Anæmia	...	...	7	277	7	—
Lungs	{	Pulmonary Tuberculosis :						
		Definite	...	...	4	51	18	—
		Suspected	...	...	28	10	12	9
		Chronic Bronchitis	...	...	10	385	8	2
		Other Disease	...	...	—	—	—	3
Nervous System	{	Epilepsy			—	7	6	7
		Chorea	...	...	3	2	3	3
		Other Disease	...	...	—	8	1	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis : —								
		Glands	...	...	6	1	3	—
		Bones and Joints	...	...	—	—	3	—
		Other Forms	...	...	5	—	2	1
Rickets	...	...	...	...	2	401	—	1
Deformities	...	...	...	...	—	439	1	—
Other Defects or Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	6	34

TABLE IV.

CONDITION.	No. of Defects found for which treatment was considered necessary.			No. of Defects for which no report is available.	No. of Defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			No. of Defects not treated.	Percentage of Defects treated.
	From previous years.	New.	Total.			Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Nutrition	17	7	24	7	10	3	7	—	7	41.6
Nose and Throat	258	60	318	36	68	32	18	18	214	21.3
External Eye Disease...	8	9	17	2	10	6	3	1	5	58.8
Ear Disease	12	6	18	3	8	—	5	3	7	44.4
Teeth	8	2	10	2	5	1	—	4	3	50.0
Heart and Circulation	9	3	12	3	8	—	7	1	1	66.6
Lungs	11	4	15	3	9	—	9	—	3	60.0
Nervous System	—	3	3	—	3	2	1	—	—	100.0
Skin	13	3	16	5	8	6	1	1	3	50.0
Rickets and Deformities	7	2	9	2	4	3	—	1	3	44.4
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	2	6	8	4	3	1	1	1	1	37.5
Vision and Squint	418	254	672	127	225	104	82	39	320	33.4
Hearing... ..	23	12	35	8	13	8	1	4	14	37.1
Miscellaneous	26	27	53	7	28	10	17	1	18	52.9
TOTALS	812	398	1210	209	402	176	152	74	599	33.2



