

FIGURES RELATING TO WORK ACCOMPLISHED.

The following summary serves to indicate the extent of work accomplished during the year:—

Schools inspected—			
Of roll under 100	1,184	
Of roll 100 to 500	349	
Of roll 500 and over	161	
			1,694
Children examined—			
Complete examinations	66,285	
Partial examinations	51,828	
			118,113
Notifications sent to parents relating to defects requiring treatment	38,612	
Health talks given to school-children	1,127	
Parents interviewed	9,651	
Public lectures and addresses to parents	81	
The figures for the work of the school nurses are as follows:—			
Number of days assisted Medical Officer in schools	1,761	
Number of days engaged wholly in clerical work	1,506	
Number of children examined for medical schedule	82,371	
Number of children re-examined after inspection of Medical Officer	33,324	
Number of visits to homes in—			
Large towns	6,451	
Small country towns	2,285	
Scattered districts	2,115	
			10,851
Number of children taken personally to hospitals	368	
Number of children taken personally to dental clinic	668	

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Total number of children examined	66,285	Mouth, teeth— <i>continued.</i>	
Percentage found to have no defects	10·8	Fillings	21·63
Percentage with defects other than dental	61·24	Perfect sets of teeth	4·86
Percentage showing evidence of—		Nose and throat—	
Subnormal nutrition	7·45	Enlarged tonsils and adenoids	20·17
Pediculosis	1·88	Obstructed nasal breathing	2·92
Uncleanliness	2·14	Enlarged glands	14·0
Skin—		Goitre—	
Impetigo	1·52	All degrees	21·72
Scabies	1·18	Incipient	17·37
Ringworm	0·14	Small	3·79
Other skin-diseases	0·85	Medium	0·5
Heart-abnormality	0·96	Large	0·06
Respiratory diseases	0·42	Eye—	
Total deformities of trunk and chest	20·21	External eye-disease	1·71
Postural	8·11	Vision—	
Flat chest	0·65	Total	3·14
Spinal curvature	0·70	Corrected	1·71
Pigeon breast	4·46	Uncorrected	1·43
Depressed ribs	2·64	Ear—	
Depressed sternum	2·95	Otorrhœa	0·32
Other deformities	0·70	Defective hearing	0·44
Deformity of jaw and palate	8·89	Defective speech	0·53
Mouth, teeth—		Mental—	
Dental caries	63·24	Feeble-mindedness	0·36
Extraction of permanent teeth	7·08	Epilepsy	0·03
		Tuberculosis	0·02

The percentage of defects noted differs very little from that in previous years, the general tendency, however, being to show a slight decrease.

Much that has been said in past reports is again applicable. It is satisfactory to note, however, that the above figures indicate not only an increase in the amount of work actually accomplished, but also an added interest on the part of the public in the work of the service. School Medical Officers last year, for instance, personally interviewed 9,651 parents, and gave eighty-one public addresses and lectures. School nurses paid 10,851 visits to homes.

The weekly health articles contributed to the press by officers of the Department were no doubt partly responsible also for added popular interest in health matters. One very satisfactory feature of the year's work has been the increased attention paid to notifications sent to parents relating to defects requiring treatment. This is, in part, the natural outcome of the closer association between parents and School Medical Officers above noted, but is also largely due to hard work on the part of the school nurses. Great credit is due to the tact and energy of the school nursing service.