

The scheme of medical inspection under review included the re-examination of "abnormal" cases; the routine inspection of all children not hitherto medically examined in the Infant Departments and the lower two-thirds of the Junior Departments, and the examination of non-routine cases selected (from those classes which were not included in the routine medical inspection) on account of some disease or defect noticed by the teachers or school medical officers. To accomplish this work the Board had the services of two permanent assistant medical officers and fifteen part-time medical officers in addition to the staff of nurses. The latter continue to visit all children reported by the school doctors as underfed or ill clad; they also co-operate with the Attendance Department by visiting cases of this kind, and they examine girls alleged to be in a verminous condition. For the examination of boys of the latter class four attendance officers have been specially detailed; they are authorized by the Chief Medical Officer to examine the persons and clothing of boys, in terms of Section 122 of the Children Act, 1908. The total number of children examined, exclusive of the re-examination of "abnormals," is estimated at 23,000.

*Notifications to Parents:* It was found possible to carry out the scheme prescribed by the Board in most of the public and in all the voluntary schools. 6,225 notifications of diseases or defects were made to parents. When a re-examination of the children was made it was found that 33.1 per cent. were cured and 18.3 per cent. improved; the remainder were still under observation at June, 1911. The cases cured during the year include a large number of children who have been treated by operation for adenoid growths and enlarged tonsils. Dr. Roberts points out that these two conditions are often associated, but the adenoids usually produce the more serious consequences, amongst which may be mentioned mouth breathing, deformity of the chest, deafness, discharging ears, mental backwardness and dullness, and various nervous conditions, such as night-terrors and disturbed sleep. It is therefore obvious, as the doctor remarks, that where those conditions are present the cause of them should be removed as early as possible during school life.

*Skin Disease:* An inquiry was made on two occasions as to the number of children from school on account of infectious skin disease. This was done to assist in deciding as to the advisability of opening a school for cases of ringworm and favus. The average length of absence from school was also ascertained at the same time, and was found to be considerably less than is usually stated. For this reason, and also on account of the difficulty of finding a suitable building for the purpose, it was decided to postpone the formation of a ringworm school. All children suffering from ringworm, favus, scabies, and also serious cases of impetigo, are excluded from school until cured. It has not been found practicable to exclude all children found to be in a verminous condition, but very bad cases are excluded, whether it is the head or body that is affected, and all such are reported to the sanitary authorities, in order that the condition of the home may be investigated. In the previous report the cleanliness of the children was fully discussed by Dr. Roberts, and the danger to health arising from the presence of lice on the hair or clothes was emphasized. A definite improvement has been effected in this respect.

The statistics make manifest how large a percentage of children suffer from decayed teeth. Whenever the teeth are definitely producing unhealthy conditions of the mouth or throat the parents are urged to obtain treatment, which usually means the extraction of the offending teeth.

*Defective Children:* In two lectures delivered by Dr. Roberts, to which reference is made in the report, advantage was taken of the occasion to emphasize the necessity for personal cleanliness and the importance to parents and children of walking in what the late Sir Andrew Clark aptly described as "the paths of physiological righteousness." The children attending the "Cripple Schools" spend about 6 hours out of the 24 at school; three-quarters of their lives on five days of the week; and all of the remaining two days, and the whole of the holidays, are therefore lived elsewhere. This explains how easily the good done at school may be largely counteracted out of school hours, and, therefore, the Doctor remarks, it is essential that all who are interested in the welfare of the