

The parents have, on the whole, supported the local authority with quite remarkable sympathy. In some towns as many as 70 per cent. of the parents have attended the medical examination.

The local authorities cannot stop at examination and report. It is gratifying to know they are not doing so. Some districts have appointed school nurses, and these women are admirably fitted to act as a medium for carrying out the instructions of the school medical officer. The ailments from which the children suffer, such as filth diseases, can be best treated by the district nurses instructing the parent as a friend. The Children's Care Committees, which exist in some places, can take up the work of following up the report of the school doctor. In several districts these committees are at work. The school medical officer for the West Riding has issued a very valuable set of rules and regulations for the guidance of such committees who may wish to assist the education authority in providing medical or surgical attention for ailing children. The system of medical examination has not been in practice sufficiently long to enable full returns to be made as to the results in the way of attending to the reports given by the school doctor; but figures have been supplied by a number of authorities, and for a beginning they are quite satisfactory. The county of Glamorgan stands far away at the head in the percentage of children who have received treatment for defects and diseases pointed out by the school doctor. Those suffering from squint have all been treated, and 96 per cent. of the cases of deafness have been attended to. In some places the percentages of cases treated is not more than one-fifth.

The local authorities have really done extremely well on the whole in carrying out their duties in regard to the physical condition of the children. Over forty authorities have employed school nurses, and last year £1,650 were spent in this way. Other authorities have subsidized the district nurses, who have taken on the additional work of looking after the defective children. Last year, 37 authorities pro-

vided spectacles for children at a cost of about £500. The Board of Education has given power to a number of education authorities to make grants to the local hospitals, and in that way they are able to nominate children for admission to these institutions.

The most important development of all in connection with the medical branch of education is the school clinic. This is a medical centre under the control of the education authority for the treatment of children. It is useful also as a centre where more exhaustive examinations of the children may be made than is possible in the school. Such diseases as those of the skin, teeth, eyes, and ears can be most satisfactorily treated in this way. The special sanction of the Board of Education is needed to enable an education authority to set up a school clinic, and during 1909 eleven authorities sought and obtained such powers. The one established by the City of Bradford is the most complete one in existence in England. In 1909, 2,323 cases were treated in this institution.

A few years ago there were few people who would have approved of the education authority taking any account of the physical condition of the school children. The facts very briefly set out above show that a revolution is going on in the world of education. A former Minister of Education once said to me: "I have been working to get the doctor into the schools because I know that after him will follow all I want to see in the way of the public treatment of the diseased and deficient child." Three years ago it was only medical examination, now we have medical treatment. The latter was sure to follow the former. But we have not finished yet. The State has accepted a responsibility now for the physical condition of the children, which will compel it to add more duties to the present until provision is made by which every child will receive all the care and attention which science can provide, so that it will grow up with a strong, clean, and healthy body as well as an educated and developed mind.