

carried out, yet no difficulty is placed in the way of boys consulting the dentist, and the authorities feel they have done all they could reasonably be expected to, in seeing that the pupils have the services of a properly qualified dental surgeon.

The above examples will, I hope, enable members to understand the way in which school dentistry is practised in English public schools.

Poor Law Schools.—The Poor Law children are educated in Poor Law Schools of a somewhat varied kind. The most important are the large district schools; then we have the Parish Schools, in which the children from one parish are educated, not on the workhouse premises, but on a separate site, and governed under special regulations issued by the Local Government Board.

An example of a London Parish is that of St. Pancras, whose schools are at Leavesden, a distance of about 18 miles, with a population of about 620 children. St. Marylebone has 414, Lambeth has 635. Most of the other special parish schools are in the provinces. Birmingham, I see, in 1897-1898, had a population of 265 children. The total number of these schools amounts to 38.

Then there are schools where the children are educated on the workhouse premises; the average number is very small, some workhouses having as few as nine, and I should think seventy would be a very high average for most of them. There are several Unions throughout the country, and these are in the large majority, containing very few children, who are not educated in the workhouses, but at elementary schools.

These figures are given that it may be understood why it is that dental surgeons are appointed to some schools and not to others, and why guardians differ in the views they hold on this question of school dentistry.

A school of 700 or 800 children, like a district or large parish school, must necessarily have a number of young people suffering from dental disease, and in many cases with marked symptoms. The medical officer also would be made aware of tooth trouble so frequently that he would feel the necessity of some skilled assistance. Then again, the rejection by the naval authorities of numbers of boys would compel the governors of that school to consider the question of dental supervision; hence the guardians of the school would be able to appreciate the good that could be done by appointing a dentist to look after the teeth of their young people. In a Union containing very few children the result of dental neglect would not be brought so vividly before either the Board or the medical officer. However, the example set by the large schools in this respect is having very beneficial results gradually in the smaller Poor Law Schools of the country. Nearly all the District and Parish Schools of London have dental surgeons attached.

The schools of St. Marylebone are at Southhall; number of