

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL INSPECTION
AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

REPORT

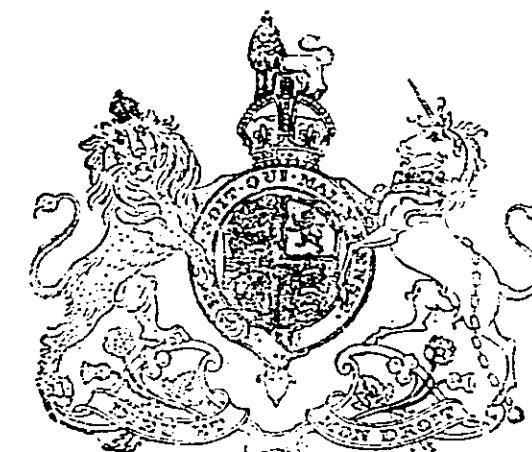
OF THE
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE

ON

Medical Inspection and Feeding of Children Attending Public Elementary Schools.

VOL. I.—REPORT AND APPENDICES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL INSPECTION
AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC
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VOLUME I.

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CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE.

Mr. H. W. SIMPKINSON, C.B., Assistant Secretary of the Board of Education
(*Chairman*).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D., Assistant Medical Officer under the Local
Government Board.

Mr. CYRIL JACKSON, Chief Inspector of Elementary Schools under the Board
of Education.

THE HON. MAUDE LAWRENCE, Chief Woman Inspector of the Board of
Education.

Mr. R. WALROND, Senior Examiner of the Board of Education.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM, Junior Examiner of the Board
of Education (*Secretary*).

TERMS OF REFERENCE.

(1) To ascertain and report on what is now being done and with what
result in respect of Medical Inspection of Children in Public Elementary
Schools.

(2) And further, to inquire into the methods employed, the sums
expended, and the relief given by various voluntary agencies for the provision
of meals for children at Public Elementary Schools, and to report whether
relief of this character could be better organised, without any charge upon
public funds, both generally and with special regard to children who, though
not defective, are from malnutrition below the normal standard.

The Committee were appointed by the Marquess of Londonderry,
President of the Board of Education, on 14th March, 1905.

REPORT.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MY LORD MARQUESS,

1. We, the Committee appointed by Your Lordship, under Your Lordship's reference of 14th March last, beg leave to report that we have met on twenty-five occasions. On thirteen of these days we sat to hear evidence. Evidence was heard from forty-four witnesses; of these, two gave evidence as to both medical inspection and the feeding of children, nine gave evidence as to medical inspection only, and thirty-three as to the feeding of children only.

2. We communicated with every Local Education Authority, inquiring whether anything was being done within their area either for the Medical Inspection or the Feeding of Children attending Public Elementary Schools. We subsequently communicated further with Local Authorities and with other persons likely to be able to provide detailed information. We desire to take this opportunity of expressing our cordial thanks to Local Authorities and their officials, and to those other persons with whom we communicated, for the thoroughness and courtesy with which they supplied the information for which we asked them. Without this assistance it must have been impossible for us to make our inquiries in any way complete.

3. We have given our careful consideration to the Reports of the Royal Commission on Physical Training (Scotland) and of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration. We give in Appendix III. those sections of these two Reports which appear to bear upon the subjects of our Reference.

4. In view of the separate nature of the two portions of our Terms of Reference, we have thought it desirable to keep the two subjects separate in our Report, and we have, therefore, divided the Report into two parts, Part I. dealing with Medical Inspection, and Part II. with the Feeding of School Children.

PART I.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

I.—INTRODUCTORY.

5. We began our inquiries as to the medical inspection of children attending public elementary schools, by sending a circular letter to all Local Authorities asking whether they would be prepared to supply us with information on the subject. We enclosed with our letter a form to be filled up, upon which we inquired (1) whether the Authority have a Medical Officer appointed specially for their educational work; if so, a short statement of his duties was asked for; (2) whether the authority have established any system of medical inspection of the children in public elementary schools (a) for the detection and prevention of infectious diseases, and (b) as to general health and physical development, that is to say, as to the sight, hearing, teeth, and personal condition of the children and their physical ability to profit by the school teaching; and (3) whether any form of medical inspection was organised in the area in connection with particular schools by the managers or other persons interested. On the information obtained from these forms, we were enabled to obtain a fairly accurate idea of the areas in which something definite was being attempted, and in which further investigation was desirable. Evidence was heard as to eleven typical cases (chiefly from the Medical Officers), and in other cases, which seemed likely to prove of interest, a Memorandum was obtained giving additional and more detailed information as to the work done. A selection of these memoranda has been printed in Appendix V.

We have further communicated with Local Authorities asking for information on specific points. By these means we believe that we have obtained information as to all those areas, where anything of interest is being done, and have collected much valuable material. In Appendix I. a summary is given of the information thus collected. It is hoped that this summary will prove of use as showing at a glance what (if anything) is being done in each area.

6. In so far as we are aware, there is no specific statutory provision for Local Education Authorities to conduct the medical inspection of the children attending the public elementary schools within their area, but it is generally held that this power is included in their general powers in regard to elementary education, and, with trifling exceptions, no objection appears to have been raised to this view by the district auditors. We understand that any officers appointed by Local Education Authorities for the medical inspection of the children attending the public elementary schools within their area are appointed under the general power of appointing "necessary officers" conferred by Section 35 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870. It is not within the range of our inquiries to ascertain precisely what are the limits of this power. The power of appointing medical officers for the purposes of the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899, is given by Section 1 of that Act.

7. It may be said at once that we did not discover any cases where medical inspection has been organised by voluntary effort. The chief work is that done by the Queen's nurses in Liverpool and other places. To this further reference will be made elsewhere; and in a few other instances, as at Wimbledon, nurses are supplied by voluntary effort to examine the children attending particular schools. Practically all the work, which is done, is done by the Local Authority, either in its educational capacity, or in its capacity as sanitary authority.

8. As the result of our inquiries we have found forty-eight Authorities, under Part III. of the Education Act of 1902, in addition to London, in whose areas a definite system of medical inspection has been established, generally, though not invariably, under the charge of a school medical officer. These forty-eight areas comprise two Counties, twenty-five County Boroughs, ten Boroughs, and eleven Urban Districts. There are besides eighteen areas, namely those of three Counties, six County Boroughs, six Boroughs and three Urban Districts, in which—though no definite system has up to now been established—teachers and sanitary officers have done organised work for the amelioration of the physical condition of the children attending public elementary schools. There are besides many other areas where special attention is paid in the schools to the prevention of the spread of infectious disease.

9. In most areas the inspection is of recent origin. In a few places, the system was established by the late School Board, and has been carried on by the new Authority, but even in many of these the work has been reorganised and extended by the new Authority. This is noticeably so in London, where the County Council have recently largely increased the staff. In some places a system of examination of eyesight by the teachers has been in operation for a considerable time, or energetic Medical Officers of Health have placed a wide interpretation upon the scope of their duties. In the majority of areas, however, the system of medical inspection has been established for the first time by the new Authority. Not infrequently the Medical Officer of Health has been appointed Medical Officer to the Education Authority. This arrangement has many conveniences, and has often been the outcome and development of the work done by the Medical Officer of Health in visiting the schools for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. More than one such officer had previously been accustomed on the occasion of his visits to give informal advice on subjects, such as eyesight, when appealed to by the teachers.

Leslie (*passim*).

Hayward
(*passim*).

Leslie, 1094-5.

Willoughby,
5322.

10. Practically everywhere the inspection extends to children of Council schools and Voluntary schools alike. Almost the only exceptions are London and Swansea. In Swansea nothing has been altered, and no attempt has Davies, 4478-9. apparently as yet been made to extend inspection to the voluntary schools. In London something is being done, but the whole system of medical inspection is in process of development, and the voluntary schools have not as yet been fully included in the system.

11. An important point to be noted is that as a general rule the inspection is confined to the examination of the children, and to the discovery of defects of eyesight, hearing, or physical development. It does not generally include treatment. The existence of the defect or ailment is discovered, and the parent is notified of the fact. It is his duty to take steps to get the necessary remedy applied. It is rarely that any attempt is made to treat any defect or illness discovered. Practically the only instances are where the Queen's nurses work in the schools, as in Liverpool, Birmingham, and other places. These nurses not only examine children but also deal with minor ailments such as small cuts, bruises and the like, and do a certain amount in the cleansing of heads. Such treatment is, however, the exception, and is practically confined to organisations supported by voluntary effort; in the vast majority of cases only examination is attempted, the remedying of any defect discovered being left to the parent.

12. As will be seen from the Summary which is given in Appendix I., we have received information of several areas, where, though nothing is at present being done, the matter is under consideration, and it is likely that some system of medical inspection will be organised in the immediate future. Elsewhere the present organisation is being extended, and this is likely to occur in many places, in which a commencement is only now being made. The work at first is much heavier than it becomes later, when the system is fairly started. Teachers need instruction; as they gain in interest and knowledge, they will materially lighten the work, which in the early stages falls upon the Medical Officer. Frequently the Medical Officer has found it necessary to confine his attention at first to the more important causes of defect and only gradually to widen the subjects of his examinations, as the initial work decreases. Often the work of examination has in the first instance been confined to the worst cases, a thorough inspection of all the children being postponed until these have been dealt with. More rarely the inspection has been confined to a few selected children.

Williamson
(*passim*).

Willoughby,
5396.

13. In Section II. of the Report we give some account of the staff which is employed, in Section III. we describe the general features of the systems of organisation, and in Section IV. the special features appearing in the different classes of areas, *i.e.*, Counties, County Boroughs, Boroughs and Urban Districts, together with accounts of some typical instances. In Section V. an account is given of the methods adopted and the results attained in different branches of the inspection, and in Section VI. the results are briefly summarised.

II.—STAFF.

14. In this Section of the Report we give a brief account of the medical officers and other persons who are employed in the medical inspection of children throughout England and Wales. General questions of organisation are dealt with in Section III.; in this Section only those points are dealt with which immediately concern the *personnel* of the staff.

(a) School Medical Officers.

15. Medical officers for educational purposes have been appointed by six Counties, thirty-five County Boroughs, thirty-one Boroughs, and thirteen Urban Districts. The duties of the School Medical Officer may include any of the following:—

(a) Periodic examination of and report on the sanitary condition of the school premises and the general health of the scholars; examination from this standpoint of plans for new schools and enlargements.

- (b) The prevention of the spread of infectious disease.
- (c) Examination of children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
- (d) Periodic visits to the schools and examination of the eyes, ears, teeth, and general physical condition of the children.
- (e) Making of an anthropometric survey.
- (f) The examination of defective and epileptic children, and the superintendence of special schools for defective, epileptic, blind, and deaf children.
- (g) Advising the Authority upon special points; lecturing to the teachers, and advising them as to the curriculum for certain children and as to general matters of health.
- (h) Examination of the health of teachers and other employés.

16. It must not be assumed that all these duties are assigned to every School Medical Officer. In point of fact very seldom are all assigned to him; the making of an anthropometric survey, for example, has only so far been attempted in a very few areas. In many areas there is no regular system at all, the officer merely being appointed to examine children alleged to be unfit to attend school, or to see specially selected cases, or to attend to cases of defective and epileptic children, or to take charge of the special schools. Sometimes no specific duties are assigned to the Medical Officer. The following extract from the lists of duties of the Medical Officer for Kidderminster is interesting as showing the possibilities which lie before a sympathetic officer.

"The function of the Medical Officer in relation to the children in the schools is preventative, and in individual cases only applies to matters involving educational questions. The conditions of the special senses, the avenues of knowledge, are of great importance with regard to educational success. The officer can call attention to the need of glasses, but has nothing to do with prescribing them. He may notice the presence of adenoids, but takes no part in their removal. On the other hand his work should extend far beyond mere investigation of the sanitary state of the buildings or the excluding of unhealthy or diseased children. The methods of education, requirements of physical exercise, avoidance, particularly in the very young, of overstrain from prolonged fatigue or from improper tasks are all matters in which improvement can only be obtained by the Medical Officer acting, not as an authority to shut or close, to disturb or interrupt the proper work of the school, but as a counsellor and adviser with a knowledge of school routine and of the requirements for health, to assist and collaborate with the Committee, and it is with this in his mind that he should enter any school."

Dr. Kerr, the School Medical Officer for London, makes some interesting comments on these features of a School Medical Officer's duties in his Memorandum which is printed in Appendix V. A few typical examples of lists of the duties assigned to School Medical Officers are given in Appendix VII.

17. The duty of examining medically the teachers and other employés does not come within the phrase of our term of reference, "medical inspection of children," but it is mentioned, because it is a duty very frequently assigned to Medical Officers, especially where any systematised medical inspection is attempted. The prevention of the spread of infectious disease is more properly part of the duty of the Medical Officer of Health, and is of necessity partly dealt with by him, even where a separate Medical Officer has been appointed for educational purposes. The examination of defective and epileptic children and the superintendence of "special schools" require a somewhat special knowledge, and are, therefore, in one or two places discharged by a different doctor, and not by the School Medical Officer.

18. In Manchester, and a few other areas, the School Medical Officer devotes his whole time to his official duties, but in the majority of cases he only devotes a portion of his time to them. He frequently also holds the post of Medical Officer of Health. He is very frequently in private practice. We proceed to deal with these points. There are distinct advantages in the School Medical Officer being also Medical Officer of Health. The duties of the

two offices naturally overlap or may do so. The inspection of children for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease and the sanitary inspection of the premises are examples of this. The union of the two offices tends Tattersall, 4658. to prevent duplication of work. It has the additional advantage that the staff of the Authority's Sanitary department is thus made easily accessible for any special work. They are employed for disinfecting schools, and for following up cases of dirty and verminous children, and for obtaining attention to the condition of the homes as well as of the children. At the same time the Medical Officer of Health finds that his position as educational Medical Officer greatly facilitates his work in preventing the spread of infectious disease. Kerr, 3846. The chief danger of the arrangement is that the work for the prevention of infectious disease may tend to swamp the work in other directions. In saying this we must not be understood to be in any way underestimating the value of this work; we merely desire to point to the possible danger of other important branches of medical inspection not receiving due consideration.

19. In some important instances the School Medical Officer's duties and those of Medical Officer of Health require the whole time of the officer; or at most Willoughby, 5316. he has only time in addition for some light duty. But far more frequently the Medical Officer, even though also Medical Officer of Health is also in private practice. This arrangement, especially in small places, is probably inevitable, but there are obviously many difficulties in connection with it. Dr. Kerr has given it as his opinion in his Memorandum that the irregular calls upon and duties demanded from a general practitioner who has to be at everyone's beck and call, will always make the combination of general practice and the duties of a school doctor incompatible. We express no opinion upon this view, but there is no doubt that in large places, where the educational duties are considerable, a London, App. V. due attention to them has made attention to private practice very difficult. In Hayward, 5574. small places, where the number of schools and of children to be examined is limited, and the duties of the Medical Officer in consequence are light, this difficulty is very largely diminished, even if it does not altogether disappear; but the Price, 4558. matter becomes serious when the time required for educational duties amounts to, perhaps, two or three half-days in the week, or even more.

20. Danger may also arise in another direction, unless great tact is exercised. If the Medical Officer is in private practice, the other medical practitioners may be jealous of him, and may, rightly or wrongly, accuse him of using his position to remove their patients from them. It is true that only one case of this difficulty was mentioned, and that this was almost certainly due to a misunderstanding, but the danger was evidently very much in the minds of the witnesses whom we examined, and clearly needs to be guarded against. The importance of this is, it is true, somewhat diminished by the fact that the duty of the Medical Officer is confined to the examination of the children and to the discovery of any defects or ailments from which they may be suffering, and does not extend to their treatment. His work, on the other hand, is not always popular, and the unpopularity of his official duties may lead to a loss of private practice. Again, as Dr. Martin and others have Martin, 3966. pointed out, the private practitioner and the Medical Officer have different points of view, "The one aiming at curing diseases, and the other at hunting for disease."

(b) Nurses.

21. Nurses are employed in London and also in a few other towns. In some places they are paid by the Local Authority, as in London, Brighton or Reading; in others, such as Liverpool, Birmingham, and Barry, they are provided by voluntary effort, generally through the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses' Association.

22. The duties of the nurses employed in London and Brighton differ from Kerr, 3767. those of the nurses employed elsewhere in that they are purely inspectional. Brighton, App. V. The nurses in these towns do not themselves treat the children. They examine them for uncleanliness, verminous heads, ringworm, and other

London and
Brighton, App. V.

Williamson
(*passim*).

Hayward, 5600.

Leslie (*passim*).

Williamson
(*passim*).

Price, 4569.

Leslie, 1094.

similar diseases, and to a certain extent for the detection of infectious disease ; they also give advice to the teachers. The parents are informed of any ailment from which the child is found to be suffering, and where necessary the nurse visits the home and gives advice as to treatment, but neither in London nor in Brighton does she carry it out herself. The nurse does not herself exclude from school children suffering from dirty or verminous heads. In London the sanction is first obtained of the School Medical Officer or one of his assistants, and in Brighton the nurse reports the case to the teacher, who only, as a rule, excludes the child after the exclusion has been authorised by the Medical Officer of Health.

23. On the other hand, at Reading and Widnes, where the Local Authority pay the nurse, and at Liverpool, Birmingham, Wimbledon and other places where Queen's Nurses are provided by voluntary effort, the nurse not only examines the children and visits the homes to give advice to the parents, but she also treats the children. At Wimbledon she does not do any treatment at the school, but she visits the home of the child at the request of the teacher or Medical Officer, and offers her services, acting under the directions of the private medical attendant, if there is one. She also attends any case at the request of the parent ; she is not, however, allowed to attend cases of infectious disease.

24. In Liverpool and Birmingham the nurses visit the schools and attend to cases of cuts, small sores, and other petty ailments ; they also, where necessary, visit the homes and instruct the parents as to the daily treatment of the children. In Liverpool twenty-one schools were visited, and over 50,000 dressings have been done in the course of last year. In Birmingham there have been in four schools over 20,000 dressings in twelve months. It has been found best in these cases that the nurses should only work part time at their school duties, devoting the rest of their time to district nursing. Mr. Williamson, of Liverpool, who gave evidence as to the work done in schools by the Queen's Nurses throughout the country, said that this was considered the most satisfactory arrangement, as school nursing was liable to become monotonous if the nurse did nothing else ; the combination of duties permits the nurse better to follow up cases she has seen in school, and enables her to be employed at times when the school is closed. In Fulham, Kensington, and other districts of London the Queen's Nurses have visited schools, and treated children ; but this has been done independently of the Local Authority and the nurses appointed by them.

25. At Reading a nurse is employed by the Local Authority to attend to heads of verminous children, where the parents fail to do so ; at Barry the local Nursing Association provides a nurse, who visits each school weekly and attends to small ailments.

(c) *Health Officials.*

26. Medical Officers of Health are often in close touch with the schools ; they visit them for the discovery and the prevention of the spread of infectious disease in connection with their other health duties. In some areas they are appointed also Medical Officers for educational purposes, and thus, as we have seen, their work is much facilitated. Where there are separate Medical Officers for educational purposes, the evidence given before us goes to show that they work harmoniously with the Medical Officers of Health in spite of the tendency of their duties to overlap each other. But there are many areas where the only doctor visiting the schools is the Medical Officer of Health ; and there are several instances where his work has as a result become extended. There are many openings for his energies. At Darwen the Medical Officer of Health is at present visiting all the schools and examining the children's eyesight, and is about to examine the defective children. At Ilkeston the Medical Officer of Health attends to all such matters as defective eyesight, and hearing. At Liverpool Mr. Leslie says :—

" We have a particularly efficient Public Medical Officer, who considers that there is no limit to his energies. He does so much and we have let him do it."

In St. Helens the teachers report all cases of dirty and verminous heads, which are then examined and, if necessary, followed up in the home by the Medical Officer of Health and his staff. Often the Medical Officer of Health is expected to give advice to the Education Authority when required.

27. We have received information of several towns where the staff of the sanitary department, acting under the Medical Officer of Health, have been of material assistance in following up in the home cases of infectious disease and of dirty and verminous children. They are often, in their capacity as sanitary officers, able to get at the real root of the evil by securing the cleansing of the homes. The lady health visitors, who have been appointed by the Sanitary Authority in Birmingham, Nottingham, Tottenham, and elsewhere, have been frequently employed in this way. At Derby the sanitary authority employs a nurse four afternoons a week, who really devotes most of her time to educational work. The inspectors of nuisances and other officials are also frequently employed for seeing that the school offices and drains are kept in a proper condition.

(d) *Teachers.*

28. No account of the staff employed for the medical inspection of children attending public elementary schools would be complete without some reference to the assistance which has everywhere been rendered by the teachers. Upon them a great burden of work has fallen, in whatever way medical inspection is organised, and the measure of success which is attained must depend in no small degree upon their cordial sympathy and assistance. With one small exception, Hayward, 5624. all the evidence which we had before us goes to show that this Manchester, sympathy and assistance are invariably forthcoming. Dr. Ritchie says the App. V. teachers in Manchester are "careful and thorough in their work." Dr. Willoughby, Willoughby, speaking of Eastbourne, says "The teachers are very good." 5373.

29. In most areas, where medical inspection is organised, the School Doctor does not examine each individual child ; he relies very largely upon the teachers for information as to the children who need his attention. Thus in the list of duties for the School Medical Officer of Wimbledon it is expressly stated that he is only expected to examine such children as the teachers may bring to his notice or as may, in his opinion, require such inspection. This dependence on the assistance of the teacher is especially marked in those matters, to which medical inspection has up to now been specially directed, namely, defective eyesight and the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. In the case of defective eyesight, the preliminary examination of the children is left almost invariably to the teachers, more usually to the head teachers, though at Salford Dr. Tattersall states in his Report that he had the work done by all the teachers, because in a large school Salford, App. V. he considered it too much to be put upon one person. Where there is a Medical Officer or Eye Specialist, he checks the results recorded by the teachers, or examines cases of doubt, but there are many areas where the teachers carry out an examination of eyes without expert assistance ; the County of Bedford and the Urban District of Edmonton are cases in point. The teachers are supplied with written instructions and simple apparatus. At Liverpool lectures have been organised for them, and at Salford the Medical Officer gives Tattersall, 4745. them oral instruction.

30. As regards the prevention of the spread of infectious disease, the teachers are frequently expected to notify any cases of infectious disease promptly to Bradford and the Education Authority or to the Medical Officer of Health. In many cases Manchester, they also send in weekly returns. They are often notified by the Sanitary App. V. Authority of any outbreak in schools near their own, and the prevention of an outbreak frequently depends largely upon the prompt and effective exclusion by the teachers of all suspicious cases. Besides "notifiable diseases" teachers are often required also to notify other infectious diseases, such as whooping-cough, Baddley, 5430-3. or ringworm. It falls generally to the teacher to communicate with the parent Hayward, as to the necessity for the treatment of his child, and the extent to which it is 5539-40. carried out will consequently often depend largely upon the interest taken by the teacher. Teachers, too, can render the Medical Officer considerable assistance by making careful notes of the action, if any, which is taken by the parents.

31. It seems probable that the work at present done by many teachers in this direction will become more general as well as more valuable in the future. Teachers are anxious for the physical welfare of the children. As their interest in school hygiene is awakened and their knowledge grows, the value of their services will necessarily increase. In West Sussex Miss Moseley speaks of their "growing enthusiasm for all that concerns the general welfare of the child." The teachers who, in the past, have struggled to get parents to attend to the ailments of their children now find great encouragement in the presence and support of the School Medical Officer.

III.—ORGANISATION.

32. We now proceed to deal generally with the chief features of the systems of medical inspection organised throughout England and Wales.

(a) Frequency of Visits.

33. The frequency with which schools are visited varies considerably in different areas. It depends in the first place upon the thoroughness with which the local authority desire the inspection to be conducted, and also in many areas upon the requirements of individual schools. Thus schools in slum areas need more watching than those which are attended by a better class of child, and the threatened outbreak of infectious disease in a school may necessitate even daily visits for several weeks.

34. To give a few examples, in Reading and Erith visits to each school are paid about three times a year; in Burnley and Clitheroe about four times; in Eastbourne about once a month; in Tottenham the Medical Officer attempts to visit all the schools about once a week, but this is very exceptional. In London and Salford no particular minimum number of visits is fixed, but in Salford the number does not fall below five or six in the year. Generally speaking it may be said that a School Medical Officer in areas where medical inspection is really organised visits the schools under ordinary circumstances at least three or four times a year. The amount of time devoted by him to his duties varies of necessity with the extent of the area under him and the character of the duties to be performed. There are only a few areas outside London where he devotes his whole time to his educational duties, as is the case in Surrey and Manchester. In Salford the Medical Officer and his assistant devote between them about the whole time of one man to the work. More often, however, the School Medical Officer only gives a portion of his time to his duties, the time devoted to the work generally varying from week to week according as needs require. He is not as a rule tied down to any specific number of hours, but is expected to give as much time as is required to perform his duties efficiently. Where he is also in private practice it is often found least inconvenient to devote a certain number of afternoons to school work. Thus in Wimbledon Dr. Hayward gives about 90 or 100 afternoons to the work in the year; at Derby about one afternoon in the week is given to visiting schools. In small places like Clitheroe, where there are only five schools, a quarterly inspection requires only about a half day a fortnight, if so much.

(b) Examination of Children.

35. The Medical Officer on his visit to a school does not as a general rule examine all the children. It is generally only in the smaller towns, where the children to be examined are few, that any careful examination of every child is possible. An examination of every child can be managed in small places like Kidderminster or Keighley, but it very soon becomes beyond the scope of one man when the schools and children are numerous. The general practice is for the doctor on his visit to examine any cases to which his attention is drawn by the teacher, and any other cases which may attract his notice. He generally either stands in front of the class, or makes it file before him

and in this way is able to detect cases obviously needing attention far more quickly, than if each child was separately examined. In many areas it is only for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease that any examination of every child is attempted. In such cases whole classes or even whole schools are sometimes examined, but as the teachers become more experienced, these general examinations become less necessary. In this respect the teachers give most valuable assistance; indeed, without their help, medical inspection as at present organised would be impossible. This is perhaps specially the case with regard to eyesight; in many places the teachers examine every child by means of test cards, and bring to the notice of the Medical Officer only those cases which they consider to be defective. The situation as regards the nurses is a very similar one. They do not as a rule attempt any individual examination of every child, but confine themselves to selected cases, though in exceptional circumstances they may examine whole classes.

36. As a general rule the children selected are seen by the Medical Officer in Price, 4597: some separate room, generally the teachers' room. This practice, however, is not universal; and there is sometimes no room available for the purpose. In some cases a book is kept at the school, in which all cases examined by the doctor are entered together with the treatment (if any) which has been secured by the parents. The existence of such a register (if properly kept) is of great value to the Medical Officer on his visit. In the Woolwich district of London a measles register is being kept as an experiment. In it is noted against each child the date of any attacks it may have had.

37. Most of our witnesses have assumed that a Local Authority has no legal power, without the concurrence of the parents, to inspect medically the children attending public elementary schools. One witness, however, "doubts whether Dr. Kerr, 3773-4. the Local Authority has not legal power, and whether the teacher is not in *loco parentis* while the child is in school." However, this may be, parents Martin, 3996-9. seldom raise any objection to the medical inspection of their children, and in most cases any objections made have been due to some misapprehension as to the object in view. For example, the parents often believe Hayward, 5335-7. that their child has been in some way singled out or made a special example. They have, however, as a general rule waived their objection when seen by the Medical Officer, who has explained to them personally the objects which the examination has in view. But there are some parents whose objection rests upon a general distrust of all medical work. These are, as a general rule, very rare, but Dr. Willoughby, in his evidence before us, Willoughby, 5351-4. said that in Eastbourne such parents constitute a real difficulty, and that a widespread feeling against doctors exists there.

(c) Treatment of Children.

38. As has already been mentioned, except in a few cases of the treatment of small sores and the like by nurses, no treatment is attempted. The child is medically inspected, but it does not follow that any ailment discovered is treated. Dr. Rhys Davies, in his Memorandum, says:—

"I was expected by the School Board to ask the single question, 'Do these children suffer from any physical defect which interferes with their reasonable progress in school?' I was not expected to ask 'What is the cause of this defect?' nor the further question, 'How can I, as Medical Officer, treat these children?'"

39. Whether or not it is desirable that this should be so, and whether if desirable it is legally possible for a Local Authority to provide treatment under the existing law, is not for us to discuss. It is sufficient to state that in the view Kerr, 3814-3823. of Dr. Kerr and others, to treat the ailment discovered would tend to pauperise the parent. In the opinion of the Committee on Physical Deterioration "in no Para. 324. instance should the inspector do more than state the facts that require the attention of the parent, cases of poverty or neglect being left to the proper

authorities to deal with." We may further point out that treatment may be open to two great objections; in the first place if the children were to be treated as well as examined, the cost of the medical inspection would be very seriously increased, and in the second place it would almost inevitably lead to complaints from private practitioners, especially in those cases (which are the large majority) when the School Medical Officer is also in private practice.

Willoughby, 5374. On the other hand more than one witness considered that the services of Tattersall, 4730. a nurse, to treat cases, in which the parents fail to act would be of great value.

App. VIII.

40. However this may be, it is essential that, in the absence of treatment, the parent should be at once informed of any ailment or defect for which it is desirable that his child should be treated. The practice is that the parent is informed of the facts as to his child and advised to obtain medical advice. Instructions as to how to act are generally sent at the same time; this is specially done where children are suffering from ringworm, pediculi, or dirty and verminous heads. When there is a nurse, as in London, she often visits the parents and gives advice as to the remedies. Instructions are also issued in some areas giving information as to the symptoms of infectious disease, and as to their treatment.

41. The value to the child of the inspection, in the absence of treatment by the Local Authority, necessarily depends upon the extent to which the parent acts upon the information supplied to him. Often the parent is only too glad to be informed of the ailment, of the existence of which he was ignorant, or, at any rate, of which he had not previously realised the serious nature, and at once takes steps to get it remedied. There are, however, some parents who, though able to provide remedies, are careless or indifferent. With these nothing can be done as a rule, however zealous the Local Authority may be; the only exception being that in the case of children with dirty and verminous heads the parent can sometimes be prosecuted; but these are, after all, only a comparatively small number, and not all Authorities are prepared to go to this length.

Hayward, 5557-9.

Price, 4571.

42. There remain, however, many parents who, though willing, are unable to afford the time, or more probably, have not the means to get the child attended to. In regard to both of these two classes the question arises how, if at all, the children are to receive the treatment which they require. In many places there are hospitals, for which tickets are provided, either by the generosity of private persons, or by the Guardians. Besides the hospitals there are often local societies of various kinds which are able to render assistance. The direction in which these societies are mostly useful is in enabling the parent to obtain spectacles, or other surgical apparatus, which are often essential if the child's ailment or defect is to be cured or relieved. In Bolton, Salford, and other places arrangements have been made by which poor parents can obtain spectacles at a low rate, often paying by instalments. Dr. Price speaks very strongly:

"I may say that at Reading with the Poor Law Medical Officers, the Hospital, and the Dispensary, there is no excuse whatever for any person to say: 'I am unable to obtain medical care.' There is no excuse at all. Those who cannot afford to pay a fee can get attention for nothing."

43. Generally, however, assistance of the character indicated is confined to the cases of parents who cannot pay; it does not usually extend to the negligent parent. The children of such must generally continue to suffer. There are not many areas of which it can be said, as is said of Scarborough, that each case up to the present has been met by public or private help and treatment. Negligent parents are unfortunately common in many places, but there is reason to hope that they will diminish as time goes on. Moreover, it must be remembered that in many places medical inspection is only recently established, and it must take time to educate the parents to appreciate fully its advantages.

(d) Cost.

44. It may be convenient at this point to refer to the cost of medical inspection. The question is a simple one, as in practically every case the only cost incurred is that of the salary and incidental expenses of the Medical Officer,

and in every case these cause but a small addition to the rates. As regards the counties, the cost in West Sussex amounts to £200, equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate. In Gloucestershire the cost of the inspection of the forty-four schools in the Stroud district for nine months amounted only to about £100; Dr. Martin gave it as a rough estimate that the system could be established throughout the whole county at a cost of about £2,000 a year, or a rate of about $\frac{1}{2}d.$ In Surrey the Medical Officer is to be paid £500 ($\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate). In London the Chief Medical Officer is paid £850, the remainder of the Medical Staff £4,175, and the Nurses £960, and clerical assistance costs £797, making a total of £6,783, which involves a $\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate. Martin, 4085-8.

45. In County Boroughs, with a few exceptions such as Salford (£345), Bradford (£500), or Birmingham (£250), the cost is under £200, generally £100 to £150; at Burnley the cost is £125 ($\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate), and at Halifax £155 ($\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate). In Boroughs and Urban Districts the salaries are naturally smaller; at Tottenham the cost is £150 ($\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate), but it does not usually exceed about £50; thus at Keighley it is £50 ($\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate), at Stretford £50 ($\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate), and at Eastbourne £50 ($\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate). In all the towns thus mentioned a definite system of medical inspection has been established. In places where the Medical Officer only performs small duties, such as the inspection of children alleged to be unfit to attend school, as will be seen from the summary, the cost is much lower. In such cases the officer receives either a small fixed salary of say £10 a year, or more frequently is paid by fees. The salary paid to a nurse is generally about £85 a year. It will be seen therefore that the cost of Medical Inspection is extremely small, generally involving less than $\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate, especially when it is remembered that the duties of the Medical Officers, whose salaries are quoted above, include the not inconsiderable one of medically examining teachers and other employés.

IV. SPECIAL FEATURES OF PARTICULAR AREAS.

46. In this Section we propose to give some account of the special features of the different classes of areas, together with detailed accounts of typical examples.

1. COUNTIES.

47. Up to the present but little attempt has been made to organise Medical Inspection in County areas. In Surrey, within the last few months, a Medical Officer has been appointed to give his whole time to the work, and in West Sussex an "Inspectress of Physical Welfare" has been appointed, an account of whose work is given in this section. In the West Riding of Yorkshire an enlargement of the staff of the Medical Officer of Health has been approved to enable him to undertake school work, and the matter is now under the consideration of the Education Committee. We have, besides, been informed of three counties, namely, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, and Soke of Peterborough, in which a general system of inspection of children's eyesight by the teachers has been established, any case of defect which may be discovered being notified to the Local Authority. A summary of what is being done in each county will be found in Appendix I.

48. In a very few cases local School Boards had established Medical Inspection previous to the Education Act of 1902, and the new Authorities have allowed this to continue. This is the case at Watford in Hertfordshire, at East Stonehouse in Devon, and in three instances in Essex. In the East Riding of Yorkshire and the Isle of Wight a regular system for the notification by teachers of cases of infectious disease has been established. In certain places Queen's nurses or district nurses, provided by philanthropic persons, visit the schools and give advice to the teachers as to special cases, and treat petty ailments.

49. Eleven counties have had arrangements for putting into force the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic) Act, 1899, approved by the Board of Education. In some areas a single Medical Officer has been appointed for the purpose of the Act. In one (Berkshire) the Medical Officers of the Poor Law unions have been appointed Medical Officers, and in Dorset the local Medical Officers of Health are mainly employed.

(a) *West Sussex.*

West Sussex,
App. V.

50. The Education Committee for West Sussex have no School Medical Officer but have appointed, a lady styled "Inspectress of Physical Welfare." A Memorandum by her, giving information, is printed in Appendix V. She visits the schools for the purpose of supervising the physical exercises and reporting upon the health of the children. Her primary duty is the proper organisation and supervision of physical exercises; classes are held by her for the instruction of young teachers. The sanitary condition of the premises is attended to. No systematic examination of the eyesight and hearing has been found possible up to the present, the pressing cases being dealt with first. The children are urged to attend to their teeth. Each school is visited at least once a year, and oftener, if necessary. The Committee are proposing to institute the taking of the weights and measures of the children, the records to be kept at the schools. The Inspectress examines the children; she does not herself treat any ailment or defect discovered, but information is sent to the parents, and the managers of the schools have been strongly urged to take an interest in their children, and try to secure the remedying of the ailment or defect. A careful system of notification of cases of infectious disease by the teachers has been organised, and the Medical Officer of Health visits the schools when necessary. In all directions the teachers are encouraged to assist. No objection has usually been raised by parents to the inspection, though isolated cases have arisen. School managers are authorised to call in a doctor, when necessary, and the assistance of nurses can also be obtained. The Inspectress is paid a salary of £150, and her incidental expenses amount to another £50 a year.

(b) *Gloucestershire.*

Martin, 4008.

51. We think that, even though the experiment has terminated, it may be of interest to give some account of the system of medical inspection which was carried on in the Stroud district of Gloucestershire between the summer of 1904 and the spring of the present year. We are the more inclined to do so, because it is the only experiment of the kind which has been attempted. Moreover it is the only case in which any statistics are available. We are indebted for the information here given to Dr. Martin, the Medical Officer of Health for Gloucestershire, who is also Medical Officer of Health for the particular area in question.

3963.

52. The area covered was that of the Stroud Union, and includes forty-four schools; it was chosen by the Gloucestershire Education Committee as containing schools representative of rural as well as urban conditions. The enquiry extended over a period of nine months, the reasons for its premature closing need not be entered into here; they were not connected with the success or failure of the experiment. A single Medical Officer was appointed to conduct the inspection; except during the last period of the enquiry, he devoted his whole time to the work. He was under the directions of the Medical Officer of Health for the county (Dr. Martin). He was materially assisted in his work by the teachers, who actively co-operated with him. The enquiry was primarily for the prevention of infectious disease. Practically all the children were examined once, and the majority twice during the period. At the first inspection 6,679 children (91 per cent. of the total number on the school books) were examined, and at the second inspection (which was not completed) 5,072 children. As a result it was found that at the

3963, 3964-6
4009-10.

4022.

first inspection 27 per cent. of the children were suffering from preventable ailments, while at the second inspection the number was reduced to 13.3 per cent., a reduction of 50 per cent. Elaborate figures are given in the report attached to Dr. Martin's evidence showing the number of cases of different diseases noted; it will be sufficient here to state that the most numerous were vermin, eggs of lice, and dirty heads.

53. Very little objection was raised by the parents, and such objections as there were, were generally withdrawn on an explanation being given of the objects of the examination. The Medical Officer did not treat the children—his duty was merely to examine and discover. On a child being found to be suffering from some disease or ailment, the parents were notified of the fact with a view to treatment being obtained; in serious cases the child was excluded from school. In the case of dirty heads the parents received a paper indicating what should be done. About 93 per cent. of the children were weighed and measured, but no figures are at present available. No complete inspection of the eyesight of the children was carried through, but considerable work was done in this direction. The sight of 1,131 children was tested and 22 per cent. of them were found to have defective vision. Nothing was apparently done towards the inspection of the hearing, teeth, or nasal breathing of the children.

54. It is interesting to note that in Dr. Martin's opinion the figures show that there is as much preventable uncleanliness and disease among children attending rural as amongst those attending urban schools. He thinks that this may, in part at any rate, be attributed to the more plentiful water supply obtainable in urban areas. Though the experiment only lasted for nine months, Dr. Martin considers that it was continued long enough to show how much preventable uncleanliness and disease exists amongst children in rural and urban areas alike. The expenditure for a period of twelve months was calculated at £150. The Medical Officer who undertook it was paid a salary at the rate of £120 a year by the Education Committee. The total cost of the experiment to the Education Committee amounted to less than £100 for the nine months.

55. Independently of this special enquiry the teachers notify cases of infectious disease to the local Medical Officer of Health, who often visits the schools to see suspected cases. The Local Authority are prepared to pay 1s. for certificates as to children alleged to be unfit to attend school. The majority of the doctors consider, however, that this sum is insufficient, and little advantage is therefore taken of the provision.

2.—LONDON.

56. Dr. Kerr, the Chief Medical Officer of the Education Authority, and London, App. V. previously Medical Officer under the late School Board for London, gave valuable evidence before us. He also provided us with a Memorandum, which is printed in Appendix V. The staff in London consists at the present time of a Medical Officer and an assistant Medical Officer, who give their whole time to the work, and twenty-three other assistants working half-time; these last have superseded the six oculists who were on the staff until recently. London App. V. Twelve nurses are employed, and the engagement of twenty more is proposed. The Medical Officers and nurses are employed solely to examine the children with a view to the discovery of defects. It is not part of their duties to treat the children for any ailment or defect discovered, though the nurses in the case of dirty children often visit the homes and advise the parents. Except as regards the prevention of the spread of infectious disease, the voluntary schools have not as yet been brought into the system of inspection, though it is hoped that they may be at the end of the year. Schools are not visited at regular intervals, but only as they may require; the frequency of the

Kerr, 3772,
3837-8.

visits varies widely. No objections appear to have been raised by the parents, though in one or two instances inquiries have been made as to the power of the Local Authority to make these examinations.

3744, 3779-85.

57. Careful arrangements are made for the prompt notification of cases of infectious disease by the teachers. When there is diphtheria or scarlet fever about every child in a class is often examined. In the former case it is claimed that any epidemic can be stopped in a week, largely by means of examining swabs taken from the throats of suspected cases, scarlet fever is also very much controlled, and, generally, Dr. Kerr considers that the children are being saved a great deal of disease. In the Woolwich district a measles record is kept for every child.

3757-9, 3824-36

Dr. Kerr states that the eyesight of every child is examined every year. The preliminary examination is made by the teachers, and the results are checked by a Medical Officer. The parent is informed if the eyesight is found to be defective and is pressed to seek expert advice. No special arrangements for the provision of spectacles have as yet been made. Very special attention is paid to the cleanliness of the children and their freedom from vermin. It is for this purpose that the nurses are chiefly employed. The nurse visits the school and examines the children for vermin, dirt, and contagious diseases, such as ringworm and favus, and catalogues those that she considers ought to be cleansed. The parents are warned that the child needs cleansing, and if the warning is disregarded, the child is excluded from school after inspection by a Medical Officer, who makes a microscopic examination in cases of doubt, and the parents are prosecuted if the child does not return to school clean within a limited period. No such action is taken in the case of ringworm and similar diseases; but a special school has been started for children suffering from favus. There seems little doubt that the careful examination of children for cleanliness has resulted in a marked improvement in this respect, with a consequent raising of the *morale* of the children. It has had a further indirect advantage in that it has frequently led to the discovery of dirty and verminous homes. Notice of these has been sent to the Sanitary Authority with a view to securing their cleansing.

Kerr, 3804-9.

3846.

3748, 3787-8.

3839-41.
London App. V.

3744, 3754.
App. V.

59. At his visit to a school the Medical Officer sees any cases of physical defect or ailment, to which his attention is drawn by nurses or teachers. Neither he nor the nurse examines every child except occasionally in the case of suspected infectious disease. Defective children and children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school are medically examined at special centres and occasionally at the council's offices. A few statistics of weight, height, etc., have been collected, and certain interesting deductions have been made by Dr. Thomas as to infant mortality, but nothing systematic has been attempted. An important branch of the work of the Medical Officer and his staff is the examination of the premises of the schools from an hygienic standpoint. They examine into the sanitary condition of the premises; and questions of light and ventilation, and the position and suitability of the school furniture receive constant attention. The teachers are encouraged to take an interest in such matters, and in particular to pay attention to the proper ventilation of the classrooms. The Medical Staff also advise as to the suitability of the curriculum, both for the children generally and for particular children. Informal conferences are held with teachers, and advice is given as to the treatment of particular cases.

3.—COUNTY BOROUGHS.

60. As is only to be expected, organised medical inspection is found far more frequently in County Boroughs than in smaller towns or in rural districts. Some kind of systematic inspection has been established in twenty-five County Boroughs; there are besides six County Boroughs, in which organised work for the amelioration of the physical welfare of the children has been done by teachers and sanitary officers. In addition there are many County Boroughs where definite arrangements for the prevention of the spread of infectious

disease are established. In one or two towns, notably Salford and Bradford, the system has been in operation for some time past, but in the majority of them it has only been established during the last two years, since the Education Act of 1902 came into operation.

61. Evidence was heard by us as to the organisations for medical inspection established at Bolton, Liverpool, Reading, Salford, and Swansea. A brief account of what is done in each borough will be found in the summary contained in Appendix I. and, in addition, more detailed accounts are added here of the systems established in four places, namely, Bradford, Manchester, Reading and Salford. Of these, Salford is perhaps the most interesting, in view of its being one of the very few places where an anthropometric survey has been systematically initiated. In Appendix V. Memoranda are printed giving App. V. accounts of the systems organised in Blackburn, Bradford, Brighton, Burnley, Derby, Halifax, Hanley, Manchester, Rochdale, and Swansea, and extracts from the Report of the Medical Officer for Salford.

62. The Board of Education have approved for thirty-six County Boroughs arrangements under the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899. There are also several County Boroughs, in which, though arrangements have not yet been approved, the subject has received attention, and an examination of such children has been made by the Medical Officer.

(a) Bradford.

63. Medical inspection of children has been carried on at Bradford for many years past. Dr. Kerr, now the Medical Officer for educational purposes to the London County Council, was appointed Medical Officer at Bradford in 1893. He gives interesting information as to the early stages of his work here in the Memorandum, with which he has kindly supplied us, and which appears in Appendix V. We have also received useful information as to the working of the inspection at the present time, from the present School Medical Officer, Dr. Crowley, whose Memorandum appears in the same Appendix. Dr. Crowley works for the equivalent of school hours; he is paid a salary of £500 a year, he is not in general practice, but acts as honorary physician to the Royal Infirmary, and as consultant. He visits every school three or four times a year, at the least. On the occasion of his visits he reports upon the sanitary condition of the premises, and the general health of the scholars. On such occasions children selected by the teachers and any others who may attract his attention are examined for various defects. Except in the case of suspected infectious disease, he does not examine every child.

64. Careful arrangements are made for the notification of infectious disease. The head teacher of each department returns a card weekly showing the total number of children absent on account of infectious diseases, and the number of fresh cases which have occurred during the week; special visits and inspections are made according to requirements, when if necessary whole classes are examined, and in cases of suspected diphtheria swabs of the throat are taken. Eyesight is carefully examined. The teachers test the eyesight once a year, and the results are sent to the Medical Officer, who examines those children whose sight is defective as well as those with a squint, and others who may need attention. The parents are informed in those cases where it is thought necessary that some action should be taken. Children suffering from otorrhoea or deafness are presented by the teachers and examined. Teachers have instructions to exclude all children with ringworm or verminous heads; and the attendance officer is instructed to see that adequate steps are taken for their cleansing. One afternoon each fortnight children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school are presented at the education offices to be examined.

65. The parents receive notices of any defect or ailment found on their children, special forms being used for the purpose, or are sent for by the teachers. They appear to raise no objection to the examination of their children. There are no special arrangements for the provision of spectacles and surgical appliances, but the City Guild of Help gives assistance in genuine cases for the purchase of spectacles. There is generally some society, e.g. the Samaritan Society, in connection with the hospitals, which provides surgical appliances.

(b) *Manchester.*

66. The system of medical inspection has been established in Manchester for three years. A School Medical Officer, Dr. Brown Ritchie, has been appointed, who devotes his whole time to the work. He has no regular assistance, but at special times the help of the district nurses is invoked, as well as that of the Authority's qualified nurse-lecturer on feeding and the care of infants. He works in perfect harmony with the Medical Officer of Health. We are indebted to Dr. Ritchie for a Memorandum giving detailed information as to his work. He is paid a salary of £600 a year, and the incidental expenses of his office amount to about £150 a year, making a total of £750. Every school, voluntary as well as council, is visited at least once in the year, and as a rule several times. The ventilation, light, and general sanitary condition of the school premises are reported upon annually; plans for new premises are examined from this point of view. The teachers report cases of infectious disease, and if occasion arises the Medical Officer examines whole classes or schools; but this is not now often necessary, owing to the care with which the teachers exclude suspected cases. This desirable result is largely to be attributed to the lectures which Dr. Ritchie has given on the subject, and which lectures have been widely attended.

67. Considerable attention has been paid to the question of children's eyesight. Elaborate instructions have been issued to the head teachers, who make a preliminary examination. The Medical Officer examines selected cases. Where action is considered desirable, the teachers are given circulars to send to the parents requesting them to have their children examined either by a private medical practitioner or at the eye hospital. In his second Report Dr. Ritchie states that out of 27,329 children examined, circulars were sent in 1,960 cases. In some cases the parents themselves provide spectacles, in others they are provided by a voluntary fund, which is in the hands of the Education Committee. The various circulars issued on this subject will be found with Dr. Ritchie's Memorandum in Appendix V. In the matter of eyesight, as in that of the prevention of infectious diseases, the teachers have gained much useful information from the lectures given by Dr. Ritchie. Teachers have been instructed to notify all cases of deafness or discharge from the ears to the Medical Officer, and he has examined and dealt with a large number of them. The matter has not, however, been dealt with in the same thorough manner as that of eyesight. Children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school are examined by the Medical Officer.

68. Dr. Ritchie has conducted two valuable enquiries respecting special classes of children, both of which are of considerable interest in connection with the question of the feeding of children. In the first he examined 10,180 children in twenty schools in reference to bad nourishment, and further examined into the home circumstances of 938 children coming from eleven schools, who, though in his opinion badly nourished, were not in receipt of free meals. There were 738 children at these schools in receipt of free meals. The second enquiry related to backward children. Those children were taken who were two or more years behind the average standard. Twelve departments were examined. Bad health or irregular attendance were found to be the most frequent causes. Bad health in a fair number of cases was due to bad nutrition. A full account with many interesting statistics of both enquiries is to be found in Dr. Ritchie's Memorandum. In Dr. Ritchie's opinion the results of the inspection have been satisfactory. Amongst other things, the amount of infectious disease has been reduced, and the eyesight

and hearing of the children has received attention. The main difficulty lies in the number of children in the schools, which exceeds 100,000.

(c) *Reading.*

69. We obtained valuable information as to the medical inspection conducted in Reading from the evidence kindly given before us by Dr. Price, the Medical Officer to the Education Committee. Dr. Price is employed only part time, and also engages in private practice. He has held the post since July, 1900. He is paid £125 a year. He is not Medical Officer of Health; but no difficulties appear to have ever arisen between himself and that officer. Dr. Price examines the children; he does not attempt treatment. The inspection extends equally to council schools and voluntary schools. Each school is visited at least three times a year, and some oftener. Those children are examined who are selected by the teacher and any others who may attract Dr. Price's attention. The children are examined in the teacher's room, where one exists. Note-books are kept at the school, in which an entry is made as to each child examined. These children are seen at the next visit. A note is also made as to any treatment they have received. Dr. Price enquires into the sanitary condition of the premises on the occasion of his visit. He is assisted by a nurse, who visits the schools and sees children suffering from verminous heads, and does her best to clean them. The teachers warn parents, when their children are found with dirty heads, and, if necessary, parents are asked to bring their children to have them examined by the Medical Officer. In extreme cases the matter is reported to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

70. The teachers, who have received careful instruction, notify cases of infectious disease to the Medical Officer of Health and to the parents. Children suffering from ringworm, sore eyes, and similar ailments are generally excluded from school. The teachers have received instructions to test the eyesight and hearing of the children, and where necessary recommend the parents to obtain medical advice. There are opportunities for the parent to obtain this, either at the Berkshire Hospital or the Reading Provident Dispensary. It is hoped shortly to start an anthropometric survey at one school, and it is anticipated that the Medical Officer will be greatly assisted in the work by the head teacher, who has had experience of such work elsewhere. The Medical Officer examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, and about 600 certificates were granted by him in the course of the year. Nothing has been done for the examination of children's teeth.

71. In Dr. Price's opinion, the chief benefits which have resulted from the inspection are the reduction of the amount of ringworm and the attention which has been called to cases of defective eyesight, with the subsequent provision of spectacles in many cases. The value of the work is, however, somewhat diminished by the indifference of parents, who fail to follow up the advice thus received. These are, however, decreasing in number. Some less careful parents only take their children to spectacle-makers, who frequently provide unsuitable glasses. Parents do not appear to object to the examination of their children.

(d) *Salford.*

72. Medical inspection at Salford has been carried on there since 1898, but in 1904 it was reorganised. The appointment of a new Medical Officer of Health provided the opportunity of uniting the Public Health work of the Council with the medical inspection of children in the public elementary schools of the Borough. We received much valuable evidence from Dr. Tattersall, who holds these posts. Useful and interesting information on the subject was also obtained from his report on his educational work, a part of which has been printed in Appendix V. Dr. Tattersall has an assistant; both doctors give their whole time to their official duties. The amount of time given to their educational work is equivalent to about the whole time of one man. The salaries paid them for their educational duties amount to £325 a year. Assistance

Tattersall, 4670. is obtained at times from the local Nursing Association, generally where some child requires special watching ; but no payment is made for this by the Education Authority. The schools are not visited any specified number of times in the year, but as occasion requires. Probably no school receives less than five or six visits in the course of the year. The ventilation and sanitary condition of the premises, including lighting and the position of desks, are inspected once a year, and all plans for new schools or alterations are examined. Council and Voluntary schools are alike visited. Dr. Tattersall states in the preface to his report that the medical examination of every child is impossible with the present staff, and, besides, appears to be unnecessary, as a gradual acquaintance with the children who vary from the normal is being made in the course of his frequent visits to the schools.

4663, 4704-8, 4716-7 73. The teachers notify all cases of suspected infectious disease, and where it is considered necessary the Medical Officer or his assistant visits the school sometimes daily and examines all the children. In this, as in other matters, the teachers render valuable assistance. Dr. Tattersall says:—

4704. "Take, for example, an outbreak of measles in the school. We get an intimation of three or four cases of measles in rapid succession from a school. Either I or my assistant go to the school and we examine all the children in the lower forms. To begin with, in the presence of the teacher of the class I examine each child and get the teacher to watch and notice what I look for, and I explain each symptom as we go along. I then get her to do some of the examinations herself and tell me what she thinks of the cases. In that way in an hour she is able to distinguish the children that I would send out of the school. The following day I would attend again. She would then make the examination entirely, and I should check them. The third and fourth day I leave her to herself and go again on the fifth day. In that way we find she can exclude the children as well as we can. The detailed instructions in a circular are of comparatively little value compared with personal teaching in that way."

4663 In case of diphtheria swabs are taken, and where bacilli are found, the child is excluded from school.

4663, 4742-46. 74. Great attention has been paid to the examination of eyesight. The teachers have been instructed in this matter in the same way as in the case of infectious diseases. All teachers are instructed, as it is considered to be too much to put entirely upon the head teacher. Copies of the instructions issued to teachers and of the letters sent to parents will be found printed with Dr. Tattersall's evidence. Special arrangements have been made by which poor parents can obtain spectacles at a cheap rate (3s. 6d.). Nothing much has as yet been done towards inspecting the hearing of the children, though it is hoped that something will be carried out in this direction shortly. Any cases of physical defect or other ailments are examined by the Medical Officer on the occasion of a visit to a school. Children suffering from ringworm, or verminous or dirty heads, are excluded, and the parents are given advice as to treatment either by the teacher or the Medical Officer. The threat of legal proceedings is generally sufficient to get the matter attended to. The schools in the poorer parts of the borough are periodically visited and the children examined for the complaints named. Children mentioned by the Head Teacher or the drill instructor are examined as to their fitness for physical exercises. For children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, certificates can be obtained from a private medical man, for which the Committee pay 1s., or else they are examined by the Medical Officer.

4692-7. 75. Figures as to the weights and heights of children have been collected before in Salford, but in 1904 a new system was started. Six typical schools were selected, and all boys of certain ages in them were weighed and measured. Three periods were taken: (a) eight years nine months to nine years nine months, (b) nine years nine months to ten years nine months, (c) twelve years nine months to thirteen years nine months. Roughly the average ages of the three classes were, nine, ten and thirteen respectively. The height, chest measurement, and weight were taken. The boys were not completely stripped, as had been done on a former occasion, but were measured and weighed with trousers and socks on. In order to get the exact figures it was found to be necessary to deduct two lbs. from the

weight and $\frac{1}{16}$ th of an inch from the height. The survey, it is understood, is being continued at any rate during the present year, and perhaps longer. A detailed account of it will be found in the extracts from Dr. Tattersall's Report which are printed in Appendix V. No objections to the weighing and measuring have been made by children or parents. As the system has only been established for about a year, Dr. Tattersall considers it too early to produce any figures showing the results attained, but there appears to be no reason to think that they are likely to prove other than satisfactory. The extent of the ground to be covered is here, as elsewhere, a real difficulty.

4.—BOROUGHS AND URBAN DISTRICTS.

76. Much less is being done in Boroughs and Urban Districts than in the County Boroughs. There are only ten Boroughs and eleven Urban Districts in which any systematic medical inspection is attempted ; although there are besides six Boroughs and three Urban Districts in which an organised effort is made by teachers and Sanitary Officers for the amelioration of the physical condition of the children. In addition to these areas there are many others where some organisation for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease has been established by the Medical Officer of Health. Except in a few cases the system is quite newly established. A brief summary of what is being done in each area is given in Appendix I., and in addition more detailed accounts are given here of two Boroughs, Eastbourne and Kidderminster, and two Urban Districts, Erith and Wimbledon. We heard evidence in regard to Eastbourne, Erith, and Wimbledon. In Appendix V. are printed Memoranda in reference to Clitheroe, Keighley, Kidderminster, Widnes, Stretford, and Tottenham, also extracts from Reports of the Medical Officers at Erith and Willesden. In the case of eighteen Boroughs and nine Urban Districts the Board of Education have approved arrangements under the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899. As is the case of the County Boroughs there are also other places where enquiries on the subject have been set on foot.

(a) Eastbourne.

77. We received valuable evidence from Dr. Willoughby, the Medical Officer of Health for Eastbourne. He was appointed Medical Officer for (pas-in) educational purposes at the end of 1902, and is paid a salary of £50 a year. He is not engaged in private practice, but in addition to his duties as Medical Officer of Health and Education Medical Officer, he is physician to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. His appointment as School Medical Officer was really the outcome of the number of cases of defective children (about forty) which existed in the town, and the fact that the teachers continually asked him for advice when he visited the schools in reference to cases of infectious disease. Dr. Willoughby bears strong testimony to the valuable assistance rendered him by the teachers. The district nurses also proved very useful in following up special cases to the homes.

78. The number of visits paid to the schools in the course of a year varies considerably with the needs, but each school is, as a rule, visited at least once a month. The inspection extends to voluntary and council schools alike. The Medical Officer, on his visit, examines any children selected by the teacher, and any others who may attract his attention. It is hoped in time to examine every child, but there has not been time as yet to do this, and only the worst cases are at present dealt with. Dr. Willoughby has given lectures to the teachers on the methods of detecting cases of infectious disease, and he has also written a short pamphlet on the subject for their guidance. The notification of suspected cases is carefully organised, and frequent visits are paid to any school where such cases have occurred. Records are kept of the infectious diseases which children have had. Particular attention has been paid to the children's eyesight. The Medical Officer examines all cases in which the teachers have reason to suspect anything wrong, and any other likely cases which may catch his eye. When time permits, every child is examined. It is estimated that 7 per cent. to

10 per cent. of the children suffer from some defect of the eyes. In cases of defect, the parents are informed of the fact, and recommended to have the defect remedied; but in only about 40 per cent. of such cases has any action been taken. Spectacles have, in some instances, been provided by voluntary agencies, and Dr. Willoughby has himself made spectacles for between thirty and forty children. All cases of defective hearing have been examined, but very few have occurred.

Willoughby,
5339-44.

5396.
5345-7.

5348-50.

5379-85.

5352-4.

5367.

Kidderminster,
App. V.

79. A careful survey has been made of the defective children in the Borough, and a special class has been started for the mentally defective. Children with ringworm are excluded from school and the parents are advised to obtain medical aid; they generally, however, do no more than obtain an ointment or lotion from the chemist. In the case of dirty heads, the sanitary inspector is directed to visit the homes, and where parents are very poor the Sanitary Authority has actually supplied simple remedies. There are, however, very few of such cases, not more than about a dozen in the course of a year. This matter was dealt with by Dr. Willoughby, as Medical Officer of Health, before the medical inspection of the children was initiated, and to this may in part at any rate be attributed the satisfactory scarcity of these cases. No attempt has yet been made to collect statistics as to the weights and measures of children, but it is hoped to do so. The Medical Officer examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school; about two a week are examined. A complete examination has been made of the lighting and general sanitary condition of the premises. The suitability of desks is considered, but the Medical Officer is not concerned with the question of curriculum. Any plans for new premises are examined.

80. No statistics are available as to the results obtained, but there appears to be little doubt that they are satisfactory. The attention to children's eyesight has facilitated progress in their school work, and the danger of the spread of infectious disease has been lessened. The chief difficulty has been that in Eastbourne, unlike almost all other places, there is a great suspicion among the inhabitants of any kind of medical treatment. There is a consequent disinclination amongst many of the parents to obtain treatment for any defect or ailment from which their children may be found to be suffering. In this connection it may be interesting to mention that very few of the children have been vaccinated.

(b) *Kidderminster.*

81. The Medical Officer, who was also Medical Officer under the late School Board has had his office continued under the new Authority and his duties extended to cover the Voluntary schools of the Borough as well as the Council schools. His salary under the old Board was £15; it is now £40 a year. He also engages in private practice. He visits all the schools at least three times a year. All the children are inspected, but especially those indicated by the head teachers. The Medical Officer concerns himself with everything that relates to the health of the scholars, but devotes most of his time to the examination of the children's eyesight; a certain number of children of the very poor are given tickets provided by private benevolence for the Birmingham Eye Hospital. The Medical Officer does not himself treat any defect observed, he merely examines and discovers. Notification is then sent to the parent of the existence of the defect, and he is advised to get it attended to. The matters to which parents' attention is called are, besides eyesight, such ailments as inflamed eyelids, deafness, adenoids, nasal catarrh, skin diseases, and vermin; where a child suffers from vermin, and occasionally in other cases, the Medical Officer sends with the notification directions as to treatment. The teachers exclude children suspected of infectious disease and notify their parents. Children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school are examined by the Medical Officer. The parents raise no objection to the examination of their children, but the advantages of the inspection are minimised by their failure to follow it up, owing to apathy, prejudice, or unwillingness to pay travelling expenses.

(c) *Erith.*

82. We received much useful evidence from Dr. Baddeley, the School Medical Officer, as to what is being done for medical inspection at Erith. Dr. Baddeley was only actually appointed Medical Officer on January 1st, 1905, but he had conducted a detailed inquiry into the eyesight, hearing, and general condition of the children in the district during the previous autumn. He only works part time, the rest of his time is devoted to private practice. He is not Medical Officer of Health for the district; he is paid £50 a year for his services. There are no nurses or other persons to assist Dr. Baddeley, beyond the teachers, to the great value of whose help he bears grateful testimony. The schools are inspected three times a year, and additional visits are paid, where necessary. Council and voluntary schools are treated alike. The sanitary and hygienic condition of the premises receives attention, including questions as to lighting and desks. At his visit to a school, Dr. Baddeley examines all children selected by the teachers, and any others whom he may notice. Parents also bring their children to him at his office to be examined. Parents are notified of any defect or complaint from which a child may be found to be suffering, and are advised to have the matter attended to. Dr. Baddeley only examines children, he does not himself undertake any treatment. The parents appear not to object generally to the inspection of their children, though here as elsewhere they do so at times, when their children are accused of being dirty.

83. As regards the prevention of infectious disease, no difficulty of any sort has arisen. Dr. Baddeley and the Medical Officer of Health work together perfectly. The former chiefly confines himself to cases of non-notifiable infectious diseases. Dr. Baddeley deals at length in his report with the importance of paying proper attention to this subject. As already stated, Dr. Baddeley before his appointment made a detailed report to the Education Committee on the general physical condition of the children. This report has been printed in *Erith, App. V.* Appendix V. For this report 433 children were individually examined and general inspection of the children in their classes was made at some schools. Dr. Baddeley considered the general physical condition of the children to be good, and the standard of cleanliness very fair. He gave attention to questions of physical drill. Defect of vision formed a large part of the cases brought before him, and many of these have now been attended to with very beneficial results. Dr. Baddeley also dealt at length with cases of partial deafness, of which he found a considerable number. These were chiefly due to throat troubles of various kinds, adenoid growths and the like. A few cases of consumption were also discovered. As a result of this inspection, much good seems to have been accomplished, a large number of children having had their ailments attended to. Many children with defective eyes have had spectacles obtained for them. Generally the parents seem anxious to get treatment for any ailment from which they understand their children to be suffering. A very large number of children (over 1,000) have been examined during the first six months of the present year as to their fitness to attend school.

(d) *Wimbledon.*

84. We received much interesting evidence as to the system of medical inspection in Wimbledon from Dr. Hayward, the School Medical Officer. Dr. Hayward was appointed on May 1st, 1904. He does not hold the post of Medical Officer of Health. He devotes about 90 or 100 afternoons (2 to 4.30 p.m.) in the year to his duties, for which he is paid a salary of fifty guineas a year. The rest of his time is devoted to private practice. The inspection covers Council schools and Voluntary schools alike. Each school is visited twice a term at least. The Medical Officer is not expected to examine every child, but only those to whom his attention is directed by the teacher; he also examines other cases which may attract his notice. He only examines, he does not treat the children for any defects or ailments discovered. There are, besides the Medical Officer, two nurses, provided from voluntary sources. One of them (a Queen's Nurse) is paid £75 a year and devotes her whole

Hayward
(pussim).

5522.

5527-31.

5576-80

Hayward,
5506-14

5598-5600.

5542-5553

5630.

5564-7, 5582.

5532-4.

5581.

time to the work. The other is only responsible for two schools and gives but a small portion of her time; she is paid £14 a year. The nurses visit each school once a week, and see cases and give the teacher advice. They visit the home of any child at the request of the teachers or the Medical Officer. The parents may also ask for their services. The nurses, on their visit to the home, offer their services in assisting to remedy any disease or defect from which a child may be suffering; if the family have a doctor, they act under his directions. All treatment on the part of the nurses is done at the home, and not in the school. The parents do not appear to object to the examination of their children.

85. Much the most troublesome and widespread complaints are dirty or verminous heads and ringworm. These cases are very numerous. Only the worst cases of dirty or verminous heads can be excluded; perhaps a dozen are excluded at the present time. Dr. Hayward estimates that about a fifth of the children in the schools of the district might be excluded for this reason. Some good has undoubtedly been done in this direction, but many parents refuse to do anything. Nothing has been done by the Education Authority to compel any such parents to take action. Dr. Hayward drew a striking contrast between the refining studies of the children and their physical condition:—

"When I was going round a class the other day a teacher very kindly showed me some pretty nature-study drawings which the children had been making. They had specimens of silkworms coming from eggs, and of frogs coming from tadpoles. They were learning botany and drawing flowers, and so on. I asked them what book they were reading that afternoon. It was a class of girls of about thirteen years of age. They were reading Sir Thomas Malory's 'Morte d'Arthur.' A number of that class had their heads swarming with vermin. You can hardly call that a complete education."

86. Considerable attention has been paid to defective eyesight, affections of the nose, and other similar disorders; 358 cases of defective eyesight have been discovered, being 6.5 per cent. of the total number of children in the schools; 216 cases of nasal affection (4 per cent.) have also been discovered. On finding that a child is suffering from any complaint, the parent is at once notified of the fact and advised to get the matter attended to; 852 notifications were sent out, representing 15 per cent. of the children. In many cases action has been taken by the parents upon this notification. The Invalid Children's and Aid Society has done much valuable work in the case of ill-nourished children and in helping parents to buy spectacles. Many cases are taken up to the London hospitals for treatment. Instructions are issued to the teachers as to the symptoms of infectious disease, and the nurses also inspect suspected cases. The Medical Officer examines children who are alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, but cases are very rare in which his services are required. The sanitary condition and general hygiene of the school form the subject of inspection at regular intervals.

87. Dr. Hayward sums up the results of his school work as follows:—

"Greater cleanliness in the classes, greater attention to general and personal hygiene, and greater attention required of teachers in matters of health. Under the present system of inspection by doctor and nurses it is practically certain that any child suffering from serious or chronic illness is detected and the parents advised of the facts. Moreover, help is afforded in suitable cases when poverty or neglect stand in the way of efficient treatment; and many children are helped to go away to convalescent homes, etc. The greatest difficulties arise in cases of verminous conditions when the parents refuse to carry out treatment—cases of ringworm; and especially chronic otorrhœa, to which very little attention is paid by parents. The teachers generally agree that much improvement has resulted from the examination of defects of sight and adoption of spectacles in suitable cases; and from operations for enlarged tonsils and adenoid growths."

V.—PARTICULARS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

88. At the risk of some repetition we have inserted in our Report the following paragraphs, in the hope that they may be of value in giving a more definite and connected account of the work of Medical Inspection, which is being done in various directions, and the results which have so far been obtained.

(a) *Examination of Children alleged to be physically unfit to attend School.*

89. It is very common to find some arrangement is made for the examination of children alleged to be unfit to attend school. There are some sixty-five areas in which we have been informed that this is the case, and there are doubtless many others. Where there is a Medical Officer for educational purposes he generally performs this work. Elsewhere the Medical Officer of Health or some other doctor is appointed, who either receives a small salary or more commonly is paid by fees. In Liverpool the doctors at the six dispensaries perform the work. In several areas (chiefly counties) a payment of 1s. or 2s. 6d. is made by the Authority to any doctor for such certificates. It much facilitates the school attendance work of Local Education Authorities if they make arrangements for the medical examination, when it seems desirable, of any child whose parents alleged illness as the reason of its absence from school, since this enables any cases to be settled where there is reason to suspect that illness is not the real cause of absence. The extent to which such examinations are carried out varies very widely from place to place. In London they are not numerous, as the Medical Officer and his staff discourage them, except in special cases, owing to the large amount of time which they would occupy if the practice were to become common. At Reading, Halifax, and Rochdale (to mention only three cases) the Medical Officer attends once a week and sees all children who are well enough to be brought to him. Occasionally he visits the home. In some cases parents bring their children of their own accord to avoid trouble with the attendance officer. At Erith, owing to the strict regulations on the subject which have been made by the Local Authority, the Medical Officer has examined over a thousand cases in the course of six months. Besides rendering easier the school attendance work of the Authority, these examinations at the cost of the Local Authority often prevent a real hardship, especially in country districts to poor parents, who often can hardly afford to pay for a medical certificate, when a child is only suffering from a cold or other slight ailment. In the absence of such arrangements parents often send their children to school, though not really well enough, rather than run any risk of being visited by the attendance officer or being summoned before the magistrates.

(b) *Infectious Diseases.*

90. The detection and prevention of the spread of infectious disease is carefully organised in the majority of the urban areas in England, though very little is done in the country areas; in a few instances the teachers notify any suspected case to the local Medical Officer of Health. In urban areas, owing to the proximity of the schools, and also partly to the fact that the Sanitary Authority and the Education Authority are now the same, there is more often than not some organisation attempted. In all areas where any system of medical inspection is established the matter is regarded as one of primary importance. The School Medical Officer appears in all cases to render any assistance possible to the Medical Officer of Health; and where the posts are held by the same person there is no difficulty in establishing some proper organisation. There are many places like Liverpool or Brighton where the Medical Officer of Health has made elaborate arrangements, though no school Medical Officer has been appointed.

91. In the best organised areas the teachers are given instruction as to the symptoms of infectious diseases. In Eastbourne and other places a pamphlet on the subject has been written by the Medical Officer. Specimens of such instructions are given in Appendix VII. At Salford he personally demonstrates to the teacher the symptoms to expect. The teachers have instructions to notify promptly any suspected cases they may find, either direct to the Medical Officer of Health or through the Education Committee. The teachers, too, are generally informed of any outbreak which has occurred in schools near their own. When outbreaks occur the Medical Officer of Health visits the school and examines the children, often examining every child in a class. In many places, however, the teachers are now becoming so skilful at detecting symptoms and at once excluding all suspected cases that such examinations are becoming much less frequently needed. All cases of suspected

Brighton, App. V.

Kerr, 3794.

App. V.

disease are at once excluded, and notification is sent to the parents. Notices are also served on teachers and parents as to the resumption of school attendance of children who have had, or who have been suspected of having had an infectious disease, or other children in the same household. In London the experiment is being tried of excluding for a time children returning from hospitals, on the ground that they carry the infection of other diseases. In some areas, such as London, Bradford, and Salford, where a laboratory is provided for the Medical Officer, the work of detecting diphtheria is much facilitated, swabs of the throat being taken and examined; by this means the danger of outbreaks of diphtheria has been much diminished. In Manchester and other places the teachers, besides at once notifying any cases which may arise, also make periodic returns of the number of children absent from infectious disease; such returns are useful, as enabling the Medical Officer to keep himself informed as to the extent to which disease exists. Notification by the teachers is frequently not confined to "notifiable" diseases, it extends also to such illnesses as mumps, measles and ringworm. In some instances managers or head teachers are authorised to call in a doctor to inspect a case of suspected infectious disease. Barrow-in-Furness is a case in point.

92. In a few areas systematic attempts are being made to keep records of the diseases from which children have suffered. Such a record is kept at Eastbourne, and in the Woolwich district of London a measles register has been established as an experiment. It is thus described by Dr. Kerr:—

"At Woolwich we keep a card register of every child in the school as to whether it has had measles when it enters the school; and when measles occur, the cards show which have had measles and which not. We can exclude those when measles break out who are liable to infection, the others being immune."

At Hornsey the teachers keep a register on which is noted for each child its age and whether it has had measles, chicken pox, whooping cough, mumps, or scarlet fever. Such records are of great value in times of outbreaks, as showing the children who have not had the particular disease and therefore need special watching.

Tattersall, 4658.
Willoughby, 5346.
Leslie, 1083.

93. Sanitary officers are not infrequently employed for visiting the children's homes and disinfecting school premises, and in other ways. Schools are closed by order of the Sanitary Authority when an epidemic attacks them. In Liverpool the rule is to close them when the number of absentees reaches 25 per cent. But closure necessarily implies that the infectious disease has taken root. As the organisation for its prevention becomes more complete, so, it is to be hoped, will the necessity for closure diminish. There is probably no direction in which the increased interest taken in medical inspection during the past two years has had more beneficial results. Organisation for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease has of course existed for a long time past, but there can be no doubt that during the past two years a greater interest has been taken in the subject, and assistance has been forthcoming for the Medical Officer of Health which has materially eased his work, and made the results obtained more complete and satisfactory.

(c) *Vermin, Uncleanliness, Ringworm, etc.*

London, App. V.
Price, 4574-5.

94. Much attention has been paid to the cleansing of children and the elimination of troublesome diseases like ringworm or pediculi. In London, Brighton, and elsewhere, where nurses are employed, they devote a large portion of their time to this work. School Medical Officers, where they exist, pay considerable attention to the subject, and in other areas teachers not infrequently notify such cases to the Medical Officer of Health. Any serious cases are excluded from school and the parents are informed that the child must not return, until it is cleansed or the disease cured. Generally the parents receive instruction as to the treatment necessary. Where nurses are employed to visit the schools they generally follow up the cases at the homes and offer advice; in some areas they actually assist in the treatment. In Nottingham, Eastbourne, and other places lady health visitors and other sanitary officials are employed to visit the homes and see that the child is properly treated. In Bolton the Inspector of School Attendance Officers is similarly employed. The extent of the ailments.

Wilkinson, 2057.

mentioned in this paragraph varies widely; in Eastbourne, where the Medical Officer of Health has paid much attention to the subject for some years before he was appointed School Medical Officer, there are very few bad cases, probably not more than a dozen in the year; on the other hand, in Wimbledon, Dr. Hayward stated in his evidence that about a fifth of the children are more or less affected. In London in less than a year 50,000 children were examined, and notification was sent to the parents of nearly 10,000.

Kerr, 3744.

95. The beneficial results obtained are, it is satisfactory to find, generally of a marked character; the inspection conducted in Gloucestershire, though only lasting nine months, showed this, the number of cases found at the second inspection being 50 per cent. less than at the first. Interesting figures will be found in the report attached to Dr. Martin's evidence. Very frequently the Martin (*passim*) sending home of the child, or the visit of some sanitary official, prove of Willoughby, 5346. themselves sufficient to secure that the child receives proper attention; the mere fact that the children are inspected has often led parents to send their children to school in a better condition. As regards uncleanliness and vermin the good results of inspection have been largely increased by the fact that it is possible for definite action to be taken in the case of grossly negligent parents. In Bolton, Halifax, and other places parents have been prosecuted for gross neglect by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Wilkinson, 3004-7. In Bolton, during a period of six months, 100 children were excluded from school for dirty or verminous heads, and in six cases the parent was eventually sent to prison. In London a different method is adopted. On a case London, App. V of a verminous or dirty head being discovered, the parent is sent a card calling Kerr, 3744. attention to the fact and stating that the child will be excluded from school if it is not cleansed within a week; the card gives directions for cleansing. At the end of the week the child, if not cleansed, is excluded and the parent informed that he will be prosecuted if the child is not cleansed within a week. The nurse generally visits the home about this time, and the matter is generally attended to. In extreme cases the parents are prosecuted for not sending their children to school, and fined. About 100 fines have been inflicted in the course of a year, the average fine being about 6s. and costs. As regards, however, diseases like ringworm, though something is done, much remains undone. Dr. Kerr in his Memorandum states:—

"To-day I hear of a child who has been eight months out of school and is still suffering. I know of numerous cases of ringworm which have been out more than a year."

This is not an isolated experience.

96. The benefit to the child does not end with the physical gain of its increased cleanliness. The higher standard of cleanliness leads to an improved *morale* and generally a higher standard of self-respect throughout the school. The fact, too, that active steps are being taken in this direction is a great encouragement to those parents who have attempted to keep their children clean and free from vermin; and as the condition of the school improves their difficulties decrease.

(d) *Malnutrition and Underfed Children.*

97. So far as we can discover, the question of malnutrition and underfeeding has attracted very little attention in connection with medical inspection. There appears to be no area where the Medical Officer works in close touch with the organisations for the feeding of children. In Wimbledon Dr. Hayward has asked the teachers to call his attention to any apparent cases of malnutrition and has sent the nurses to inquire; where necessary, he has drawn the attention of the Invalid Children's Aid Society to the case. This Society has done much useful work in sending such cases into the country, or providing food temporarily, where necessary. In Eastbourne Dr. Willoughby notifies any children he may find suffering from malnutrition to the Mayor's Fund (he states that he found a fair number of such children last winter), and he believes that no case of malnutrition goes uncared for. In Erith such cases, where found, are notified to the parents, but nothing further appears to be done. Dr. Baddeley considers such cases to be generally Baddeley, 5447-52. Erith, App. V. due to injudicious rather than insufficient feeding. At Reading, Dr. Price Price, 4581.

states that he has not been specially called in to assist in this matter. At Blackburn a careful enquiry has been made by the Medical Officer of Health into the extent of underfeeding amongst the school children of the town

Manchester,
App. V.

London, App. V.

98. Interesting figures are given by Dr. Brown Ritchie in his Memorandum (printed in Appendix V.) as to backward and ill-nourished children. For each class he examined children from twelve departments; he found in these departments 1,989 badly nourished children and 1,173 very badly nourished, out of a total of 10,180 examined. In the case of the backward children, of those whose backwardness was due to bad health, malnutrition is given as one of the two chief causes. Dr. Kerr, in his memorandum, gives the results of an inquiry made by him some years ago in Bradford. It is interesting to note that, in Dr. Kerr's opinion, many cases of alleged malnutrition are really the results of bad ventilation and unsuitable work in the Infants' School.

Tattersall, 4680.

Baddeley, 5453.
Price, 4581-2.

Hayward, 5585.

99. We made inquiries of the witnesses who gave evidence before us as to the class of children referred to in the second part of our Reference, who, "though not defective, are from malnutrition below the normal standard." This is the type of child described as "retarded" by the Committee on Physical Deterioration. We regret to say that we could obtain no satisfactory evidence on the subject. Dr. Tattersall said that at Salford there were some children in the schools for the mentally defective who appeared to come into this category, in view of the rapid improvement they made under the influence of care and good feeding. Dr. Baddeley considered that such children undoubtedly existed in Erith. Dr. Price, from Reading, said the same, though owing to the prosperous character of the town, he did not think them numerous. Dr. Hayward said he had great difficulty in distinguishing them, and considered it must always be a matter of degree, but does not think there are many in Wimbledon. He quoted the case of a child who was suffering from improper feeding. In no area did we discover that any attempt was being made to classify such children and deal with them separately.

(e) *Physically and Mentally Defective Children.*

100. There is no doubt that the attention paid to physically and mentally defective children is increasing year by year. As a result of the passing of the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act 1899 the medical inspection of defective children in special schools has been widely organised. We do not think, however, that it is necessary to make more than a brief reference to this subject, as though perhaps technically coming within our Reference, there is at least a doubt whether these schools are in fact public elementary schools, and in any case the medical inspection is of a special character, differing from that contemplated by the Reference. The fact that the Board of Education has now approved arrangements under the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act 1899 for seventy-five areas shows in itself that the care of these unfortunate children is receiving attention in many parts of the country. There are besides several areas, as for instance Stockport, in which the Local Authority have made inquiries as to the number of such children, and subsequently had them examined generally by the Medical Officer of Health. In West Sussex and at Eastbourne the establishment of a regular system of medical inspection was, we were told, largely the outcome of inquiries of this nature. The number of schools for these afflicted children has considerably increased, and they now number 161; of these 144 are for mentally defective, and 17 for physically defective. There are 93 of these special schools in London alone. The growth and spread of medical inspection must tend still further to increase the attention paid to these children. The establishment of medical inspection has further had the effect of bringing to the parents' notice many cases of slight physical defect, which would otherwise have passed unnoticed. Parents have been led to get their children properly treated at hospitals or elsewhere. Often charitable organisations exist, which render help, where necessary, in the provision of crutches or other surgical apparatus.

(f) *Minor Ailments and Weakly Children.*

101. Sores, cuts, and such like troubles are notified to the parents, when of a sufficiently serious character; and instructions for treatment are frequently sent at the same time. In Liverpool and other places Queen's Nurses visit the schools and actually treat the children. The Nurse is generally provided with a room containing basins, hot and cold water, and other appliances for the purpose. She subsequently where necessary visits the homes and advises as to treatment. Mr. Williamson spoke strongly of the good work accomplished Williamson, 4118. by the Queen's Nurses in remedying these small but troublesome ailments, which may become serious if left unattended to, and urged that by this means the educational efficiency of the children is increased. Mr. Leslie, who has had wide experience of the work done in Liverpool, is full of praise for the results obtained; he says—

"The effect on the children themselves is very pronounced. They seem to enjoy coming Leslie, 1083. out to the nurse, and are sometimes accompanied by friends who are not in need of treatment."

On the other hand, Dr. Kerr, who has had experience of the work done Kerr, 3817-8. by these nurses in London, apart from the question of this treatment undermining parental responsibility, considers that it leads to self-consciousness in the children, "they went about looking for wounds for the nurse."

102. In some areas the Medical Officers pay considerable attention to the question of physical exercises and their suitability for the children. Much West Sussex. attention is paid to this question in West Sussex. An inspectress of App. V. physical welfare has been appointed, who devotes a large portion of her time to getting the exercises graduated to suit the capabilities of the children and generally advising the teachers. In Salford the drill instructor or the Tattersall, 4763. head teachers submit cases of doubt to the Medical Officer for examination. Dr. Hayward, in his evidence, informed the Committee that he had cases Hayward, 5622. brought before him in which there was difference of opinion between the parents and the teachers as to the capability of some child for physical exercises. Such cases were frequently due to some misunderstanding on the part of the parent, and a visit from the nurse was generally sufficient to put matters straight.

(g) *Eyesight.*

103. The examination and testing of children's eyesight has been much more widely taken in hand than anything else with the single exception of the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. One reason for this is that Willoughby, 5332. attention was widely directed to the subject by enquiries instituted by the Manchester, App. V. Board of Education into the condition of school children's eyesight in various selected places during 1894-6, and by the circular issued on October 1st, 1901, in which the Board recommended the adoption in every school of simple methods of detecting errors in refraction and diseases affecting the sight or structure of the eyes. Further there is the hindrance which defective eyesight affords to a child's progress in school work. The matter is an urgent one, for the percentage of children with some sort of defect is very large; in Eastbourne 7 per cent. to 10 per cent. of the children are found to suffer from defective eyesight; and in Manchester, out of 27,000 children examined, nearly 2,000 were found to be suffering from defects sufficiently serious to justify the parents being advised to have them remedied. In the Stroud division of Gloucestershire as many as 22 per cent. of the Martin, 4013. children examined were found to be suffering from defective eyesight. In Bolton and a few other places eye specialists are employed, who as a rule examine all the children, the parent being generally sent a card stating the kind of spectacles required. Where a School Medical Officer exists, he generally Wilkinson only examines the cases of defect found by the teachers. Elsewhere the (passim). teachers inform the parents where any defect is found either directly or through the Education Authority. The testing of the eyesight by means of test cards can easily be performed by the teachers, and enables them generally to discover the existence of marked defects of vision, though not to prescribe any remedy. Much good can thus be done by the teachers without any assistance

Tattersall, 4663.

Hanley, App. V.

Manchester,
App. V.

Leslie, 1083.

from a medical man ; and it has therefore been found possible to arrange for the examination of the children's eyesight in districts where no School Doctor is available. In Salford the parents are informed of the defect, and told that they may, if they desire, bring their children to the Medical Officer, who will prescribe spectacles where necessary. In Hanley, the Medical Officer devotes much time to the prescribing of spectacles. Generally where the inspection of children's eyesight is organised, every child is examined once a year, but in Manchester only children in Standard II. and above are examined, and in Liverpool the children's sight is tested on passing from Standard II. and once in six months while in Standards III. and IV.

104. After the parents' attention has been called to the defects, and even after suitable spectacles have been prescribed, there must still remain the question of how the spectacles are to be obtained. Sometimes, of course, the parents are both able and glad to provide them, the only reason for their not having been provided before being that the existence of the defect was not known. Sometimes the parents are careless or ignorant. The Medical Officer for Halifax in his last report says on this point :—

"I may cite two instances ; the first is that of a child who was sent to school in her grandmother's spectacles 'because her teacher said she needed some' ; the second is that of an infant who squinted as the result of being long-sighted. When the mother received a note asking her to take the child to hospital to have the squint corrected by glasses, she was much aggrieved and said 'she smacked the child whenever she saw it squint, and what more could she do ?' Comment, I think, is superfluous."

105. There remain, however, many parents who, though they would gladly provide spectacles could they afford them, have not the means to pay for them. Various arrangements have been made to meet this difficulty. The Local Authority have no power to provide spectacles themselves, or to compel the parents to do so. Sometimes the necessary provision is made from charitable sources. At Great Yarmouth any child reported by the teacher is provided with spectacles by the "Christmas Charity." At New Windsor provision is made through the generosity of the Mayor. At Rotherham the Feoffees of Common Lands subscribe £10 for this object. Elsewhere special arrangements have been made for providing spectacles cheaply and enabling parents to pay for them by instalments. At Bolton, when the parents are known to be too poor to pay, spectacles are loaned to them by the Local Authority, and if they can manage it they pay 3d., 6d., or 1s. a week. At Salford an arrangement has been made by which spectacles can be obtained at a cost of 3s. 6d. through the teachers ; and this sum may be paid by instalments. At Hanley a contract has been made for their provision at a specially low rate. More frequently no such arrangement exists, and there remain many children for whom nothing is done. Notwithstanding this, however, the amount of good which has been done by the attention given to eyesight is very considerable. There is certainly no branch of medical inspection of which the results show themselves more clearly. But for this inspection it would often never be discovered that a child suffers from some defect, the remedying of which is simple, and the resulting gain to the child immeasurable. Headaches and apparent dulness often disappear ; at Willesden 14 per cent. of the children suffering from headaches were found to have defective vision. Defects may be easily remedied, which if left would in course of time become serious. Interesting statistics of the results of the inspection of eyesight are given in Mr. Leslie's evidence, and also in the report of the Medical Officer for Willesden printed in Appendix V.

(h) *Ears.*

106. In most areas, where a definite system of medical inspection has been established the examination of children for defective hearing and diseases of the ear, such as otorrhea, is far less frequent than inspection of their eyes. In Manchester, Halifax, and some other places considerable attention has been given to the matter, but as a rule no systematic examination of children's ears has been attempted. The most that is generally done is that the teachers call the Medical Officer's attention to any cases of deafness or discharge from the ears which they may notice, and that parents are informed of any defects discovered. Dr. Rhys Davies, in his Memorandum, gives some

Leslie 1083.

App. V.

Swansea, App. V.

interesting figures as to children whom he has examined. As he points out, the examination of children for deafness is a difficult matter and requires much care. A child has often much difficulty in recognising a sound with which it is not familiar. To make any test successful it is necessary that the child should show great concentration of thought, greater perhaps than can be expected from many children. Dr. Kerr corroborates this. He considers a great number of cases of alleged deafness are due to a failure to appreciate the tests. Then again Kerr, 3863-5. the curing of deafness is a far more difficult matter than that of ordinary defective vision, and it cannot be remedied by the provision of some cheap appliance, such as spectacles. Dr. Baddeley in his report states that in his experience partial deafness is almost invariably due to throat troubles, enlarged tonsils, adenoid growths and the like. The treatment of these ailments is always tedious, and often unsatisfactory, and the prevention of the inflammatory condition frequently leading up to it is more satisfactory than the cure. Occasionally inflammation in the middle ear has caused a perforation of the drum and there is a purulent discharge from the ear. Dr. Kerr's experience is that all cases of partial deafness are due to mouth breathing. On the whole there is no doubt that much has been done for children with diseased or defective ears and many cases have been discovered and sent to special schools.

Extrh. App. V.

Kerr, 3861-2.

(i) *Teeth.*

107. In the case of teeth, as in that of ears, some attention has been paid to the subject, but we found but little evidence of any systematic examination. Dr. Rhys Davies in his Memorandum gives some statistics as to two schools, one of better class than the other. The teeth of the children were more decayed in the better class school than in the other, while the cleanliness of the teeth was much the same. The girls showed more care for their teeth than the boys. The British Dental Association have supplied us with a memorandum giving much valuable information as to inquiries into the condition of children's teeth, which have been conducted under the auspices of the Association during the past fifteen years. The statistics are interesting as showing the remarkable deterioration which takes place when the child's teeth are neglected. The memorandum is printed in Appendix VI. The statistics given leave no doubt that the immense proportion of children suffer from carious teeth, very few being found with perfect sets. In fact, the Medical Officer for Halifax in his memorandum goes so far as to say that he thinks that 95 per cent. of the children suffer from carious teeth ; there is nothing in other statistics to suggest that this is unlikely. He adds that in consequence it is possible for charitable institutions only to deal with deformities. This difficulty will always be a real one, as it is unlikely that the average parent will go to the expense of taking his child to a dentist. In Wimbledon and other places the Medical Officer has lectured the children on the importance of cleansing their teeth ; such teaching may, it is to be hoped, lead to increased care of the teeth being taken, and consequently to the reduction in the number of children suffering from carious teeth.

Halifax, App. V.

Hayward, 5604-5.

(j) *Anthropometric Survey.*

108. Very little has so far been attempted in the direction of an anthropometric survey ; in fact, Salford, and Willesden, are almost the only places where anything systematic has actually been carried through, though a survey was made during the past summer at Torquay, and certain figures were collected during the short period for which a system of medical inspection was in existence in the Stroud district of Gloucestershire. In neither of these two last mentioned cases are any figures forthcoming. An account of the methods adopted at Salford has been given above in the description of the organisation there ; further details will be found in the extracts from the report for 1904, which are published in Appendix V. At Willesden, as an experiment last year, the teachers were instructed to take the weights and heights of all the children in two schools, one being of much better class than the other. In this way 551 boys and 523 girls were measured. Interesting tables and charts have been compiled. Full details are given in the Medical Officer's Report, which is printed in Appendix V. It is sufficient to say here that the statistics show a marked falling away from the average in both height and weight as the children get older.

Salford, App. V.

109. At Oldham a physical register has been kept for four years, in which has been entered for each child coming up from the infant department the height, weight, chest girth, vision, etc. The register has been somewhat irregularly kept up owing to the time required for each examination. In a few places (e.g., Bradford and London) a few statistics have been collected, but no systematic survey has been attempted. There is reason to anticipate that surveys are likely to be undertaken in several areas in the future, when the system of medical inspection has been safely established. In West Sussex the Committee are about to institute the taking of weights and measurements of children, records of which will be kept in all schools. Dr. Price at Reading hopes shortly to start in one school. More than one person who gave evidence before the Committee expressed himself in favour of such a survey and hoped that it might be possible to initiate it in the future. As a general rule medical inspection being more or less newly established, it has been found necessary, to begin with, for the work to be confined to the most urgent subjects and the worst cases. Gradual extension may now be anticipated as progress is made in overtaking the initial work, which is necessarily heavy and much of which need not be repeated.

West Sussex.
App. V.
Price, 4588-95
Willoughby.
5393.

Tattersall,
4738-41.

London, App. V.

(k) *Light, Ventilation, and Sanitary Condition of Premises.*

110. The inspection of the lighting, ventilation, and the sanitary condition generally of the school premises, cannot perhaps strictly be included in the phrase "medical inspection of children," but it is so nearly akin to it, and is of such importance, that we feel that some reference to it in our Report is essential. Generally the first duty named among those assigned to an Educational Medical Officer is the periodic reporting on the sanitary condition of the school premises, including of course such essential matters as lighting and ventilation. In regard especially, perhaps, to ventilation, but more or less to all parts of this branch of his work, it is important to notice that he is required generally to make this examination during school hours. It is only in this way that the effectiveness of the arrangements can really be tested. The doctor also examines the plans for new premises and enlargements. It seems almost superfluous to lay stress upon the importance of this work, which is now being carried out far more widely and thoroughly than formerly. Dr. Kerr speaks of ventilation as "the most pressing question of school hygiene." Periodical inspection of school premises tends not only to prevent the occurrence of the many diseases that arise from defective sanitation and indifferent ventilation, but tends also to impress upon the teachers the importance of watching such matters, and provides the Medical Officer with a favourable opportunity for dwelling on their importance. Proper attention to questions of lighting and suitability of desks must of course do much to prevent the eyes of children being damaged through their use in bad light or in wrong positions.

111. The Education Act of 1902, by largely bringing education and sanitary work under one Authority, has tended greatly to facilitate the effective supervision of school premises. In many areas the sanitary officers have given much assistance in inspection of school drains and offices; at Bournemouth the local inspectors of nuisances attend and cleanse the offices of the schools daily; and in many other places most useful work has been done in the same direction.

VI.—RESULTS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

112. We conclude this part of the Report by briefly summarising the results which we find have been obtained. These have been already mentioned in detail above, and may now be stated quite briefly. Since medical inspection has in most places only been quite recently established, it follows that there has been but little time for statistics to be collected or definite

proofs to be obtained. The results must therefore be given rather as statements of opinion than as ascertained facts, but where figures are available they entirely support our conclusions.

(1) There is no doubt that the establishment of proper organisations for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease has had marked results. Diphtheria especially, it is stated, is now in several areas under such complete control that it can be stopped in a few days. The knowledge now possessed by many teachers of the symptoms of infectious diseases enables them to act with the promptitude which is essential if effective measures are to be taken. The Education Act of 1902 by uniting to a large extent the Sanitary and Educational Authorities has undoubtedly facilitated prompt and effective action in dealing with epidemic sickness.

(2) Much has been done to secure greater cleanliness and freedom from vermin and to attack such troublesome diseases as ringworm. The results here have been further improved in certain areas by the prosecution of the parents in extreme cases of neglect. Apart from the general physical gain to the child resulting from greater cleanliness, there is also the consequent improvement in the *morale* of the school.

(3) The establishment of medical inspection has caused more careful and widespread attention to be given to defective children. Minor physical defects have been remedied; surgical apparatus has been obtained.

(4) To nothing probably has more attention been paid than to eyesight, and in no direction have beneficial results more certainly been obtained. Defects have been discovered, which would otherwise have passed unnoticed, and spectacles have been provided. Overstraining of the eyes has often been stopped, with the consequent disappearance of many headaches and much apparent stupidity.

(5) Some steps have been taken towards dealing with the more difficult question of defective hearing.

(6) Teachers have been led to take a more intelligent and more sympathetic interest in the physical welfare of the children placed under their care. Ventilation is better attended to, as its importance becomes more fully realised. The School Medical Officer gives teachers valuable support in any effort they may make to arouse the better feelings of the apathetic or negligent parent.

(7) Generally we feel no doubt that the medical inspection has done much towards bringing to view defects, the treatment of which secures the child from unnecessary suffering, and may save him from serious trouble in after life. Finally we desire to point out how small is expenditure which inspection involves; in no urban area does it require more than $\frac{1}{5}$ d. rate, generally not so much.

113. We are confined by our reference to noting results; we are not bidden to make recommendations for improvements. We may, however, be permitted to say that in our view the results leave something to be desired, and that there is much opening for improvement. It is to be remembered that the Local Authority does not attempt treatment of the children's defects, it merely points out to the parent their existence, and except in very rare cases it has no power to force him to have the defect remedied. We have not sufficient data upon which to base any estimate of the percentage of cases not receiving

treatment; such percentage probably varies greatly from area to area, but we fear there is no doubt that it is a large one. The poverty of the parent, and more often his apathy and indifference, if not positive negligence, are formidable obstacles to the care of the child. Poverty may be partly met by charity; but the apathy and negligence will only decrease as the parent is slowly brought to see the material gain which results from giving due attention to his children's ailments. After all, medical inspection is but now making a beginning, and there is every reason to hope that as time goes on its value will become more widely recognised by the parents, and that the results it produces will thus become more completely satisfactory.

PART II.

FEEDING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

I. INTRODUCTORY.

1. Limits of the Enquiry.

114. We have endeavoured to obtain all the information available as to what is now being done in England and Wales for the provision of meals for children in Public Elementary Schools. There are many charitable agencies at work for the relief of the poor, parochial, municipal and other, which aid the children together with the other members of distressed families. The work of these, as well as that done in orphanages and industrial schools and under the Poor Law is outside our reference, and, similarly, we have not been called upon to deal with the many burning questions which the mention of the feeding of children at once raises, such as the adequacy of existing organisations to meet present requirements, the number of children who are in need of proper supplies of wholesome food, whether the cost of this should be borne by public funds, either rates or taxes, and, if so, what local or central authority should be charged with the administration of the food provision.

2. The Report of the Committee on Physical Deterioration.

115. These matters have been touched in the recent Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration, but that Committee did not, as they themselves admit, receive "a great amount of definite evidence on the voluntary agencies in existence" (Report, paragraph 339). In fact the only witnesses who spoke upon the work now being done by the voluntary agencies in England were Dr. Eichholz, who alluded to the nature of the organisations existing in London; Mr. Libby, who described the work of one of the smaller of these; Mr. J. B. Atkins, who spoke from observation of the work done in Manchester, and Dr. Airy, who gave a detailed account of the dinner scheme existing in Birmingham, but only alluded cursorily to the equally important and more expensive breakfast scheme organised and financed by Mr. Hookham, who has now given us the advantage of a personal statement. The evidence of the other witnesses heard by the Physical Deterioration Committee was directed rather to proposals for ensuring adequate nourishment for children in attendance at school, and these proposals, especially in the case of Sir John Gorst and Dr. Macnamara, who outlined a complete scheme for dealing with the matter, were made quite generally and were in no way fettered by the restriction imposed upon us by our reference that no charge is to be placed upon public funds. We invited both the last-mentioned witnesses to give us further evidence on the subjects of our reference, but they did not think that any useful purpose would be served by their doing so.

116. On this part of our subject, as well as upon that of Medical Inspection, we have paid full attention to those portions of the evidence given before the Physical Deterioration Committee which we believed to have any bearing upon the matters entrusted to our consideration. The portions of the Report which relate to these matters are reprinted in Appendix III.

117. We have also referred to the Report of the Royal Commission on Physical Training (Scotland), and for convenience of reference we have similarly reprinted in Appendix III. the portion of the Report of the Commission which relates to the feeding of school children.

3. *Information obtained.*

118. We have been courteously supplied by the various Local Education Authorities throughout the country with information as to the various voluntary agencies existing within their areas for the purpose of feeding school children. The information so obtained has been supplemented as regards all rural areas (since it seemed likely that in them there might sometimes be agencies existing unknown to the Local Education Authorities) by reference to the District Inspectors of the Board of Education. On obtaining the name of an agency we at once communicated with the secretary or other person notified to us as being in a position to supply details of its work, and asked him to fill up a form which we had caused to be drawn up for the purpose. An analysis of the information thus obtained will be found printed in Appendix II. The replies to our questions have in some cases been somewhat vague in character, and much difficulty has arisen from the very various periods for which the accounts of the agencies are made up. But on the whole we are satisfied that we have been able to show what agencies are at work, and (except perhaps as regards London) about how much money has been spent in a year on their operations. We are not satisfied that we have been equally successful in ascertaining how many meals have been given, how many children have been relieved, or what has been the cost per head for each single meal. In very many cases no record has been kept of the individual children relieved, or even of the number of times meals have been given, and the number of children present on each occasion.

4. *Witnesses.*

119. In choosing our witnesses for oral evidence we have endeavoured while as a matter of course securing representatives of the agencies working in London and the largest cities such as Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and Sheffield, to obtain testimony typical of the conditions existing in all parts of the country. We have thus heard witnesses from Newcastle-on-Tyne, Bradford and Hull, Bolton and Birkenhead, as well as from Bristol and Brighton, and from Norwich.

120. In Section II. of this Report we explain in outline the methods employed by some of the Voluntary Feeding Agencies. In Section III. we show how the Agencies are distributed through the country. In Section IV. we deal with the more important particulars of organisation. In Section V. we show the amount of the expenditure and indicate the sources from which income is derived. In Section VI. we touch upon two points raised by our reference, the Relief (School Children) Order, 1905, and the position as regards "retarded" children, and in Section VII. we summarise our conclusions and recommendations.

II. METHODS EMPLOYED BY VOLUNTARY FEEDING AGENCIES.

121. We proceed in this Section to give short accounts of the work done by the various organisations which have been described to us orally by our witnesses. The conditions existing in London differ very materially from those in any of even the largest provincial cities. The immensity of its area and population, the lack of local interest, and the ignorance which frequently prevails even among philanthropic workers as to what is actually going on in the area in which their work lies, render the problem of efficient organisation for the purpose of feeding school children in London quite unlike that which offers itself for solution elsewhere. For this reason it has been thought advisable to defer a description of what is being done in London till an account has been given of the somewhat simpler organisations which are to be found in some other towns.

1. *Bradford.*

122. Perhaps as good an example as can be given of a large town in which a voluntary agency for feeding school children has been carefully and efficiently organised, and in which the many difficulties of the feeding question are being intelligently recognised, is to be found in Bradford. Evidence as to the organisation of meals in this town was given by Mr. Priestman, a member of the County Borough Council, and Chairman of the Central Committee described below.

123. Up to the autumn of last year (1904) the feeding done was entirely in the hands of philanthropic societies without direction by the Local Education Authority. Then however was formed a Central Committee consisting in the main of members of the Education Committee, but also containing representatives of the Cinderella Club (which had done most of the meal-providing hitherto) and of the Guild of Help, an organisation on the lines of the Elberfeld system for visiting the poor. This Committee has the status of a Sub-Committee of the Education Committee of the County Borough Council, and has had at its disposal the money (some £3,300) which was raised at its request by an appeal issued to the inhabitants of the city by the Mayor of Bradford, supplemented to some extent by funds also raised from the charitable public by the Cinderella Club. Out of these funds the Committee, between 1st January, 1905, and June 30th provided 235,222 meals at a cost of £1,569 11s. 9d. These meals were mainly given in the shape of dinners without any charge to the parents. During the winter months the dinners were supplied, for the most part, not at the schools but at five selected centres, chosen for their convenience of access by the most needy of the children. On three days in the week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, soup, bread and rice pudding were given; on Tuesday and Thursday, hash, bread and rice pudding. On Saturdays tea was served at 4.30, consisting of corned beef sandwiches and currant buns, and tea or cocoa. When the number of children requiring food fell off with the advance of spring the hot dinners at the centres were discontinued, and the necessary meals were supplied at midday to the schools attended by the needy scholars. The meals sent out were the same in character as the "tea" described above. The highest number of children on the feeding list was about 2,500, and the number had fallen by the 30th June to about 1,200. The total number of children on the books of the Bradford schools is about 55,000. In Bradford, it will be seen, the provision of meals is continuous, extending not only over all the five days of the week upon which the schools are open but also over Saturdays. Moreover, the meals did not, as is the case in most towns, stop with the approach of spring, but they are being continued throughout the year. It is estimated that the total expense of the meals for a complete year would be something over £3,000, and the cost of each meal per head works out at somewhere between 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 2d.

124. The greatest of the many difficulties to be faced in working a system of school children's meals lies in the selection of the proper children to receive them. The tendency in most places is to leave this most difficult and delicate duty practically in the hands of the teachers. It will be shown later in the report that this may lead to unsatisfactory results, and that it is not fair to the teachers to place them in what cannot but be an invidious position for them in their relations with parents. At Bradford the system of selection which has gradually been evolved is as follows: The children to be fed are picked out initially by the teachers. The lists drawn up by them are then handed over to the Guild of Help who have undertaken to be responsible for the work of inquiry. This guild has at its disposal an army of visitors (all unpaid persons), organised in districts, who make the necessary inquiries personally and report the result to the head of their district. In doubtful cases the papers are passed on for decision by the district head to the Central Committee already described. As a general guide a "poverty scale" is adopted, under which, if the income of the family is under 3s. per head per week after deducting rent,

meals are granted. This system seems in theory to be a very complete one. In practice its working largely depends, as is admitted, on the accuracy of the information obtained by the visitor, and on his or her personal attitude towards the question of giving or with-holding charitable help. Bradford is thus organised under districts, and not under Relief Committees working one with each of the schools, which latter Mr. Priestman considers on the whole to be the ideal system.

125. It was freely admitted that sometimes the charity has been abused by persons who, while well able to feed their children, take advantage of it to lessen their own effort; and no attempt was made to disguise the difficulty of treating cases in which the necessities of the children are due to the indifference, drunkenness, or vicious neglect of their parents. On this point Mr. Priestman says:—

Priestman, 4,419. "It has been an extremely difficult matter for us to decide how to deal with cases where drunkenness is reported on the part of one, or both, parents, and where evidently if they would they could do a great deal better and could, in a great many cases, provide for the children themselves. You see the question has always arisen, 'Well, but what about the child? It is not the child's fault that its parents drink.' When we refuse to help it the child will go on starving, but when we help it the parents will have so much more money for drink. It is one of the great difficulties of the whole situation, and we do not feel, as an education authority, at least I do not feel, that we have the necessary power to deal with that class of case. I suppose you are familiar with the circular which has come from this department in conjunction with the Local Government Board Order to the guardians. There you ask us to classify the children, or you ask someone to classify the children (it is not very clear how) under three heads, firstly, those whose parents are in permanent poverty, secondly, those who are in temporary poverty, and thirdly, those who, through indifference or vice, could feed their children, but do not. Of course that is the class that we feel we have no power to deal with."

And he goes on to give an example:

Priestman, 4,420. "I might quote a case of a household into which between £2 and £3 a week were coming, but the children were in wretched need of clothing and food. We fed them and clothed them. The reason why they were not fed and clothed by the father was that he was keeping dogs, gambling, and drinking. The mother drank. These poor little things were in as much need as they would have been in a household where only 10s. a week was coming in. They were not getting food. But we do not feel it right that the charitable public or the rates should be charged in such cases."

126. There are also numerous cases where the wages of the father even though in full work are insufficient to provide adequate support for a numerous family. As to these Mr. Priestman, on the objection being pointed out, replied:—

Priestman, 4,450. "That has struck us very forcibly indeed. I have mentioned it two or three times in our Committee. The reply of one of our Socialist members of Committee is, 'If you do not help them the wage will still continue low and the children will suffer.' I feel that in many of these cases the man ought to be receiving more than £1 or 18s. a week. In some cases it is less than that where they are on short time. We are actually, by feeding the children, virtually helping the employer to go on paying low wages. That is one of the difficulties of the situation."

127. We are informed that in Bradford the recent Order of the Local Government Board (The Relief (School Children) Order, 1905) together with the accompanying circulars of that Board and of the Board of Education are receiving very careful consideration, and that it is confidently expected that after the joint deliberation of Education Committee and Guardians some system of action may be evolved under which it may be found possible in future to concentrate the efforts of the voluntary agencies upon the relief of families where the impoverishment is temporary only owing to the illness or want of work of the bread winner, while the Guardians undertake the care of families where the poverty is chronic and deal with parents who are able but neglect to provide for their children.*

128. We have described the arrangements at Bradford at some length because they seem to give the best example at our disposal of the details and difficulties of working a feeding scheme for school children in a city of

*The resolutions passed by the Bradford Education Authority are printed in Appendix XII.

reasonable size. The case, too, shows a Local Education Authority giving all the help and encouragement which is open to it under the present law. The Bradford County Borough Council organises the Central Committee, and provides most of its members, while seeing that existing charitable agencies are duly represented and that their help is enlisted to the full, the Mayor himself sending out the appeal for the necessary funds. The Council allow the use, so far as required, of schoolrooms and offices, and while encouraging the teachers to give their help they place the school attendance officers and their clerical staff at the disposal of the Committee to render any assistance which their official position may make it useful and proper for them to give.

2. Manchester.

129. Somewhat similar to the Bradford system is that which was last winter in force in Manchester. This was described to us by Mr. Wyatt, the Wyatt (*passim*). Director of Elementary Education for the city of Manchester, and for thirty-three years previously Clerk of the School Board, and was also spoken to by Miss Dendy, who is a member of the Manchester Education Committee. Ever since 1879 there has been in existence in Manchester an agency for giving meals to necessitous children. This was worked by the School Board so long as that body lasted, and the benefit of the meals was confined to board school children. The position as regards the exclusion of children in voluntary schools, who form about half the total number of the children in Manchester, was changed by the Education Act of 1902, under which the County Borough Council took the place of the School Board, the duty of looking after children's meals passing to a sub-Committee of the Education Committee. This sub-Committee in the autumn of last year called a conference of all the agencies dealing with the feeding of children in Manchester with the object of preventing overlapping and duplication of effort which appears to have been till then very considerable. That conference is, we understand, still deliberating and it is hoped that its deliberations may have very beneficial effects. The scheme in force last winter was one of supplying dinners of soup and bread on every school day in certain of the schools of the city which were selected on the ground of the needs of the children attending them. Any child might share in these meals on payment of 1d., but this privilege was in fact little used, only 15,706 dinners being sold to children at a cost of £67 8s. 2d. Most of the recipients of the meals were admitted free. These were selected by the teachers and their necessity tested by the school attendance officers by means of a "poverty scale." This scale was graduated according to the number in the family. Thus after allowing for rent, children were considered eligible for admission to free meals if the Wyatt, 2802-4. income per head fell below 3s. 6d. when the family was one or two, below 3s. when it was three or four, and below 2s. 6d. when it was five or more. Children whose families came within the scale were eligible for selection as applicants for meals, those outside it could only be admitted in very exceptional circumstances.

130. The meals were given over a period of twelve weeks, their total number was 108,060 and the highest number of children on the free list during any one week was about 2,300. The total expenditure was about £1,007, and the cost of each meal per head is stated to have been 1 $\frac{1}{10}$ d. Miss Dendy, in Dendy, 5,659. the course of her evidence, while not concealing her disagreement with the principle of the system, expressed the opinion that it was administered as well as it could possibly be. She stated that owing to the cry of extra-ordinary poverty which arose last winter in Manchester and led to the formation of a Lord Mayor's Fund, the hand of the Education Committee was forced, and the attempt to provide a cheap meal at cost price was brought to failure. However, owing to the rigid method of selection, in spite of the extra poverty, the number of free meals given was only half that given in the preceding winter, and no complaint was made that any of the children had suffered. Mr. Wyatt, in his evidence, laid great stress on the Wyatt, 2,819. fact that the system described above is only a provisional one, not likely to be continued, and stated that the whole condition of affairs has been

Wyatt, 2,770.
Wyatt, 2,772-3.
Wyatt, 2,820.
Dendy, 5,671,
5,754.
Wyatt, 2,822,
Dendy, 5,668.

altered by the issue of the Local Government Board Order, which will, as he alleges, prevent the teachers continuing to give their help in supervising the meals as at present, and will put an end to the voluntary subscriptions by means of which the work has been done. In that opinion Mr. Wyatt was fully corroborated by Miss Dendy. There has been a conference in Manchester between the three Boards of Guardians having jurisdiction there, and the Local Education Authority, and it is hoped that satisfactory conclusions may be reached*

131. The highest number of children fed last year in Manchester on any one week was about 2,300, and the average number during the twelve weeks of meals about 2,000. As the total number of children in the schools is somewhere about 100,000, this means that about 2½ per cent. of the children are thus relieved, a much lower proportion than in Bradford and for a much smaller period of the year, as the provision of meals in Manchester was stopped in the course of March instead of being continued, as at Bradford, through the year.

3. Sheffield.

Moss (*passim*).
132. At Sheffield, unlike Bradford and Manchester, the children's meals have been supplied in the form of breakfasts. Mr. Moss, who, like Mr. Wyatt in Manchester, has been the chief education officer in Sheffield since 1871, described to us the system, which is one of very recent growth, dating only from November last, when a time of abnormal distress from dearth of employment led to the formation of a "Children's Breakfast Committee." Previous to that there had been no organisation of the kind in Sheffield, though in some schools meals were supplied through the efforts of teachers or managers, and in one council school Mr. Jonathan Taylor had been for three years giving breakfasts to about 100 children per day. Upon an appeal issued by the Lord Mayor and the Chairman of the Education Committee a sum of £1,187 was raised with little difficulty, and of this sum £918 was spent by the 23rd June last. The Education Committee have co-operated in the work in every possible way and have placed their offices, school rooms, and staff at the disposal of the Breakfast Committee, a miscellaneous body consisting of members of the Education Committee and other persons interested in the movement, and composed largely of teachers. Relief Committees were formed for each ward, and these Committees which, as might be expected, were of varied degrees of efficiency, dealt with the difficult matter of the ultimate selection of children who were chosen in the first instance by the teachers and their circumstances investigated by the attendance officers. No "poverty scale" was employed, the matter was one rather of general impression, supplemented by such personal knowledge as was available. There were a good many instances of families in receipt of parish relief which was found insufficient for their adequate support, but these cases do not appear to have been reported to the Guardians. The breakfasts consisted of cocoa with bread and dripping or jam, and cost 1½d. per head inclusive of all expenses. They were continued during the Christmas and Easter holidays, and while the main operations were brought to an end on the 31st March the meals were not discontinued altogether until the end of July. Even during the summer holidays Mr. Jonathan Taylor went on with his own feeding system at Croft's Council School. Mr. Moss considers that more searching inquiries ought to be made in future into the circumstances of parents and that some means should be found for dealing with the negligent. No inclination, so far as we are aware, has yet been shown at Sheffield to take up the administration of the new Local Government Board Order.

4. Birmingham.

133. The Birmingham system of dinners of soup with bread and jam provided in canvassed enclosures in the school playgrounds with the good will of the Local Education Authority has been referred to in the report of the Physical

* The resolutions passed by the Manchester Education Authority since Mr. Wyatt gave his evidence are printed in Appendix XII. It is understood that these resolutions are very far from being acceptable to the Guardians.

Deterioration Committee, and was described in detail to that Committee by Dr. Airy. These dinners are provided by the voluntary organisation called "The Birmingham School Cheap Dinner Society." Allusion was also made before that Committee to a system of breakfasts which is worked side by side with the dinner organisation, and gives relief to many of the same children. This breakfast system was fully described to us by Mr. Hookham, whose bounty provides its whole cost. It extends to fourteen of the poorest schools in Birmingham and is continued five days a week all through the year, summer and winter alike. The children fed vary from 1,600 or 1,700 per day in the winter to 800 or 900 in summer. They are selected by the teachers, and Mr. Hookham believes that this selection is satisfactory, safeguarded as it is by the criticism of the children themselves, who do not hesitate to report cases where they think the relief is improperly given. This criticism is stimulated by the restriction in the number of meals supplied; the knowledge that some children must be left out makes the children very keen to report imposture, as well as ensuring very careful discrimination on the part of the teacher. The cost per head for meals was 1½d. and the total amount spent last year £1,380, all of which was provided by Mr. Hookham from his private purse. This compares with £345 spent last year by the "Birmingham School Cheap Dinner Society," which sum includes £100 paid to their manager. The cost of the soup dinner works out at less than a halfpenny including the expense of the Secretary's salary, a "remarkable economic fact" as pointed out by the Physical Deterioration Committee. Mr. Hookham expressed the opinion that the recent Order of the Local Government Board will probably destroy the charitable organisations. He stated that the question of administering the Order was being debated in Birmingham.

5. Liverpool.

134. The arrangements at Liverpool are not, so far, very fully matured, but the matter has been receiving very careful attention from the Education Committee, and Mr. Leslie, a member of that Committee and vice-chairman of the Elementary Schools Management sub-Committee, to whom the investigation has been entrusted, gave us some very valuable evidence as to the state of things in the city. As the result of a recent inquiry into providing free meals in the Liverpool schools Mr. Leslie made a report in which he graphically describes the condition of things in the poorer part of the city, as related to him by the teachers whom he consulted.

135. At present there is in Liverpool only one agency of a public character which undertakes the systematic and regular provision of meals for children. This is the "Food and Betterment Association" which is under the personal management of its founder and Honorary Director, Mr. Lee Jones, who was kind enough to describe to us its working. This association is supported by voluntary contributions, and its sphere of operations is very extensive. It provides, amongst other things, meals for school children. It is prepared to enter into agreements to supply meals at particular schools or at convenient centres, and those meals may be either free within the limits found possible by the association or may be supplied at a small price (usually a ½d. a head). Mr. Jones told us that last year his association supplied some 200,000 meals, mainly dinners, to school children, and he estimates that this represents about two-thirds of the necessary supply. He considers that if the Education Committee would give official recognition to the work of his association, would publish an appeal for funds, and would provide places at which the meals could be served, the needs of Liverpool would be met. Mr. Leslie, while not altogether agreeing with Mr. Lee Jones in the figures given by him, agreed fully that at present there is no overlapping in Liverpool in the way of supply of children's meals but rather a shortage. He expressed a strong opinion that there is now need in Liverpool for constituting a permanent agency for securing the due provision of meals, and thinks the public would support it. At present, with 160 schools in Liverpool, no provision at all for meals

Lee Jones, 866-7.

Leslie, 967.

Leslie, 1,012-6.

Leslie, 1,027-9. is made except in 25 of the very poorest. He referred to an interesting case in which an old woman supplies a much appreciated dinner for children for 1d. a head as a private speculation. We refer to this below in dealing with the question of school restaurants.

Foster (*passim*).

Foster, 1,295.

Foster, 1,402.

Hall (*passim*).

Hall, 5,649 :
5,651.

Wilkinson
(*passim*).

136. Across the Mersey at Birkenhead, into which town the work of Mr. Lee Jones' Food and Betterment Association in part extends, a Children's Relief Committee was last autumn established to meet a period of exceptional distress, and its method of working was clearly explained to us by Mr. A. E. Foster, a chief assistant master in one of the Birkenhead Council Schools, who acted as its Honorary Secretary. The Local Education Authority gave the Children's Relief Committee every encouragement and assistance, but the organisation was mainly in the hands of the teachers who were the "backbone of the Committee," nominated the children and superintended most of the centres, giving their time and labour ungrudgingly. The meals given were free dinners supplied on the five school days of every week beginning in December, and they were continued through the Christmas holidays. The supply ended at the beginning of March, the meals being discontinued then somewhat early in the year, partly because the teachers felt that if they went on with the work as a matter of course it might get to "be looked on as a part of their duties." The total expenditure was £198 and the cost of each child's dinner just under 1d. Mr. Foster considers that the organisation covered all the cases of distress. It was called into existence in order to meet a special need, and it is uncertain whether it will be revived next winter, or whether it will be replaced by another system.

6. Birkenhead.

137. We are informed by Mr. Packer, the Secretary of the Leeds Education Committee, that in that town £1,700 raised by "special effort" was spent last autumn and winter in providing meals for poor school children. This appears to have been done under the direction of a voluntary Committee presided over by the Lord Mayor. We do not find that any permanent organisation exists in Leeds except that in connection with St. Peter's Square Council School under the direction of Dr. William Hall, who, with the assistance and mainly at the expense of a philanthropic lady, has since August, 1903, fed scholars at that school in numbers varying from 60 to 200 for five days a week including holidays, except the long ones in the summer. The meals given have been dinners, substantial and varied in nature, and also breakfasts. The cost per head per meal has been about 2d., and in some cases the parents have contributed. Dr. Hall, who is an enthusiast on the subject of feeding, gave us a very graphic description of his study of the question with special reference to the great care taken by the Jews in the selection of suitable food and the extraordinary effect of this upon their children. He says it is not a question of hunger, but a question of "underfeeding."

7. Leeds.

138. At Bolton, as in many other towns, an attempt was made last autumn to consolidate the agencies for providing food, and to form a central organisation worked in connection with the Local Education Authority. The operations of the organisation thus formed were described to us by Mr. Wilkinson, the Director of Education for Bolton. Certain schools were used as centres and dinners were provided in them on four days in each week, Monday being omitted for the reason that the remains of Sunday's food are then available in the children's homes. The children were selected in the usual manner by the teachers, checked by the school attendance officers, and at the end of March there were 1,837 on the feeding list out of a total of some 30,000 on the school books. A searching investigation was then made, and as the result the number was reduced by 1,113, i.e. to 724, a somewhat startling and instructive reduction. Feeding was continued on a reduced

scale until 13th June when it ceased altogether. As part of the scheme it was decided to supply 1d. dinners to any children who desired to pay for them. This part of the scheme proved a failure, as only £1 3s. 7d. was, during the whole year, received for tickets sold.

Well worked systems of breakfasts for children exist at Bristol and at Brighton.

9. Bristol.

139. At Bristol the work is in the hands of the "Children's Help Society," the Honorary Secretary of which, Miss A. E. Norris, described the system *Norris (passim)*. followed. A previously existing system of ½d. dinners has now been superseded by one of free breakfasts which are supplied on four mornings a week at the low cost of less than 8 of a 1d. each, and consist of porridge with milk and sugar, bread and treacle. The porridge was disliked at first, and *Norris, 3,284-3,292.* has even now not become popular in the homes, but it is very nourishing for the children and its use prevents children coming who are not really in need of food. The children are selected under the rule of the society which provides that—"Necessitous children whose fathers are dead or in hospital or have been for some time out of work, or whose circumstances are deemed special by the local committee alone are eligible." The ultimate *Norris, 3,384.* selection of children is in the hands of local Committees consisting of persons who may be expected to have intimate knowledge of the parents' circumstances, and there is an elaborate system of tickets under which the *Norris, 3,311-9.* individual children are admitted.

10. Brighton.

140. At Brighton there is a society called the "Brighton Free Meals Society," on behalf of which the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Lindsey, gave evidence before *Lindsey (passim)*. us. This society, which has been in existence for some five years, was reconstituted in November, 1904, and is now recognised by the Local Education Authority as a town organisation responsible for this branch of work. The Mayor issued the appeal for money, and some £254 was raised and expended last season. The meals given are free breakfasts, which consist of hot milk with a currant roll and cost about 1½d. a head. Care was taken in the final selection of the children, some 34 per cent. of the cases put forward as suitable by the teachers being rejected on closer investigation. The investigation was made by three sets of persons, viz., Charity Organisation Society workers, Officers under the Sanitary Department of the Borough Council, and Police, the work in particular cases being assigned to one or other of these by the honorary secretary. The breakfasts began at the end of November and went on to the beginning of March including the Christmas holidays. On an average 670 children were fed daily, the total attendance in Brighton Schools being about 20,000. Mr. Lindsey states that *Lindsey, 5,852-5,860.* in Brighton many mothers go out to work and thinks that a school res- taurant at which children could obtain a dinner for 1d. would be useful, though he is unable to say whether it would be a success. The question of co-operating with the Guardians to work the new Local Government Board *Lindsey, 5,849-5,850.* Order was, he stated, under discussion.

So far we have been describing cases in which the voluntary agencies themselves provide the meals to be consumed by the children. We now proceed to mention two cases in which they give relief by orders upon food shops.

11. Newcastle-on-Tyne.

141. At Newcastle-on-Tyne the "School Children Benevolent Fund," which deals with the supply of boots and clothing as well as food, was established as long ago as 1884. Its work was described to us by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Goddard, who was Clerk to the School Board from its commence-

ment in 1871 to its close in 1903, and is now Secretary to the Education Committee. The selection of children to receive coupons for food is left absolutely in the hands of the head teachers who, as might be expected, differ greatly in the extent of the demands which they make upon the fund.

Goddard, 3492-9. The coupons, which are of the value of either 1d. or 2d., are filled up by the teacher with the name and age of the child, and of the tradesman or shop where they are to be presented. It will be seen that under this system there is really no security that the relief goes to the child to whom the coupon is given, and it depends upon the person serving in the shop where the coupon is presented, whether the food given in return for it is of a suitable character, or indeed whether food is given at all and not sweets or cigarettes. Mr. Goddard, while mentioning that there is little reason to think that the system is abused, admitted that the presentation of coupons to individual tradesmen might usefully be discontinued, and that other arrangements would be better for the children and more satisfactory to the Committee.

Goddard, 3648.

12. Hull.

Grant (*passim*). 142. Not materially unlike the Newcastle system is that in force at Hull, under the auspices of the Hull School Children's Help Society, which has been at work there since 1885. It is claimed by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Grant, that this society embraces all denominations in Hull and practically succeeds in concentrating within itself all the effort in the direction of children's feeding. The society has no official connection with the Local Education Authority, but its officers are permitted to enter the schools and see the children, and to arrange with the teachers for the distribution of the food coupons. Here, as at Newcastle, the teachers select the children without check by any other persons. If a teacher is found not to be using the tickets with which he is supplied the supply is suspended or reduced. If, on the other hand, he gets rid of all that are sent him, he has a further supply so far as the society are able to meet his demands. Arrangements are made with a local temperance society for the supply by them at one or other of their centres of a children's meal for 1d. on presentation of a special coupon, and the bulk of the relief is given through this agency. Other coupons of the value of 1½d. are also issued which can be presented to other tradesmen, and in this case the security that they will be properly used is far from perfect. Mr. Grant mentioned a case in which a woman obtained six tickets and presented them with a request for half a pound of sausages. Her request was not granted, but this instance indicates how the coupons are or may be regarded. From 4 to 5 per cent. of the coupons issued are never presented at the shops.

Grant, 6147-6151, 6181-6187.

Grant, 6141.
Grant, 6135.

13. Norwich.

Pillow (*passim*). 143. The arrangements existing at Norwich were described to us by Mrs. Pillow, the Chairman of the Committee under which they have been worked. Free dinners were given two or three times a week in the winter, but their restricted number did not admit of more than one meal a week being generally given to each needy child. The arrangements here owe their main interest to the fact that the Cookery Centres were used for providing the meals, and their preparation made an integral part of the Cookery Instruction given to the scholars in the Public Elementary Schools of the city.

14. London.

144. We have, as has been explained above, thought it best to report the above typical examples of the feeding work carried out in provincial towns before attempting to describe the method, or rather want of method, which prevails in London. In this, as in many other matters, the vastness of London, its unfortunate lack of a spirit of real local interest, and the ignorance which every Londoner shows of what is going on close to his own door make the effective organisation of a proper system for feeding school children a matter of exceeding difficulty.

(a) *Joint Committee on Underfed Children.*

145. A brave attempt to deal with the problem on broad lines, and in a sane spirit has been made by the "Joint Committee on Underfed Children." This body was originally created by the late London School Board in 1899, and began its work in 1900. It consisted of representatives sent by the London School Board, by other bodies interested in the work of board and voluntary schools, and by the chief agencies raising and spending funds for children's meals. When the work of the London School Board was in 1904 transferred to the London County Council the Joint Committee was continued, and though not having the status of a Sub-Committee of the Council, it reports to the Council through the General Purposes Sub-Committee. It consists at present of four members of the London County Council, four representatives of the Committee of Representative Managers, one of the London Schools Dinner Association, and one of the Referee Fund, together with Sir Charles Elliott, a co-opted member of the Education Committee, as chairman. Under resolutions passed by the London School Board provision was made for the constitution of a Sub-Committee for each necessitous school or group of schools. These Sub-Committees, which are often referred to as "Relief Committees," are charged with the duty of ascertaining the existence of any want in their schools, selecting the underfed children, and making the necessary arrangements for raising funds, and providing and distributing meals. It being thus assumed that there will be a Relief Committee in existence in all necessitous London schools, whether council or voluntary, the duties of the Joint Committee over which Sir Charles Elliott presides are to receive the reports of the Relief Committees showing what they are doing, and to call attention to any defects in their selection of children or in their arrangements. The Joint Committee is further expected to help the Relief Committees to find sources which will supply the necessary funds, to see that the chief associations of supply have notice when distress is likely to outstrip their resources, and generally to keep the public informed of what is being done to provide relief for underfed children and to stimulate public interest in the work. It will thus be seen that the Joint Committee does not itself undertake to provide funds or to organise meals, but that it acts as an intermediary between the schools where help is needed and the bodies who raise money from the charitable public. Further, it aims at being the nucleus of all information, and through it the London County Council in their capacity of Local Education Authority have the opportunity, now that they have the control of all the public elementary schools alike, of organising the whole system of the provision of meals for the school children.

146. Sir Charles Elliott, in his evidence, and the Joint Committee in their Report for the Session of 1904-5 (a valuable paper, parts of which we have thought it useful to reprint in Appendix IX.), call attention to the following defects in the system as it now exists and make detailed proposals for meeting them. The defects are as follows:—

1. The duty of the managers in respect of visiting the homes of the underfed has generally been imperfectly fulfilled.
2. Full use has not been made of the information possessed by attendance officers.
3. The care of the sub-Committees should not be confined to meals, but should be extended to the wants of boots and clothes.
4. Meals should be provided on at least four days in the week, if not on all five school days.
5. The Joint Committee should be invested with sufficient power to see that the system is properly carried out.
6. Power should be taken to regulate the connection between charitable associations and the schools.
7. The meals should be continued where found necessary through the year.

147. We were told by Mr. Blair, the Executive Officer of the London County Council, that the Joint Committee's Report had been "received" by

the Council, but that he was unaware that any action had been taken upon it. Our attention has however been drawn, just before the completion of our Report, to a Minute appearing on the Agenda of the Council for the 31st October, 1905, from which we gather that it has been decided to issue a circular to the Managers of all Council Schools in London with a view to remedying the defects mentioned under heads (1), (2), (3), and (4) in the Joint Committee's Report. We have printed the Minute at length in Appendix IX. We understand, further that the Council have determined to try the experiment of utilising the food cooked in certain selected cookery centres for providing dinners for children from neighbouring council schools, the expenditure incurred to be recovered from parents or from charitable funds. The lines upon which this experiment is to proceed would appear to be those indicated in Mr. Blair's evidence, and the experiment is one to be watched with much interest. It will, however, even if successful, go but a small way towards solving the problem of providing school children's meals, since the number of children who can be fed at each cookery centre is but small, and the centres are in many cases not situated where the need for meals exists. We print in Appendix X. the resolution of the County Council under which the experiment is to be tried.

148. The defects referred to under heads (5) and (6) above are of vital importance. It is clear that as matters stand the Joint Committee, with the best intentions in the world and however sound may be the plan upon which it desires to administer the feeding organisations, is powerless to carry out the system prescribed. It does not lie within the terms of our reference to recommend the London County Council to invest the Joint Committee, whether as now constituted or after reconstitution upon a wider basis, with the necessary powers to enforce its rules upon the managers and teachers of the London schools. But we are convinced that unless and until the Council take up the matter, and provide means by which full information as to what is being done in each school is sent to some central body and the due observance of rules is secured, there cannot be any approximation to an efficient system of school children's meals in London. The information sent to the central body should include full details as to the money received at the schools for providing meals, and the manner in which the money is spent. Any offers of food tickets from religious or philanthropic societies or persons should be reported, and when possible these offers should not be accepted until they have been considered by the central body.

149. The following summary indicates the extent to which feeding has been carried since 1900, when the Joint Committee came into existence, in the London Board Schools (now London County Council schools). The figures do not include children fed in the Voluntary Schools.

	Average number of children fed.	Average number of meals provided.
1900-1	18,857 (weekly)	Not recorded.
1901-2	20,085 "	46,619 (weekly).
1902-3	22,206 "	54,572 "
1903-4	23,842 "	56,109 "
1904-5	26,951 "	66,006 "

Returns which have been obtained by the Joint Committee for the year 1904-05 show that while the weekly average of children fed was, as appears by the above table, 26,951, the total number of individual children who at one time or another received food during the same period was 40,432.

Complete statistical information as regards the feeding done in London voluntary schools is not obtainable; the returns made to the Joint Committee comprised only thirty-one voluntary schools showing 3,702 individual children with a weekly average of 2,940.

150. During the period 1904-5, the number of days on which meals were given in the council schools was on an average $2\frac{2}{3}$ each week, the same number as in the previous year. Sixteen schools gave meals on only one day per week, ninety gave them on two, sixty-one on three, forty-one on more than three. The number of weeks during which the meals were given was, however, slightly greater than before, partly because of the lateness of Easter (the usual time of closing), and partly because some schools began earlier on account of severe distress. Forty-four schools provided meals during ten weeks or less, ninety-one from eleven to fifteen weeks, sixty-three from sixteen to twenty weeks, and ten for over twenty weeks. Last year only one school continued the meals for a period exceeding twenty weeks. The average duration of the feeding was thirteen and a quarter weeks against twelve and a half weeks in 1903-04.

151. The Joint Committee have not failed to point out the weakness of an arrangement under which in the majority of these schools the meals are confined to three days or even less per week. The practice of giving them on two days or even on one only seems to be mainly confined to London. It must lead to large expenditure of money with little, if any, benefit to the children. We deal with this matter later on in our Report. Meanwhile we are glad to note that it is already engaging the attention of the London County Council, as shewn by the Minute referred to above.

152. We had the advantage of receiving oral evidence from no less than four members of the Joint Committee. Sir Charles Elliott, the chairman, gave us a full account of its operations. We also heard three other members, viz., Mr. T. E. Harvey, a member of the London County Council, Mrs. Wilton Phipps, a representative of the Committee of Representative Managers, who spoke chiefly about the meals supplied in the Cripple Schools, and Mrs. Burgwin, who represented the Referee Fund.

153. We have seen then that the function of the Joint Committee is to organise and supervise. It does not itself provide funds to pay for children's meals, or conduct the supply of the meals in the schools.

(b) "The Referee Fund."

154. By far the largest agency for providing funds is "The Referee Children's Free Breakfast and Dinner Fund" commonly known as "The Referee Fund." This is a fund raised annually through the agency of the *Referee* newspaper and has been in continuous existence for twenty-five years. It owes its success in the main to two persons, Mrs. Burgwin and Mr. G. R. Sims, and Mrs. Burgwin gave us an interesting account of the manner in which it came into existence and the methods by which Mr. Sims obtains for it the constant support of a very large and varied body of subscribers. Last year he asked for an increase of £1,000 in the income and got it. He asked for £4,000 and the amount received was £4,042 5s. 4d. There are no working expenses whatever. The whole of the money received is paid over to persons and agencies who supply children's meals. There is a distinguished committee consisting of members representing various interests and denominations, but the administration is practically in the hands of Mrs. Burgwin who acts as Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. She claims that she "really knows the schools of London." No special conditions are attached to a grant. Mrs. Burgwin is Superintendent of the London County Council Schools for the Mentally and Physically Defective, and takes special care that the needs of these schools are not overlooked in the distribution of the money. There is a special agency for supplying meals to the schools for the physically defective which is described below. There is not at present any similar agency for the schools for the mentally defective, but Mrs. Burgwin is able to say that "no child should be hungry in a special school because every teacher has a grant if necessary."

Burgwin, 264,

Burgwin, 319-321.

Burgwin, 354.

Burgwin, 271-9.

155. The Referee Fund makes grants not only to the schools in which the meals are supplied and to the agencies which immediately supply them, but also to the large central agencies under whom and with whose assistance the agencies at the schools are worked. This fact has to be borne in mind when an attempt is made to ascertain the actual expenditure now going on in London

on the feeding of children. We shall find, for instance, that the "London Schools Dinner Association" itself receives a grant from the Referee Fund, and that the amounts which it shows in its report as raised by the schools in the shape of local subscriptions are largely made up of grants received from the Referee Fund.

Diggle, 2040-2053.

Diggle (*passim*),
2148-9.

Diggle, 2017-2023.

Diggle, 2080.

Diggle, 2081-4.

Diggle, 2032,
2147.

Diggle, 2019.

Stirling, 683-4.

Stirling, 702-712,
751-2.

(c) *The London Schools Dinner Association.*

156. Next in importance to the Referee Fund as an agency for providing funds is the "London Schools Dinner Association," which not only finds money but also, though not itself actually organising the meal supply, undertakes before making a grant to see that there is a responsible Committee in existence for administering it, and further interferes if anything abnormal as regards the conduct of the meals is brought to its notice. The Association has been in existence for sixteen years. It was formed in 1889 as the result of action taken by the London School Board on the question of under-feeding and absorbed into itself six or seven previously existing agencies. It was, until the London School Board ceased to exist in 1904, worked in close connection with that body, Mr. Diggle who was chairman of the London School Board in 1889, being the first chairman of the Association. He has continued to the present time to work in that capacity for the Association, and himself described to us its method of working. The income of the Association for the last two years has been slightly under £2,000 per annum, derived entirely from voluntary contributions, including last year, one of £50 from the Referee Fund, and one of £100 from the City Parochial Foundation. Some difficulty is found in raising the money required for the expenditure of the year, but the Association is able to state that hitherto no application for help has ever been refused. Mr. Diggle called attention to the difficulty of getting in money to meet expenditure at the time of year when it is heaviest. He says:—

"As a rule work never begins until sometime towards the end of November. When the wage-earning people on small wages are thrown out the pinch comes upon us. They have no reserve to fall back upon. Then you come to February, when the better class of people who have larger reserves are beginning perhaps to sell parts of their furniture, to pawn, and so on. They begin to feel the pinch then. By that time the stream of charity is very difficult to tap; it has really ceased to flow. It is at Christmas time that you hope to get people quickened. A fortnight's really bad cold weather will bring money, but when the bright or mild muggy weather comes, you may as well appeal to the air."

The principle of the Association is to secure the formation of a substantial local Committee and then to leave it free as to details.

(d) *The Destitute Children's Dinners Society.*

157. The only other agency which extends its work in providing funds to the whole of London is the "Destitute Children's Dinners Society." This society, whose working was described to us by Mr. Stirling, one of the members of the Executive Committee, has been in existence about forty years, and was unable to join in the amalgamation which brought into being the "London Schools Dinners Association," in consequence of its having among its cardinal rules one requiring that in every child's dinner, in the provision of which it helps, there shall be "meat in the proportion of not less than three ounces without bone." This rule is not enforced to the letter, but the society insists strictly upon a proportion of not less than two ounces of meat per dinner. Another point which differentiates this society from that last described is the rule which requires that the children shall pay "a sum not exceeding one penny" for each dinner. The amount which it is expected that children should actually pay is $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and the accounts of the society for 1903-4 show receipts to the amount of £377 from this source. Some considerable part of this money is no doubt contributed by the children, but much of it is also in all probability attributable to payments made on the children's behalf out of funds derived from charitable sources or by persons who pay for their dinners. The expenditure of the society in 1903-4 amounted to about £1,050, and the annual income fell short of this sum by nearly £200, the difference

being made up by the use of a legacy. Grants were made to thirty-six centres, and, as a rule, the dinners at these were supplied only twice a week. The Stirling, 730, 707, choice of the children is left entirely in the hands of the local Committees. 737, The aim of the society is shown in its first rule—viz., that the diet of school children should be improved by their being "enabled to purchase a good Stirling, 683. dinner once a week or oftener at a price not exceeding 1d. per meal."

(e) *The Relief Committees.*

158. In order to enable us to form some opinion of the actual working of the Relief Committees established under the Joint Committee on Underfed Children as stated above in the London schools, we called as witnesses three ladies who are school managers and members of Relief Committees, Miss Frere (Tower Street Council School, Seven Dials), Miss Warry, (Northey Street Council School, Limehouse), and Miss Wrigley (Sirdar Road Council School, North Kensington), as well as four head teachers, Mrs. Humm (Cooks Ground Council School, Chelsea), Miss Ling (Ponton Road Council School, Nine Elms), Mr. Meek (Waterloo Road Council School, near Waterloo Station), and Mr. Shovelier ("Chaucer" Council School, Bermondsey.) Their evidence disclosed the widest divergences both of principle and practice alike in the mode of supplying meals and in the admission of children to receive them.

159. Of the schools covered by this evidence that in which the largest Shovelier (*passim*). amount of feeding has been done is the "Chaucer" Council School in Bermondsey. This is a large school of three departments, with an average of 1,357 on the rolls, and the returns for 1904-5 show that the weekly average number fed was 501, and that no less than 863 individual children received meals at one time or another during the winter. Nor does this at all represent the full amount of relief given in the shape of meals, for Mr. Shovelier, who spoke for the Boys Department only, told us that a good many of the children not fed through the school are receiving food through other agencies, Shovelier, 5175-7. and indicated that in selecting children he would give the preference to those who, not being within the care of some religious association, would be Shovelier, 5173. unlikely to get a meal given them elsewhere. There is nominally a Relief Committee for this school, but it "acts through the head teachers," Shovelier, 5149. who do not even take common action as regards the children of the same families, but work quite separately. Mr. Shovelier prepares at the beginning Shovelier, 5153-7. of each season an elaborate statement of particulars as to the circumstances of each family, but he admits that he cannot get more than an idea of the Shovelier, 5130-9. earnings in each case. He also tries to impress on the boys that they ought not to take free meals unless they really need them. He says, however, Shovelier, 5190-1. that practically all the children in the school, except possibly 5 per cent, Shovelier, 5143-5. would apply for free meals. The neighbourhood is exceedingly poor; still, it is very curious that the boys can get loose pence to spend on sweets Shovelier, 5182-5. and on cigarettes. The dinners are supplied at two centres, one receiving assistance from the "London Schools Dinner Association," the other from the "Destitute Children's Dinners Society." The Association and the Society respectively make grants to each of these centres, and the centres also receive payments through the head teachers for each meal supplied to the scholars; these payments in the main being derived from grants made to the head Shovelier, 5123. teachers by Mrs. Burgwin out of the "Referee" Fund.

160. Sirdar Road Council School, North Kensington, is situated in an Wrigley (*passim*). extremely poor neighbourhood. It is a large school in three departments with 1,054 children on the roll, and the returns to the Joint Committee on Underfed Children showed that in 1904-5 a weekly average of 232 children, representing some 405 individual children received food. This number was distributed pretty evenly between the three departments. The returns made to us by the head master differ to some extent from these, showing that about 800 children received food relief. This, however, includes the children in the adjoining school for mentally defective children which is not included in the Joint Committee's return. We have not had the advantage of hearing any Wrigley, 4777-4785. of the head teachers of this school, but Miss Wrigley is one of the managers' 4785.

Wrigley, 4807-1813.

and she told us that though there is a Relief Committee it only meets to transact formal business, and the selection of children for free meals is left altogether to the head teachers. She has no personal knowledge as to how the selection is carried out. The Relief Committee has never, it appears, attempted to intervene in the matter, but Miss Wrigley thinks that it could not usefully do so, and that no real good could be done except through the medium of thoroughly trained workers. The children from this school mostly receive their meals at the St. Clement's Hall, Mary Place. This centre receives grants from the London Schools Dinner Association and the Referee Fund, as well as some other voluntary contributions, and it charges 3d. per meal to the scholars attending from Sirdar Road School. The payments for defraying this charge are made out of the school feeding fund, which, in its turn, is made up entirely of grants from the London Schools Dinner Association and the Referee Fund.

Ling (*passim*).

161. Another school in which feeding is carried on upon an extensive scale is Ponton Road Council School, Nine Elms. This is an infants' school with an average of 171 children on the roll, of whom 100 are returned as having received food in 1904-05 with a weekly average of 79. There is a Relief Committee, but practically the selection of children is done by the head mistress and a benevolent lady who lives close by and takes a great interest in the

Ling, 5059-5062.

school. This lady employs a nurse who is able to give very valuable help in the selection of children needing food. She also, at her own expense, daily provides soup, which is prepared at her own house and sent in to the school where the children consume it. The expenditure on food for the year (which is returned as £9 1s. 3d.) does not, therefore, at all indicate the real extent of the feeding, and the case is one of a quite exceptional character. Miss Ling gave us a graphic account of the improper feeding which is rife in the children's homes. This is much in evidence from the "lunches" which they bring with them to consume at the recreation interval in the middle of morning school. She gave as instances "Great lumps of stringy salt beef," given to an infant of three, besides certain compounds known as "mince" and "faggot stew."

Ling, 5065-9.

162. The Waterloo Road Council School is not far from the Johanna Street Council School which has of late earned a certain notoriety. It is on the border line between the boroughs of Lambeth and of Southwark. There is a Relief Committee transacting formal business, but the selection of the children for meals is practically in the hands of the head teachers. The school has three departments, with a total average roll of 969. Of these 405 separate children were fed in 1904-05 with a weekly average of 318. The numbers were evenly distributed between the three departments, and this no doubt, was largely due to the fact that the head teachers meet and confer as to all the cases. Mr. Meek gave an example of the usefulness of this practice.

Meek, 4934-9.

A child was being fed in the girls' department whose brother in the boys' department had £5 in the school bank. She was, of course, struck off the list. We may note in passing that in the neighbouring Johanna Street School the number fed in the boys' department (137) was more than three times that fed in the girls' department (39). Mr. Meek keeps careful records as to all the children fed which are available for reference, and besides having regard to the school bank already referred to, he has a system of a periodical playground census at the dinner hour extended sometimes to the neighbouring market in the New Cut, from which he learns much as to the resources available for a scholar's midday meal. The children go for their meals to one or other of two centres according to the situation of their homes, those in Southwark go to Collingwood Street in connection with the West Southwark Children's Dinner Fund, those in Lambeth to the Johanna Street Soup Kitchen in connection with the North Lambeth Poor Children's Fund. Mr. Meek states that it has been possible to feed all applicants who have made good their cases, and that his school has never been short of meals.

Meek, 4951-9.

Meek, 4945.

Meek, 4947-4950.

Meek, 4922.

163. The last of our head teacher witnesses was Mrs. Humm, who is head-mistress of Cook's Ground Council School, Chelsea. This school had in 1904-5

an average of 1,192 on the rolls of its three departments, and it returned a weekly average of six children as having been fed, representing thirty individual cases, a remarkable contrast to the schools hitherto mentioned. No doubt the school is in a better neighbourhood than those, but Mrs. Humm Humm, 5204-5. states that very few children indeed come from good homes. The careful management of the feeding is due to a Relief Committee which meets weekly and carries out its work efficiently, the local managers who have seats upon it co-operating cordially with the teachers. The same Relief Committee Humm, 5229- works with almost similar results at the Marlborough Road Council School, 5232. not far off. The plan is that the teachers report to the Relief Committee any cases in which they have reason to think that food is needed, and these are dealt with by the Relief Committee, one or other of whose members (not a teacher) undertakes a personal investigation. Out of 390 children in the girls' department forty-one were in 1904-5 reported as *prima facie* in need of relief. Of these forty-one, ten girls were eventually fed. Mrs. Humm believes Humm, 5207, that all the children who need it are fed, though she mentioned an isolated 5218-5222. case in which the Relief Committee refused to feed, on the ground that the family ought to go into the workhouse, and the teachers eventually fed the Humm, 5261-6. children themselves. No doubt the successful administration is largely due to the fact that many of the members of the Relief Committee live close Humm, 5301-3. by and can be called in at a moment's notice.

164. The work done by Miss Frere at Tower Street Council School in Seven Dials, has been often referred to by persons who have written upon the under-feeding question. She described to us how she has been able at this school, which is of manageable size (only an average of 316 on the roll) though situated in the very poor neighbourhood of Seven Dials, to reduce what Frere, 470. was at one time a large number of children receiving food to the present very small number, viz., nineteen for last winter, with a weekly average of nine. There is no Relief Committee here; Miss Frere practically keeps the whole Frere, 487-9. matter in her own hands. She claims that the scholars are just as healthy and as well able to do their lessons as when she fed sixty a day, and her main Frere, 536-9. point is that the families should be helped to obtain work and independence, and that it is a mistake to feed the children except as a purely temporary expedient, while more permanent provision for their needs is being made. With this principle in view she and two friends working with her pay systematic visits to the homes and endeavour to help the parents. She admits, however, that in many cases her efforts have been unsuccessful, and that the children who were formerly fed are just as poor as before; only she thinks that Frere, 577-590. the free dinners were really of no use. She admits, too, that the teachers do not agree with her method of treatment and would like to see feeding again introduced. The few meals given in the school are provided at Frere, 657-661. Lockhart's Cocoa Rooms, and are paid for out of a special fund collected by Frere, 605-614. Miss Frere for general use in the school. No help is asked from any of the central associations.

165. Miss Warry, who has for some fourteen years been a manager of Warry (*passim*). Northey Street Council School, Limehouse, and has lived for more than twenty years in Limehouse, gave us interesting evidence as to the system adopted at that school, which has an average roll of 770 in the three departments, and returns ninety-six scholars as fed in 1904-5, with an average weekly rate of thirty. There is no regular school meal provided here, but the teachers supply hot milk and bread to any child in real need of it. This food is usually given in the course of the morning to children who report that they have had no breakfast. The plan followed is that the children come and tell the head Warry, 6238-9. teacher privately when they are in need of food, and Miss Warry is satisfied that all the children in real need get fed. There is a Relief Committee, but as a matter of fact the head teachers decide when a child is to be fed, and Miss Warry by her intimate knowledge of the homes is able to prevent abuse. She quoted an instance showing how she is able to control the feeding, Warry, 6238. and how readily applicants would appear if it were announced that a regular meal was provided.

"The headmaster said, 'We are giving that boy food.' I said, 'I do not know much about the case; I will inquire.' I went down and said to the headmistress, 'You have a sister

here of the boy so and so?' 'Yes,' she said; 'they do not require food.' I saw the girl; she was well dressed, with good boots on. I said, 'why is your brother having breakfast?' She said, 'he will not stop at home for breakfast; he runs away and comes to school.' So his name was taken off.'

Warry, 6250.

Warry, 6252.

166. Miss Warry also mentioned how she has seen children, who have just been making payments into the school bank, going in afterwards to a free dinner in the neighbourhood. The mothers in this part of London are not much out at work, and can therefore provide home meals. The facilities for getting breakfast at a neighbouring school are said to be much relied upon by the mothers who send as many children as they can to school breakfasts and stay in bed themselves. In support of the plan followed at Northey Street she says:—

"We claim that in our bread and milk scheme there is no attraction. There is nothing to make people come in crowds. It supplies real need and immediate need. Poor people do not consider that milk is a food. They think that it is only a drink. The milk and bread do not stop the feeding at home, but the children have had something nourishing."

Harvey (*passim*).

Harvey, 1693-1706, 1714-1723, 1781-4.

167. Mr. Harvey, sub-Warden of Toynbee Hall, who is a member of the London County Council and of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children, as well as manager and member of the Relief Committee at Baltic Street Council School, also strongly pressed the advantages of giving food in the form of milk. He, however, would give only fresh milk (not tinned milk as supplied at Northey Street), and he would like to see it given universally in all schools to all children irrespective of their parents' ability to pay. In advocating this Mr. Harvey says:—

"I think it has an important advantage, in not appearing to the parent to be supplying food. Fortunately, or unfortunately, milk is not considered to be a food, and parents certainly would not feel relieved of the responsibility of providing breakfast because the children were going to get milk at eleven o'clock."

168. Mr. Harvey feels strongly the need of strengthening the hands of the Joint Committee in dealing with the underfeeding problem in London, and is fully alive to the waste of resources which has been going on in some schools, especially where the meals are only given on one or two days in the week, and an attempt is made to relieve insufficiently a large number of children.

(f) *Other Agencies.—(i) Deptford Breakfasts.*

Mantle, 2444.

169. A notable instance showing how lightly new schemes for feeding are taken up, put into operation, and dropped again in London, quite without reference to the existing permanent organisations, and even without the knowledge of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children as at present constituted, was given to us by the Rev. J. Gregory Mantle, the Minister in charge of the Deptford Wesleyan Mission. We give the account of the starting of his breakfast fund in his own words:—

"It originated through the extreme poverty of the children in the district. The fact was brought to my notice through a Blackheath solicitor; that is to say the concrete fact that led to my taking immediate steps in the matter. He asked me whether I knew that a boy going to one of the Deptford schools had fainted during the school hours, and that he was so long in recovering that the doctor took him home and found that he had not had any food for two days. That may be an exaggeration, but that was the statement that was made. At any rate the boy had not had any food, and the fainting was the result of want of nourishment. I immediately went to the schools and found that about half the fathers of the children were out of employment, and that consequently, on the evidence of the school managers and teachers, there was a great deal of suffering among the children. In one school I found that out of 576 scholars there were no fewer than 254 whose fathers were out of work, and I went to the other schools and I found that the proportion was about the same in all the Deptford schools. Immediately that I discovered that I set this piece of machinery in operation."

This occurred in November, 1904, and from December 6th for seventeen weeks free breakfasts were given on five days a week to some 1,400 children sent in by the school teachers to whom Mr. Mantle and his agents gave the tickets for distribution. The breakfast cost about 1d. per head, and each child received a mug of coffee with milk, a roll and a piece of cheese. Of this Mr. Mantle says:—

Mantle, 2462.

"That is rather a strange meal, but I am very fond of cheese myself and it was my choice that we should give the children the cheese. We found that it was an exceedingly popular addition to the roll, and we gave them the cheese right through the seventeen weeks that we continued the breakfasts. They always enjoyed it very much."

170. The cost was between £400 and £500, which Mr. Mantle raised without difficulty from friends to whom he appealed. He did not ask for grants from any of the recognised feeding organisations, and indeed had no knowledge of the work they were doing in connection with the very schools the children of which were attending his breakfasts. Mr. Mantle says that there was last winter exceptional distress in Deptford, which still continued when he gave his evidence in June. The number of children fed was as large at the end of the time as at the beginning, but when the breakfasts stopped there was no other similar agency to take their place.

Mantle, 2491.
Mantle, 2481.

We have endeavoured to obtain evidence from some of the larger philanthropic organisations which might be expected to come into touch with the subject of our reference, and amongst these were the Salvation Army and the Ragged School Union.

(ii.) *Salvation Army.*

171. Mr. Rowe, who holds the position of Lieut-Colonel in the Salvation Army, described to us the elaborate system under which the poorer parts of London are mapped out into twenty-four "Slum districts," each with a "depot" consisting of a small hall and living house and kitchen where food can be prepared. In each of these slum districts reside two women who visit from house to house, and at each depot children's breakfasts are provided on five mornings in the week (exclusive of Saturday and Sunday) consisting of cocoa with milk and currant-rolls, and costing about 1½d. per head. Any child may have this on payment of a ½d., and children who are too poor to pay are admitted on tickets supplied to them by the visitors. This system, with slight variations, extends to all the large provincial towns also, and in the winter of 1904-5 nearly 750,000 breakfasts were given altogether. In the London slum districts over 1,000 individual children were fed daily at a total cost for the season of £390. Probably about half of these paid the ½d., and the rest were free. Much importance is attached by the Salvation Army authorities to the payment of this ½d. They advocate a charge, however small, to be made to those who can afford it, but in periods of acute distress they relax the rule, and at all times they see that no child who cannot pay is refused breakfast. The organisation is worked quite independently of other agencies, but information is welcomed and care is taken not to occupy ground already covered.

Rowe, 2735.
Rowe, 2558, 2,655.

(iii.) *Ragged School Union.*

172. From the evidence of Mr. John Kirk, the Secretary of the Ragged School Union, we gathered that the part now taken by this society in the feeding of school children in London and the surrounding district is confined to the provision of buildings, plant, and service for the supply of meals, and to the catering for the meals, payment for the food being made by the persons selecting and sending the children, and the funds being for the most part derived from the associations already mentioned. Mr. Kirk has had much experience, having worked in connection with the London Vegetarian Association as well as with the two chief Dinner Associations. He thinks that some payment, however small, ought to be obtained from parents wherever possible.

Kirk, 3903-4.

(iv.) *Holborn School Dinners and Aid Committee.*

173. It has already been mentioned that one of the difficulties in the way of a satisfactory organisation for London lies in the deplorable absence of local interest. An attempt to get over this difficulty has been made by Mrs. Dibdin (*passim*), who described to us the lines upon which the "Holborn School Dinners and Aid Committee" is now being worked. This Committee aims at providing for the needs of the children in all the public elementary schools in the Borough of Holborn, it unites in one common effort all the clergy and ministers of the various religious denominations in the borough, and appeals for the sympathy and assistance of the Mayor and Corporation

and of the borough citizens. Under the scheme the Central Committee receives any grants made by the Referee Fund and the London School Dinners Association, and also collects the local contributions, holding for this purpose an annual concert in the Town Hall, which is mainly got up by the teachers, and at which the Mayor attends in state. It sees that sub-Committees composed of teachers, managers and other persons are constituted for each of the separate schools, and that due provision is made for the investigation of all the applications put forward for free meals, using for this purpose the knowledge of the teachers and school attendance officers, and information derived from visits paid to the children's homes by parochial and special visitors. Mrs. Dibdin claims that under this system overlapping is impossible, and she hopes at an early date to do entirely without the help of any of the central funds, relying solely on Holborn subscriptions. She is of opinion that a similar plan, adopted in other London boroughs, might have equally satisfactory results, and the proposal is well worthy of consideration. No doubt, however, Holborn with its small number of five or six necessitous schools and its considerable proportion of wealthy residents stands in a somewhat exceptional position among the London Boroughs. It should be added that the authorities of one of the Holborn schools, that at Tower Street, already referred to, stand aloof from Mrs. Dibdin's Committee, and that her Committee does not work in co-operation with the Joint Committee on Underfed Children.

Dibdin, 2006.

Dibdin, 2002-5.

174. Possibly the germ of borough associations similar to Mrs. Dibdin's may be found in such organisations as the Southwark Free Meals Association, and the two associations existing in the old School Board division of Lambeth, viz., the East Lambeth Teachers' Association and the North Lambeth Poor Children's Fund. We should mention here that movements for setting on foot organisations for feeding school children within the limits of London Boroughs are already in progress in Poplar and St. Pancras.

175. Besides the feeding associations whose basis is locality, there are others whose basis is religious denomination. A great many such exist round particular churches and chapels, but as a rule these do not do any special work for children, helping them only incidentally in the ordinary course of supplying food to needy families.

(v.) *Jewish Feeding Associations.*

Adler, 2260.

Adler, 2318-9.

Adler, 2426-8.

Adler, 2267-2291.

176. The Jews have in London special organisations for providing meals for Jewish school children. The largest of these is the "Jewish Children's Penny Dinner Association," which organises the supply of meals for Jewish children residing in the City, Whitechapel, Spitalfields and St. George's-in-the-East. In this district is collected the main part of the Jewish population of London, and besides the very large "Jews Free Schools" there are several council schools which are attended almost exclusively by Jewish children. Mrs. Adler described to us the working of this large central organisation, and also told us of five other smaller agencies which deal with the needs of Jewish schools in different parts of London. It is matter of common knowledge that the Jewish mothers take more care of their children, especially in the matter of food, than Gentile mothers. Still there are many cases where school meals are considered to be needed to supplement what can be done at home, and in the year ending the 31st December, 1904, nearly 72,000 meals were given by the Penny Dinner Association alone, without reckoning a large number of breakfasts. Even this number Mrs. Adler would like to see augmented, for she considers that there are children still actually going hungry. The selection of children to receive free meals is made by the school managers with the assistance of visiting ladies except at the "Jews Free School" where the enormous numbers have hitherto prevented the possibility of any proper selection. Any child who pays a penny may have a dinner, and this privilege is used to an appreciable extent, as the accounts show that £33 11s. 2d. was received last year from this source. In some of the West End Jewish schools the dinners provided were largely paid for by the children.

(vi.) *Roman Catholics.*

177. Thinking that there might exist among the Roman Catholics in London Beckley, 2152-4, some central agency similar to that described above, we applied to the 2214-6. Secretary of the Westminster Diocesan Education Fund for information, and at his instance Rev. F. C. Beckley attended to give evidence. It appeared, however, that there is no central Roman Catholic organisation for this purpose, and Father Beckley's evidence was, consequently, confined to details respecting the systems of school meals followed in certain schools in the East End of London, of which he has personal knowledge.

15. *Agencies for Meals in Special Schools.*

178. Our reference in its terms directs us to enquire as to the provision of meals for children at "Public Elementary Schools." It is open to question whether this term includes the Special Schools which are now provided in the larger towns of England for blind and deaf children and for children who are defective, whether mentally or physically. So far as these institutions are of a residential character, both boarding and lodging the scholars, they are plainly outside the scope of our inquiry. We considered, however, that where they are day schools we might usefully hear evidence as to any systems in operation for supplying meals.

179. There exists in London a special agency for looking after the well-being of the children in the schools for the physically defective, which may for convenience be referred to as the "Cripple Schools." This agency is known as the "Cripple Children's Training and Dinner Society" and Mrs. Wilton Phipps, who is chairman and hon. secretary of the Dinner sub-Committee of this society, described to us how the meals are worked. It appears that in every cripple school in London (there are now sixteen of them with about 1,100 children), a mid-day dinner varied in character and consisting of two courses is provided, and this dinner is partaken of practically by every child in attendance. The cost of this meal per head for food material only is just under 2d., and the entire cost including wages is about 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. The Special Schools, at any rate those of recent construction, are built with kitchens, and no charge is made to the society for fuel. The cost is borne partly by subscriptions, but mostly by parents' payments of 2d. per meal, these being collected as a rule daily in advance at the children's homes by the nurse when she calls in the morning to fetch the children in the ambulance. It is only seldom that any difficulty is made about payment. Cases where the parent cannot pay the whole or part of the charge are carefully investigated by a manager and decided by the Dinner sub-Committee. Only about 3 per cent. of the children receive the meals free, and there are an appreciable number who are admitted at half-price. The teachers have no responsibility for the meals, their places in the interval between morning and afternoon lessons being taken by voluntary helpers. It is under consideration to apply a similar system to the day schools for the blind and the deaf and the mentally defective.*

180. The oral evidence adduced to us shows that a very similar system to that described above exists in the Special Schools at Bristol, and in the schools for the mentally defective at Manchester. Miss Dendy called attention to the facility with which the payments of parents for their children's meals in the Special Schools in Manchester were collected all through the period of the greatest distress there, and used it in illustration of her contention that many of the parents who get free meals for their children in the ordinary schools could quite well pay for them if they chose to do so.

* On 1st August, 1905, a resolution was passed by the London County Council according to Norris, 3372-3383. facilities for mid-day meals in all Special Schools for the blind and deaf, on the understanding that in no case is the food actually to be paid for by the Council. The organisation of these dinners has been undertaken by the Blind and Deaf After-care Committee, and is to follow the same lines as that in the Cripple Schools described above.

Phipps, 1-134.

Phipps, 76-88.

Phipps, 107-112.

Dendy, 5672-9.

5693-4, 5698-

5711.

III. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENCIES THROUGH THE COUNTRY.

181. Details as to the constitution, work, income and expenditure of the various Feeding Agencies in England and Wales will be found in Appendix II.

1. County Boroughs.

182. The returns there given show that in the County Boroughs feeding agencies exist in fifty-five out of the total number of seventy-one. The total number of agencies reported is seventy-seven, and of these forty-one are permanent, fifteen are new, that is to say have only been one year or less in existence, and the remaining twenty-one are of an intermittent character. In fifty-three County Boroughs there are agencies working generally among the school children; in two others there are only agencies confining their efforts to particular schools. The County Boroughs in which no agencies exist are the following:—

Barrow-in-Furness.	Bury.	Gt. Yarmouth.	Oxford.
Blackpool.	Canterbury.	Huddersfield.	Southampton.
Bournemouth.	Coventry.	Ipswich.	Warrington.
Burnley.	Exeter.	Newport.	Wigan.

183. The returns which we have received show that extensive feeding work is done not only in the County Boroughs from which we have heard the oral evidence of witnesses, but also in many others which are no doubt equally worthy of investigation with those we have described above. Among those may be mentioned in particular Bath, Croydon, Derby, Dudley, Halifax, Hanley, Leicester, Northampton, Nottingham, Oldham, Salford, Sunderland, Walsall, West Ham, West Hartlepool and York. At Blackburn a careful enquiry into the extent of underfeeding among the school children has this year been undertaken by Dr. Greenwood, the Medical Officer of Health, and Medical Officer to the Education Committee, who concludes that probably not more than 1.3 per cent. of the Blackburn children are underfed.

184. But the fact that no feeding agency exists in a county borough does not necessarily mean that nothing is done there for the supply of food to the school children. Thus at Blackpool we are told that "during the winter of 1903-4 two gentlemen provided soup at one of the council schools for about 100 children, but the experiment was not repeated, since there is no great need in Blackpool for such efforts." At Burnley "a census taken on the 20th January, 1905, shewed that owing to poverty twenty-nine children attended school without breakfast, and forty-seven with insufficient breakfast." At Great Yarmouth "in times of special distress a Local Voluntary Committee has obtained local subscriptions, and with the co-operation of the teachers provided free breakfasts for destitute children attending the elementary schools." At Huddersfield, though no meals have yet been given, "the Education Committee are conferring with the guardians on the question."

185. In some cases it is specifically stated to us that no need for organising meals exists. Thus Bournemouth reports that "the need for an agency or organisation for supplying meals to school children has not arisen to any appreciable extent." At Oxford the Town Clerk has never heard any complaints as to the insufficient feeding of the children attending the elementary schools, and at Warrington we are told that "private enquiries have failed to discover any necessity for the provision of free meals."

2. Boroughs.

186. In the Boroughs, as might be expected, the number of feeding agencies is proportionately smaller than in the County Boroughs. We find that out of a total of 137 Boroughs, which are Local Education Authorities under Part III. of the Education Act, 1902, thirty-eight have some form or other of feeding agency. The total number of these agencies reported is forty-one, and of these twenty-three are permanent, five new, and thirteen intermittent in their operations. In thirty-two Boroughs there are agencies working generally in the borough area, and in six the agencies are confined to particular schools.

187. Of the Boroughs in which feeding agencies exist, those in which according to our returns the work done appears to be on the largest scale are the following: Carlisle, Chesterfield (where the fund is managed by the Chief Constable of the borough), Crewe, Dover, Eccles, Folkestone, Jarrow, Lancaster, Margate, Scarborough, Stafford, and Wednesbury.

188. In the Boroughs, as in the County Boroughs, there is more going on than the returns show. Thus at Ealing "a small Committee provided penny dinners for children in the neighbourhood of South Ealing, but the scheme was not very successful." At East Ham "the five Divisional Committees have raised and administered funds for providing food and boots for necessitous children." At Grantham "during cold and inclement weather subscriptions are raised by the vicars of Grantham and Spittlegate for the purpose of providing meals for children, the management and distribution being in the hands of Committees; and similar steps are taken by Roman Catholic clergymen." At Hyde the Education Committee have passed a resolution "that the head teachers be requested to report all cases of children who are attending school without proper nourishment." At Luton "provision is made from private sources to supply with coffee and bread and butter any child who appears to have had no breakfast. This applies only to the severe weather of the winter season." At Ossett steps are being taken to ascertain whether there are any ill-nourished children in attendance at any of the schools maintained by the Local Education Authority, when, if necessary, the powers under the recent "Relief (School Children) Order, 1905" will be exercised. At Smethwick during severe winters arrangements have been made to provide the poorer children with dinners at a charge of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per head, the necessary fund to assist the movement being provided by public subscriptions." At Stockton-on-Tees and at Workington free meals are provided by Relief Committees in times of trade depression. Jarrow furnishes an interesting example of a town in which two agencies are worked harmoniously side by side, one of which provides breakfasts and the other dinners. Both are largely helped by the contributions of workmen.

3. Urban Districts.

189. Out of fifty-five large Urban Districts which are Local Education Authorities under Part III. of the Education Act, 1902, twenty-two report the existence of feeding agencies. These agencies are twenty-two in number, and of them seven are permanent, four new and eleven intermittent. Of these agencies three are confined to particular schools and nineteen are general.

190. The most noticeable of the agencies reported to us in the Urban Districts are those working at Bilston, Edmonton, Felling, Fenton, Gorton, Kettering, Oldbury, Walthamstow, Willesden, and Wood Green. Many of these, however, were established only to meet the temporary needs of children arising during strikes and other special emergencies.

191. Besides the agencies reported in Appendix II. we find that at Chadderton "free breakfasts are given during times of distress, and a Joint Committee of the Guardians and the Local Education Authority is conferring in regard to cases of destitution." At Farnworth "head teachers are asked to report on the number of children considered by them to be generally underfed." At Hendon soup kitchens are opened in winter as required and "the head teachers at the schools sometimes give a little help from the Special School Funds." At Ilford "a soup kitchen is opened four days a week, which is largely attended by school children." At Wallasey soup and bread are distributed in the winter months to thirteen departments of the schools, and in three departments cocoa and bread are provided.

192. At Willesden the Education Committee "feel and believe that large numbers of children are chronically underfed and improperly fed owing to poverty of parents." On the other hand at Acton we are told by the

Education Committee that an inquiry made through the head teachers showed that "only in one or two isolated cases did children attend our schools without proper breakfast and then not as a regular thing." There are 7,300 children on the school registers at Acton. From Abercromby we are told that "in an industrial district of this kind, there are, under normal circumstances, no underfed children."

4. County Council Areas.

193. So far we have dealt only with the work of feeding agencies in towns. It is true that our witnesses have come exclusively from London and the County Boroughs, but the arrangements followed in these, the largest centres of population, are also followed so far as applicable in other towns which have the status of Boroughs or Urban Districts. In country neighbourhoods, however, the needs are different, and the feeding agencies must therefore proceed on different lines.

194. In County Council areas, as might be expected, the number of voluntary agencies for feeding school children is proportionately smaller than in the urban areas under County Borough, Borough or Urban District Councils. We have endeavoured to make our information as to what is going on in the counties as complete as possible, and with that object have asked H.M. Inspectors of schools in rural districts to furnish us with the names of all schools known to them in which children are fed, and have also obtained returns from all the County Councils. Several of the latter have taken immense pains in collecting full information through the school attendance and other district officers, and some have even asked for returns from each individual school. Among those which have supplied to us the amplest and most detailed information may be mentioned the County Councils of Cumberland, Hertfordshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire, and the West Riding of Yorkshire. The latter County have made enquiries among all the District Sub-Committees in their area as to the extent of under feeding, and have informed the Board of Education that all the Sub-Committees assert that there are no children in their respective areas to whom the Relief (School Children) Order, 1905, applies, and in the few isolated cases where the children may be said to be underfed, this only occurs during the winter months when there is a certain amount of distress owing to lack of employment. They add that in these latter cases there are a number of voluntary agencies at work, which on the whole seem sufficient to cope with the distress. Among the agencies in county areas mentioned in Appendix II. will be found a good many of the same type as those already referred to dealing with destitute children in thickly populated places. Of these several, as for instance those at Dalton and Levenshulme (Lancashire) and at Bucknall and Willenhall (Staffordshire) have been formed mainly to tide over periods of strikes or exceptional distress.

Feeding in Rural Schools.

195. The list shows however a certain number, though not a large number, of agencies existing in connection with rural schools for the purpose of supplying a comfortable midday meal to children coming in from outlying homes. The problem here is quite different to that in towns, which has been mainly dealt with in the oral evidence. The children as a rule are not in want of food, and where actual destitution exists it can be best dealt with through the ordinary channels without any special school organisation. But quite apart from actual need of victuals no one who is conversant with the conditions under which in an ordinary country school the children from distant homes get their midday meal can feel that these conditions are altogether satisfactory. The food (bread and cheese or bacon, or some kind of pie or cake) is brought by the children wrapped in paper or in handkerchiefs. If the weather is wet, it is often sodden and pulpy. It is consumed by them in the school room or a class room, the use of which is allowed them during the midday meal, while their more fortunate school fellows go home to dinner, and even on cold winter days the only accompaniment

of the meal is a draught of cold water. The room in which the meal is eaten does not get its proper chance of ventilation before afternoon school begins, and crumbs and fragments which require to be tidied up fall upon the floor and desks.

Cocoa Schemes.

196. In order to make this meal rather more warming and comfortable the kindness of managers or teachers has in some country schools provided a regular supply of cocoa through the colder parts of the year, a daily cup of which may be obtained for small sums varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and up to 1d. per week.

197. One such scheme, that at Gorsley in Gloucestershire, is thus graphically described in detail by the schoolmaster, to whose zealous care for his scholars it owes its inception and successful conduct. He says:—

"This is a small school of about fifty to sixty children. Most of the children live at a distance from the school, which prevents their going home to dinner, especially during the winter months, consequently they bring their dinners and stay in the school. With the exception of four or five families, all the children come from very poor homes. I should not like to say that many of them are insufficiently fed, but there is no doubt that a number of them are badly fed. Prior to the winter of 1901-02 the children got nothing warm during the day, their only drink with their dinner being cold water, or in some cases cider which the children brought from home in bottles. I had been considering for some little time what could be done to give them something warm during the day, as many of them would go a whole month without going home to dinner once. I at last determined to try and provide them with a cup of hot cocoa with their dinners. The question of providing the money was a difficult one. There is not a single resident of the better class in the place. The parents are also very poor, so they could not be asked to pay much. I mention these facts as I am sure your Committee will think that what I am doing does not supply the children with much nourishment, but it is all that I can do, and I would do better if I could.

"As to organisation we practically have none. The managers have nothing to do with it, all that is done I am personally responsible for. I began in November 1901 by collecting about £1. With this I bought a coffee boiler or urn costing 10s. 6d., and a local grocer gave me six pounds of sugar. I got a 7 lb. packet of cocoa at 6d. per lb. and have been using the same quality ever since. The quality of cocoa is our weak point; I wish I could do better. I charge 1d. a week, but if there are more than two in a family having the cocoa, the first two pay 1d. per week each and all the others $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per week each. Two or three of the bigger girls take turns of a week each as cocoa monitors. The cocoa monitor puts sufficient water in the urn before morning school and puts it on the stove—a "Tortoise"—and I find that by dinner time it is boiling. I then mix the cocoa in an enamelled basin, put it in the urn with milk and sugar and allow it to boil for a few minutes. I use one pint of milk per day. I then give each child one cupful of cocoa. If there is any left I leave it to the monitor to divide among them. The girls have theirs around the fire in the class room, while the boys have theirs around the fire in the schoolroom. Children bring their own cups at the commencement of the season—which lasts from about October to April—keep them in a cupboard in the classroom and have to wash them and put them away when finished with. The cocoa monitor washes out the urn when empty, dries it and puts it away.

"The monitor gets her cocoa for the week free. The school monitor or myself collect the children's pence every Monday morning during recreation time. All receipts and payments are entered in an exercise book kept by the school monitor for that purpose. Since the first year I have never been able to collect but a few shillings, so have never had a proper balance sheet drawn up, but we have just paid our way, one year a few pence out, another a few pence over."

198. Several similar agencies to this at Gorsley will be found mentioned in Appendix II., and we feel little doubt that there are many more the existence of which has not been brought to the notice of the Local Authorities or H.M. Inspectors. Sometimes soup is given instead of cocoa, though this is a little more expensive.

Dinners in Country Schools.

199. Then again there are a few schools in which the children do not bring any food with them, but are supplied on payment of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 1d. with a regular midday meal. The returns show that this payment does not fully cover the cost of the dinner, but that the payments have to be

supplemented from other sources. It would seem however that arrangements might be made under which, when the number of children attending is considerable, a midday meal which would be self-supporting could be supplied at a small charge of 1d. to 2d. per head.

200. At Gresford school in Denbighshire arrangements exist under which a daily meal is provided at 1d. for any children who like to attend. We are told that no accounts are kept, but in consideration of a payment of 1d. per head and of gifts of vegetables supplied to her by well-to-do residents, a woman undertakes to provide a satisfactory meal during the winter months at a cocoa room in the village.

201. At Kempston (Bedfordshire) a humble scheme for providing cocoa at a charge of 1d. per week, which was organised ten or twelve years ago by the schoolmaster, has under his successful management, developed during the last two years into a dinner scheme, and for five months forty to fifty children are enabled to receive daily a penny dinner. Their payments defray about two-thirds of the cost, the balance of which is made up by private subscriptions.

202. Perhaps the two most complete country dinner schemes are to be found at Siddington in Cheshire and at Rousdon in Devonshire. At Siddington for the last two years a dinner consisting of hot stew with vegetables has been supplied at a charge to parents of 1½d. per meal from November to March. This is given on four of the five school days; on the remaining day the dinner takes the form of meat sandwiches, buns and coffee. The parents' payments more than cover the cost of the food, but the liberality of Miss Thornycroft, who instituted and manages the dinners, provides the cost of cooking, and serving. She pays 14s. a week for cooking (including coal), and for an hour's attendance to serve the dinner. The cooking takes place at a house near the school, and the meal is eaten in a disused classroom. Some fifty or sixty children as a rule take advantage of the opportunity of getting a wholesome and satisfying meal.

203. At Rousdon School in Devonshire the conditions are somewhat exceptional, as the school dinner is served throughout the year in a specially provided dining room, and it is understood that the dinner is regarded as a part of the school organisation, and that all the scholars are expected to attend. The meal is very varied in its nature, embracing, besides meat, soups with vegetables and bread, suet puddings with treacle, jam, or raisins, rhubarb and apple puddings and rice. The charge is 1d. per diem with a reduction in the case of large families, and the payments (£41) cover the greater part of the cost of food material (£47), leaving a balance of £6 and the further expenses, amounting to some £15, to be defrayed by the owners of the school.

204. Special mention should be made of two schools, Woodford Churchfields Council School (Essex) and Merton National School (Surrey), where, under schemes for feeding poor children which are worked by the headmaster of the boys' departments, the funds are found through contributions offered by the boys who are better off and their parents. These schools, however, though in the area of a County Council, are not situated in country surroundings.

205. We are of opinion that managers of country schools will promote the health and improvement of the children if they can arrange, during the winter months at any rate, to provide, if not a hot dinner, at any rate soup or cocoa for the children whose homes are too distant to allow of their going there between morning and afternoon school. A charge should be made sufficient to cover the cost, at any rate, of the food material. It will be advantageous if, in default of a special room on the school premises, the meal is served in a village hall or suitable room not far distant. It may be possible sometimes to arrange the meal in connection with cookery instruction to the scholars.

IV. SPECIAL POINTS OF ORGANISATION.

206. The examples of actual existing agencies given above will have sufficiently shown the varying lines which are followed in different parts of the country in the supply of children's meals. We now proceed to deal with some of the more important points which arise in working out a system in any given place. The circumstances of localities vary so widely both as regards the density and distribution of population, and the economic conditions, that it is not possible to frame a system which would be applicable universally. Some general principles may, however, be established which can be worked out in detail in the manner best suited to particular local requirements.

1. *The part taken by the Local Education Authorities*

207. Local Education Authorities have no power to spend money upon the provision of meals for children attending the schools maintained by them. A study of the summary of the evidence which has been given above and a reference to Appendix II. of the Report will show that their attitude to the voluntary agencies is of very varying character. In some places, as in particular at Manchester, Oldham and Salford, the agency is in effect the Local Education Authority in another aspect, and the work is done by a sub-committee of the Authority, which makes use to the full of the buildings, plant and staff belonging to the Authority while obtaining from the charitable public the necessary money for the purchase of food and the payment of servants. In many other cases as at Birkenhead, Bradford and Sheffield, all described above, the Authority take a very intimate part in the work of the agency, often by sending from their own body a majority of the managing committee and by publicly giving their official cognisance and sanction to its operations and allowing the appeals for funds and the letters of the agency to issue from their offices. In many other places the Authority assist in all or several of the following ways, viz., allowing the use of the school premises for the preparation and serving of the meals, and even that of fuel and gas for cooking, lending the help of the clerical staff at the central offices, permitting the teachers and the school attendance officers to give their assistance in the selection of children and the supervision of meals, and allowing the caretakers to give their assistance in the necessary cooking and cleaning. Even in those cases where the returns state that the Authority does not assist it will usually be found that no objection is made to the use of school premises or to the teachers giving their help. In many of these cases the agencies exist in connection only with particular voluntary schools, or are of an independent and entirely non-local character as, for instance, the Salvation Army.

208. We are convinced that in all cases where the Local Education Authority under Part III. of the Education Act, 1902, is not a County Council, that is to say, in all County Boroughs and large towns, no voluntary agency for providing school meals which extends beyond the limits of one or two voluntary schools can be efficiently worked, except in intimate connection with, if not under the direct organisation of, the Authority. If overlapping of effort and abuse of charitable aid is to be avoided there must be a central organisation, which is in a position to require the school managers and school teachers to supply full information as to the operations of any agency which is using the school as a medium for the distribution of relief. The Local Education Authority alone would seem to possess the power to require this information to be given, but no doubt it may, if it thinks fit, delegate this power to another body. Probably in very large towns, and more particularly in London, it will do wisely to delegate this power. Moreover, without the co-operation of teachers and attendance officers it is difficult, if not impossible, to organise efficiently a system of school meals, and the Local Education Authority alone can direct that this co-operation shall be given.

2. *The Part taken by Teachers.*

209. Among the questions that have presented themselves for our consideration in the course of this inquiry, one of the most important and most frequent has been what part the teachers ought to take in a system of the provision of school children's meals.

210. Before dealing with this question we feel it incumbent upon us to place upon record our sense of the keen interest which the teachers have from the first shown in the physical well-being of their scholars, and of the readiness and self-sacrifice with which they have co-operated in any schemes for promoting this object. Many of the systems now in operation for feeding the children have originated entirely with the teachers, in many more the whole brunt of the work has fallen upon them. In the evidence which we have received our attention has been again and again called to this, and the action of the teachers has elicited from the witnesses very frequent expressions of appreciation and recognition.

211. We are anxious to say nothing which might in any way diminish the cordial interest of teachers in this branch of work. We consider, however, that the part that they have taken in it should be somewhat more restricted than has hitherto been the case, and this in two directions (a) in the supervision of meals, and (b) in the selection of children who are to receive them.

(a) *Supervision of Meals.*

212. We have found again and again that the duty of being present at the school children's meals, keeping order at them and assisting in serving them, has fallen upon the teachers, and that thus a large part, if not the whole of the time for recreation and refreshment between morning and afternoon school, has been lost to them. Or again, when breakfast has been given, it has been necessary for them to attend an hour or two before morning school, and they have thus been compelled to rise unduly early and to leave their homes, often far distant from the school, in the darkness of winter mornings. Only two of our witnesses advocated the employment of the teachers in this work, and they both did so on the ground, highly complimentary to the teachers, that they only could efficiently supervise.

Elliott 1462-3.

213. Sir Charles Elliott advocated very strongly the attendance of teachers during the meals. He said:—

"I do not see how the work can be done without them. It would be a very great strain on them, of course, and I would advocate their taking it in rotation. The Joint Committee, as a whole, did not support me in the recommendation, but I have put in a recommendation that when the work is extensive they should receive a modest remuneration for the work."

and being asked whether he would not prefer another superintendent equally qualified if such could be found, he replied:—

"I do not think so. It is a great thing that the person who supervises the dinner should know the faces of the children and know that there has been no exchange of tickets, and that the Johnny or Tommy who got the ticket at school is the same Johnny or Tommy who is getting the dinner. No outside person can do that, and no outside person can exercise the extraordinary amount of discipline which our teachers exercise over the children."

Wilkinson, 3110-4.

Mr. Wilkinson of Bolton spoke in the same strain, but he stated that his Committee recognised the unfairness of depriving teachers of their dinner hour, and made up for it by allowing them to return to school late in the afternoon.

Phipps, 140-1.

Burgwin, 382.

214. Most of the witnesses expressed their opinion that the teachers should be spared this labour unless arrangements could be made by which each teacher's turn should come only at long intervals. In the London Cripple Schools the attendance of teachers at the midday meal is forbidden. Mrs. Burgwin, who has special claims to speak on this subject, says:—

"I have watched my own teachers very closely, and I find that while they have to do noon work, the work in the afternoon suffers. I distinctly felt that. The teacher wants to be taken away from the atmosphere of the schoolroom at noon. I feel that very strongly. It is so even with the very best. They give themselves, as in the special schools, to the work, but it is too great a strain. There is no doubt about that. The work in the afternoon must suffer, and it does."

Miss Ling, a teacher herself, spoke very strongly upon the objection from Ling, 5051-6, the teacher's own point of view. She says:—

"I think that it ought not to fall on the teachers. It falls heaviest just on teachers at those schools to reach which they have to go the furthest, and where they have to work the hardest."

and Mr. Foster, also a teacher, in describing the attitude of the Birkenhead Foster, 1293-8. teachers towards this matter, and mentioning that they had begun to feel last winter that if the school meals were to go on permanently their attendance might be looked upon as part of their duties, said:—

"I think that if the teachers were asked to volunteer they would volunteer almost as uniformly as they have done in the past, but it would depend to a certain extent on the authority asking for voluntary assistance. If it were the Education Committee it might possibly be felt that an invitation from the Education Committee might be looked upon as a command. If it were an invitation from some other body I fancy that it would perhaps be more generally responded to, and there would not be the hidden feeling behind that voluntary assistance was becoming extraneous duty."

215. On a review of the evidence we think that, wherever possible, the attendance of teachers at the meals should not be asked. Where such attendance is found to be indispensable, it should be asked as sparingly as possible, and a teacher who thus attends at midday, should, wherever practicable, have the hours of recreation made up by being allowed to come later in the afternoon.

(b) *Selection of Children.*

216. The question what part the teachers should take in the selection of children to receive meals free or below cost price is one which has been frequently touched in our evidence.

217. There was general agreement among our witnesses that the teachers are the proper persons to make the first selection. A good description of the method on which a wise teacher makes this first selection was given to us by Mr. Foster from his own experience as a teacher at Birkenhead:—

Foster, 1393-5.

"Teachers have a fairly intimate acquaintance with the home circumstances. Each teacher in his own class has a good idea, inasmuch as he knows that certain children turn up at school either looking pinched and pale or very neglected. There is some evidence that the child bears in his person that the home is not altogether what it might be. By a little judicious questioning the teacher can elicit information. For instance, if you say, 'Johnny, come along here to the desk for a moment. Have you had any breakfast this morning?' the child tells you. 'What had you for dinner yesterday?' The child will answer 'So-and-so.' 'Is your father working?' and if the child says he has got no father, you say, 'Who helps at home?' Have you any elder brothers at work or does your mother work?' By means of tactful questioning you can find out fairly well whether the home is such that a child can expect proper meals daily or not. If you are of opinion that the home circumstances are not such as to render it probable that the child would get a proper meal daily, you might say, 'We are expecting to start meals here free. You might ask at home whether your mother or your father would allow you to come.' The boy jumps at the offer. Occasionally the boy goes home and you get a verbal message back to the effect that the boy's father does not wish John to go to the centre."

"The teacher, as it were, starts the ball?—Yes.

"He does not wait for the child to come and ask for a dinner?—No. It would be unsafe to do that, because in many cases you would get children coming who had no business to come, and you would have many children hanging back who ought to be relieved."

218. Mr. Meek, head teacher of a London County Council School, also gave an interesting description of his methods of selection, referring particularly Meek, 4947-950. to what he described as taking the "census of the playground":—

"I can see the playground from my room. I do not allow the children to see me take the names of those in the playground. I generally take them two or three times in the winter from 12.30 to 1, and again on other days from 1 to 1.30. I get a list of the children and take them, and speak to them individually without the other children knowing. You must not let the other children see. I inquire why they are in the playground. If a child stops in the playground all the dinner hour he has no dinner to go home to. That is the great factor. A boy does not stay in the playground hanging about, sitting here, there and everywhere, if he has dinner to go to. A few bring their dinners. If I find a boy in the playground and he says, 'I did not go home because I had no dinner to go to,' I know there is some basis of truth in his statement, because a boy does not stay two hours in a playground from choice. Information gained in this way has been very helpful to me."

"Would you know that he had not brought a meal to consume in the playground?—We take his statement to some extent. If I was doubtful I should ask him where his dinner was if he had stayed for several days. If he has it in his hand I know he has it, but if he has not, the case is plain that he has no dinner. You see him in the playground at 12.45 and again at 1.35. You know the boy has had nothing to eat and has not gone home I have found that very useful with an occasional visit to the New Cut. I do not know whether you know the New Cut."

"The 'neighbouring market' you mention here is the New Cut?—Yes.

"Do you visit that yourself, and see if the children are hanging about?—Now and again. If you find a boy walking about the barrows, and so forth, picking up odd pieces of fruit, etc., it is a case to put down. I have frequently got a case in that way. Of course it is a certain amount of trouble, but that is one way of doing it."

219. It does not do for the teacher simply to ask those who are in want of a meal or have had no food to hold up their hands. This was shown by the inquiry directed last winter by the Lambeth Guardians into the cases of distress reported among the children at Johanna Street Council School. Since giving evidence before us in July, Mr. Meek has reported to us an incident which occurred on the 11th October, at Waterloo Road School, when he made an enquiry as to which of the 326 boys present had come to school without breakfast. He thus describes the result:—

"Only 2 boys told me that they had had nothing to eat before arrival. The first case was that of a small boy in Standard I., and I sent a messenger for his mother. She came immediately, and reported that the boy had had his breakfast before starting, and further that he told his Sunday School Teacher the same tale last Sunday, and the good man gave the boy 2d, which evidently set him thinking that there was money in the business. I then sent for the mother of the second boy, and my messenger returned with the news that both mother and father had gone out to their work. The mother was waiting for me on my return from lunch, and told me, in the presence of the boy, who admitted it, that he had had four pieces of bread and jam with some hot tea before starting out, and she was angry that the neighbours should think she sent her boy without food to school, an excellent spirit, I thought, and one worth fostering."

We quote this as showing the danger of superficial enquiries by teachers. Owing to the date on which the incident occurred, little or no importance can be attached to the fact that all the children had received breakfast before coming to school. Reference may also be made to an incident reported by Mr. Priestman as having occurred at Bradford. He was speaking of the possibility of children getting meals without the parent's knowledge, and he said:—

"We had a very amusing case at the beginning. The children who had come without their breakfast were asked to hold up their hands, and the child of a councillor, a colleague of mine, held up his hand, and I think two children of the chairman of the Board of Guardians held up their hands. I suppose they thought that, as there was something good going, they might as well have a share in it, but they certainly were not in need."

220. The teachers then should draw up the first list of children who are *prima facie* in need of feeding, but they should not be expected to go further than this. No doubt it frequently happens that a teacher is personally acquainted with the homes of the scholars and their actual needs, and in such cases his assistance will be invaluable to those upon whom rests the responsibility of making the final selection. But this personal knowledge can only be present exceptionally, and teachers ought not to be expected to possess it. They have not the time to visit the homes, nor is it their duty to do so. Frequently also they have not the personal qualities requisite for efficient investigation of home circumstances. Generally their knowledge, apart from the child's appearance, is derived mainly if not entirely from statements made to them by the scholars about themselves or their fellows. Children's statements are notoriously inaccurate, and though they may be corrected by each other, we should not wish to see encouraged the spirit in which, as mentioned by Mr. Hookham, scholars act as a check upon applications for assistance put forward by their fellows. But besides the impossibility of teachers as a general rule in large town schools being really able to discriminate between deserving and undeserving cases, it is in their own interest advisable that they should not have the responsibility of

Burgwin, 326-8,
370-2.
Phipps, 164-7.

Hookham, 1253-
7.

accepting or rejecting the parents' applications. This duty is an inviolable one which can only impair their proper work and lead to relations with parents which are much to be deprecated. On this point Mr. Priestman, 4435, spoke with great weight:—

"Teachers have got into trouble with the parents for not giving the child a meal. We have had cases of teachers who have complained that they have been almost bullied by parents who have said, 'You can put so-and-so's children on, why do you not let my children have a meal?' We should like to keep the teachers free from that. It is not fair that they should have that additional difficulty in their work."

221. Before leaving this subject we should mention the importance of the head teachers of a school of more than one department consulting each other before settling their lists of suitable applicants for meals. The evidence showed that this simple precaution is too often neglected. Teachers are also not unnaturally inclined to use the school meals as a means of keeping up attendance. Mrs. Dibdin said:—

Dibdin, 1957.

"I found that in some cases the teachers liked to feed the children to keep up the attendance and I think that was in a great measure why there were so many children to feed."

222. We were again and again told how very different were the estimates of the number of needy children found by the head teachers in different schools in the same town, and even in different departments of the same school, the estimate depending upon the teacher's personal view of the usefulness of the meals and the circumstances which constitute need. Of course the personal equation must be present in any system, but we are of opinion that its effect, at any rate as regards teachers, can be largely reduced by following the methods suggested in the following paragraphs.

3. Methods of Selecting Children for Free or Aided Meals.

223. We have seen then that the teachers should not be the persons charged with the decision which children should and which should not participate in the meals, though as a matter of fact the responsibility is too often at present left in their hands. Their duty should be confined to making the initial selection. It follows that the ultimate responsibility for decision must rest elsewhere, and we consider that it belongs to the agency which organises the meals, though it may be found advisable to delegate the power of selection to Relief Committees formed for each particular school or for groups of schools, or to an accredited officer of the agency, reserving for the Central Committee of the agency itself only those cases in which some special point of difficulty arises.

In considering what means are available for arriving at a correct judgment as to the need for food of any particular child, we may enumerate the following:—

(a) School Attendance Officers.

224. In any well-worked district the School Attendance Officers possess information which is invaluable. On this point our witnesses were practically unanimous, though they differed as to the amount of weight which should be given to the opinion of these officers. Mr. Wyatt considered that in Manchester Wyatt, 2806-7 they are "the best possible agents" for investigation, and that each of them "knows all about the children in his area." Mr. Wilkinson expressed a similar Wilkinson, 3091-4. opinion about their knowledge in Bolton, and the efficiency of their investigations in that town was shown by the reduction after inquiries by them of the number of children on the feeding list from 1,837 to 724. Goddard, 3471- Similarly at Newcastle-on-Tyne the omission of their help led to immediate 80, 3619-22. increase in the number of children alleged to be in need. Sir Charles Elliott also laid stress upon the value of the information to be derived from the School Attendance Officer. He said:—

Elliott, 1454.

"He goes up and down the streets, he schedules every family in the street, and he must necessarily know or be in a position to obtain knowledge about any children in regard to whom we might ask him to inquire. He might not come to the meeting with any previous knowledge of any particular Smith or Jones, but he could very easily get it in a fairly trustworthy way. He would get the opinion of the neighbours, and would inquire for himself to a certain extent."

Phipps, 193-5.
Foster, 1307.
Frere, 516-523.

Wrigley, 4896-9.

225. Some witnesses hold that the knowledge of these officers is mainly confined to the irregular children, and two (Miss Frere and Miss Wrigley) went even further and expressed the opinion that they are of no use at all for the matter under consideration, on the ground that they are not sufficiently trained for the purpose, and that their duties lie in a totally different field. We consider that in schemes for giving free meals to school children provision should be made for utilising the information at the disposal of the School Attendance Officers.

(b) *Poor Law Guardians and Relieving Officers.*

226. We gather from the evidence that under present conditions little if any use is made, generally speaking, of the information in the possession of the Relieving Officers. Two of the witnesses expressed strong opinions on the advantages to be derived from consulting these officers, and from working as far as possible in consultation and harmony with the Poor Law Guardians.

Elliott, 1457-8.

227. Sir Charles Elliott says of this :

"I think it is extremely important and extremely valuable. I have lately had a rather remarkable instance of the utility of doing that. In the case which I referred to of the Southfields and Merton Road schools, we had some twenty-four families on the list to begin with. We fed them free for two or three months of the winter. Gradually, through the information of those members of the Relief sub-Committee who were able to inquire, and of the district visitors and other people whom they could get to help them, the number was brought down to seven families. When the Poor Law Order came out lately, I went to the Relieving Officer to see what information we could get from him. Up to that time I had not been in communication with him and had never heard of his being utilised in that way. I found him and the Wandsworth Guardians extremely ready to help. In course of time, after about a fortnight, I got a very full report of every one of the families. I am rather sorry to say that the report given in this way was very greatly at variance with the information supplied by the district visitors. In every case the people who pleaded great poverty to the district visitors and inability to feed their children, rejected with scorn the idea that they were in want or that their children were underfed, and denied that they knew that they were receiving any charitable help at all. They said 'We were told that if the children brought a halfpenny they would get a meal. We thought it was all right and we gave them the halfpenny.' That was the line they took. I never realised before how much we ought to act in co-operation with the Relieving Officers and the Guardians, if they are ready to act in a friendly manner, as the Wandsworth Guardians have acted with us."

Asked the question : "Would it be possible to obtain the representation of Guardians on Relief Committees," Sir Charles Elliott replied :—

"I cannot say whether they would be willing. It would be a very desirable thing if they were. But whether they were represented or not I think there ought to be some means of obtaining information from them. I think that every Committee of this kind ought to send to them the names of families to which help is being given, and hear whether any help is given to those same families by the Guardians, or whether the Guardians know of any reason why help should not be given."

Harvey, 1670-4. And Mr. Harvey spoke to the same effect.

Moss, 5964-7.

228. Mr. Moss mentioned that in Sheffield there were among the children fed a considerable number who were the children of widows and often receiving parish relief insufficient to cover the needs of the family, but it seems that these were not reported to the Guardians, and that in Sheffield no use is made of the Relieving Officers by the feeding organisation.

229. The issue by the Local Government Board of the Relief (School Children) Order, 1905 has greatly increased the importance of co-operation between voluntary agencies for feeding children and the Poor Law Guardians. We are of opinion that, whether or not action is taken under that Order, endeavours should always be made by the feeding agency to enlist the help of the Guardians and Relieving Officers, and obtain access to the information in their possession as to the families to which belong the children whom it is proposed to feed.

(c) *Religious and Philanthropic Agencies.*

230. Any well worked agency for school children's meals will as a matter of course endeavour to make its effect known to and obtain the help of all agencies working in the same district whose object is the amelioration of the conditions of the poorer classes. They will thus endeavour to ally themselves with the ministers of religion and with any societies conducting social work, and to profit by the knowledge and experience of their agents. Our evidence shows that in many towns, as in particular at Bradford, Manchester and Sheffield, successful efforts have been made to bring together in conference all the agencies interested in the question of feeding children, and that the result, however far falling short of perfection, has been altogether good. The absence of this combined effort has led to very frequent overlapping. This is most apparent in the case of London.

(d) *Relief Committees.*

231. When the area to be worked is only small, as for instance in most of the Boroughs and Urban Districts, which have independent Local Education Authorities under Part III. of the Education Act, 1902, it may generally be possible to work a feeding organisation efficiently from a central office with only one executive committee. But where the area is larger, as in the case of most of the County Boroughs, it becomes important to adopt some system of decentralisation in order to ensure that the requisite attention may be paid to detail upon which, after all, efficiency in this matter largely depends. On the whole the best method of meeting this difficulty seems to have been found in a system of Relief Committees established to deal with a school or group of schools, or sometimes, as in Sheffield, to coverwards. The success of these Relief Committees must depend, like everything else, upon the zeal and judgment of the persons who compose them, and even where they exist it is no uncommon thing to find that they are a dead letter. This, as has been shown earlier in our Report, is often the case in London, and at Sheffield, Mr. Moss told us, their efficiency Moss, 5953-9. varies greatly. Still, without them or something like them it is difficult to see how it is possible in a large area to obtain the close personal attention which is indispensable. Mr. Kirk spoke warmly of the good work to be Kirk, 3946-3950. looked for from the Relief Committees in London, giving his opinion that a "Relief Committee in connection with each school is the crux of the whole thing," and Mr. Priestman, who has been unable so far to establish them in Bradford, "wants to see a relief committee attached to each school who will really take the scholars in each school in hand and look after them." He adds that "that is the ideal, certainly."

232. As regards the constitution of these Relief Committees the responsible agency in every place will consider how they can create the best possible bodies having regard to special local circumstances. No hard and fast rules can usefully be framed for their composition. It may, however, be generally stated that provision should be made for the representation upon each committee of the Central Agency and of the Local Education Authority. Managers of the school or persons who are personally interested in it should compose the majority of the members. The head teachers may also properly be included, and in any case their attendance should be welcomed when applications from children in their own departments are under consideration. School Attendance Officers should attend the meetings when required, but it is probably the wise course not to make them members of the Committee. A representative of the Board of Guardians may also be often usefully placed upon the committee. It is of the first importance that any Relief Committee should include among its members a good proportion of women; perhaps that proportion should never be less than half. In Frere, 153. the ordinary run of cases which will come up to be dealt with by the Committee a woman's opinion upon the needs of the household will be more Harvey, 1360-3. valuable than a man's, and except in special cases her investigations in the home will be both more acceptable and more efficient.

233. We are of opinion that in large centres of population where a feeding organization exists, Relief Committees should be formed for each school or small group of schools, and that care should be taken to place an adequate number of women on these Committees.

(e) *Application of a "Poverty Scale."*

234. Our evidence shewed that in some places, *e.g.*, at Manchester, Bradford and Brighton, a guide to the needs of the children was found in the use of a "poverty scale," *i.e.*, a test applied to the total income of the family in order to ascertain whether it is or is not sufficient to allow of the provision of adequate food in the home. The scale employed at Manchester is the most elaborate of those mentioned to us, and the effect is to admit as *prima facie* qualified applicants for relief, children coming from homes where the weekly income does not exceed 3s. 6d. per head after allowing for rent where there are one or two in family; 3s. after allowing for rent where there are three or four in family; 2s. 6d. after allowing for rent where there are five or more in family. It is obvious that the satisfactory application of this scale depends entirely upon the accuracy of the return of the family income. In many cases parents underestimate the wages coming in, and it is often a matter of difficulty to obtain them from the employers. In particular the earnings of sons and daughters living at home are often ignored. Still a scale of this kind is often, no doubt, useful if employed with judgment.

(f) *Medical Inspection.*

235. It has been shewn in the first part of this report that so far little has been done to use the doctor's or nurse's visits to the school for the purpose of detecting those children who are in need of food. Almost the only case mentioned in the evidence was that of the Ponton Road Council School, Nine Elms, where the district nurse employed by the lady manager sometimes points out to the mistress children who are underfed. No doubt, as the system of medical inspection is extended and developed it will be found possible to utilise the doctor's or nurse's visits towards deciding in doubtful cases whether or no a child requires feeding. Mr. Harvey considers that in London this is a matter of great importance and feels that if there were a medical examination some children who have not been receiving meals might be found to be ill nourished or even underfed. Mr. Wyatt also mentioned that in Manchester an investigation by the medical officer shewed that food was desirable in the case of some children who under the "poverty scale" were refused admission to meals. We have already alluded to a similar investigation at Blackburn.

236. We are of opinion that where a School Medical Officer or nurse is employed by a Local Education Authority his or her advice and guidance should whenever possible be made available to and employed by the feeding agency.

237. We have endeavoured in the preceding paragraphs to indicate briefly some of the means which may usefully be employed in selecting the children for admission to free or aided meals. We do not, however, disguise from ourselves that this matter of the selection of children is replete with every kind of difficulty. It is frequently urged that it is not possible to find any defensible principle of selection, and that the only alternatives are to feed all or to feed none. We do not express any opinion on this point or on the broad question whether voluntary agencies for the provision of meals in Public Elementary Schools should exist. Their existence is postulated in our reference, and recognising that they are now at work, we are asked, after enquiry into their methods, to report whether the relief given by them could be better organised. We are clearly of opinion that improvement is possible, and we think that if regard is paid to the facts and suggestions above appearing, it may be possible to go some way in the direction of making a satisfactory selection of children, at any rate so as to avoid the inclusion of cases where help is unnecessary or mischievous. Incidentally in the course of our evidence reference has been made to the problems which

Wyatt, 2745,
2798-2804.

Ling, 5059.

Harvey, 1653-8.
1762-7

Wyatt, 2864,
2920-2.
Manchester
App. V.

are raised by the existence of families which are in chronic destitution, or where, owing to the vicious habits of parents, food which might be given in the home is withheld. We have not been called upon in our present enquiry to attempt to solve these problems. But we may properly say that in our opinion the voluntary agencies will have done much to justify their existence if they can help to feed the children where, owing to the illness or want of work on the part of the breadwinners, or other sufficient cause, the family is in temporary need which may be expected to disappear if a period of difficulty can be got through; and we recommend that they should endeavour to make this class of children their first care.

4. *How far are Payments to be obtained from Parents.*

238. It will be seen from the oral evidence and from the information collected in Appendix II., that in the very large majority of feeding schemes now at work the meals are given free of charge. This is only to be expected when it is remembered that the agencies for the most part exist in order to help the destitute. Here and there, as at Birmingham, Manchester and Bolton, Hookham, 1245, attempts have been made to obtain payments from the parents, but these Wyatt, 2745, have usually been dropped after a short experience. In London, too, the accounts 2779-2786. of the two chief feeding agencies, the London Schools Dinner Association and Wilkinson, 3115-3118. the Destitute Children's Dinners Society, show a certain amount of money as derived from parents' and children's payments, but as has been said, there is reason to believe that a large proportion of this is really attributable to payments made on behalf of the children by charitable persons and societies. In the main, therefore, it may be taken that the voluntary agencies now existing confine their operations to the provision of free meals. Almost the only exceptions of any importance are agencies providing regular daily meals in "Special Schools," that is to say, Schools for Physically or Mentally Defective Children and for the Blind or Deaf. The information as to these agencies as existing in London, Phipps, 15-22. Manchester, Birkenhead and Oldham, and in a less degree at Bath and Bristol, Wyatt, 2849-2858. shows that it is found possible, and often, in fact, easy, to obtain from the parents payments sufficient to cover at any rate the cost of the food, if not that of its preparation and service. It must be remembered, however, that in these cases the children attending the schools and partaking of the dinners come from every kind of home, well-to-do as well as poor, and the need for the school meal arises largely from the fact that, being generally drawn from a large area, the children are many of them unable to go home at midday in the same way as those at ordinary Public Elementary Schools, whose homes are generally near at hand. Moreover, these afflicted children have from their birth won for themselves a greater share of parental affection and attention than Phipps, 22. the normal children. Care, therefore, must be exercised in drawing from the success of these school meals at Special Schools auguries for the like success of a system of school meals in ordinary schools. We are nevertheless of opinion that more contributions towards the cost of school meals might be obtained from parents than are now collected, and we should desire to see greater efforts made in this direction.

239. It will probably be admitted by most persons that, so far as possible, the parents should be encouraged to pay for any meals provided for their children. We do not therefore think it necessary to labour this point. It is necessary, however, to mention a danger to which particular attention was called by Sir Charles Elliott. He referred to the statements made to the Wandsworth Guardians by Elliott, 1457, certain parents that they believed the halfpenny paid by themselves represented 1595-1600. the full cost of the more expensive meal which their children were receiving, and he stated his own opinion that the parents did not really think this. He appeared to admit, however, that the parents' belief was one for which some grounds existed, and he said:—

"Where, I think, we made a mistake in this particular case, was that we had not a distinct formula, a printed form which could be sent to the parents: 'Your child is being fed at the Cookery Centre with dinners which cost 1½d. on condition that you supply a ½d. towards it, because we believe that you are unable to supply the whole of the money.' Something of the kind should have been sent, so that they could not deny it. I have seen some of the parents myself, and the head teacher has seen others, and I know, as a matter of fact, that they knew perfectly well what was happening."

Harvey, 1787-1790.

243. Mr. Harvey, on the other hand, who has also had much experience among the working classes in London, is of opinion that the parents do not realise that part of the cost of the children's meals is paid by others. Still he thinks that a charge should be made when the parents can afford it. On this point Mr. Rowe, of the Salvation Army, whose opinion is one entitled to carry weight, says that while a farthing apiece is paid for about half the breakfasts given by the Army, "the parents quite understand that the farthing does not meet the whole cost," and he added that the Army attach great importance to the payment of the farthing and "advocate a charge, however small," giving as his reason the following:—

"We find it better to charge for the meals because it prevents what I might term 'sponging' on the part of undeserving cases and at the same time it removes the stigma of charity in the minds of the parents."

Kirk, 3902-4.

Mr. Kirk also holds strongly that parents should pay even if they pay less than cost price. He says, "even if it is a halfpenny or a farthing, something ought to be obtained from them whenever possible."

241. We consider that where the payments made by parents do not cover the prime cost of the food or the greater part of it, care should be taken to inform them that their children are receiving charitable assistance. They should at the same time be told what is the actual cost of the meal, and they may further be told that if they are willing to pay that sum it is open for them to do so.

School Restaurants.

242. So far it would seem that the voluntary agencies, through the medium of their free, and sometimes partially paid for, meals, have succeeded more or less in keeping hunger at bay in the case of children whose parents cannot or do not properly provide them with food. Not much attempt has yet been made through the medium of school meals towards raising the standard of physical development among the children and promoting a taste for wholesome and nourishing food. Many of our witnesses have mentioned that in their opinion there is more improper feeding than insufficient feeding among the children and this is in many ways the more difficult of the two evils to combat. One proposal has been put forward which comes within our terms of reference and has considerable attractions, namely, that a system of school restaurants should be established through which meals should be supplied and paid for by the parents at cost price. Our witnesses have expressed very divergent opinions on the question whether, if such restaurants were provided, the parents would or would not care to take advantage of them for their children. Of course, under the existing law the cost of establishing any such restaurants would have to be obtained from voluntary sources, and any alteration in the law under which it might be possible for school authorities to compel the attendance of children at them is outside the scope of our enquiry.

Priestman,
4322-9.

243. Among the advocates of a system of cheap meals to be obtainable on payment was Mr. Priestman of Bradford, who said:—

"We should have very much liked to have gone on the line of providing cheap meals, charging those parents who could pay 1d. or 1½d. We talked about a penny. The difficulty was that we should have had a host of children to deal with, and we felt that we had not the necessary machinery for doing it. The ideal thing would be, in our opinion, to have half a dozen dining rooms, with kitchens attached, in half a dozen centres in the city, where the children could be fed and where we could give a good substantial meal of soup and bread, or rice pudding, or both, charging the parents 1d. for providing it. We think that we could make a fairly satisfactory meal for 1d. That would be a boon in this way. We have a large number of homes at Bradford where the mother is working at the mill, and from that and other causes a proper meal cannot be cooked for the children. The children come home to a very unsatisfactory dinner perhaps of bread and jam and tea. We hold that we have done the children great physical good by providing them with more nutritious diet and a diet more fit for children, and that it would be a great boon to the children and to the parents if we could do that on a large scale and get the money from the parents, but you see we have some 50,000 odd children in the schools and if we begin we might very easily have 20,000 or 30,000 on our hands to do that for."

Pressed as to whether he had anything more than an impression to go upon in expecting so large an attendance, Mr. Priestman admitted that he had not.

244. Mr. Blair thinks there would be a demand for a cheap school meal from Blair, 3675-9. parents in London, basing his belief upon the opinions obtained from head teachers and upon the success of the dinners in the Special Schools. And Mr. Kirk spoke to the same effect, pointing to the convenience of a similar Kirk, 3913-8. meal in secondary schools. Here, however, the use of a school meal is largely due to the distance of the children from their homes.

245. Miss Ling from her experience in Vauxhall would seem to hold the same Ling, 5084-5. view. She says:—

"What I feel I should like for many of these children who can pay is to provide a dinner for them and make them pay. I know it is a big question, and I do not know how it is to be done, and I am not here to say anything on that subject, but that is the need that I feel. I feel that there is a need for a place to send them to with the money to get a good meal."

and she says that the other teachers agree with her in thinking "that many of the parents would be glad to pay even 2d. if their child could have a meal."

246. Dr. Hall's experience at Leeds, where he has been able to get the parents Hall, 5642, 5646. to contribute materially to the cost of the meals supplied at St. Peter's Square Council School, points in the same direction. He says about fifty of the parents came forward and volunteered to pay 3d. per week each.

247. Mr. Lindsey advocates the establishment of school restaurants in Brigh- Lindsey, 5852- ton, where the frequency with which the mothers go out to work would make 5860. them specially suitable. But this would be an experiment only. It is not possible to say whether they would succeed.

248. Turning to the evidence give before the Committee on Physical De- generation we find that Sir John Gorst expressed the opinion that if a school meal Gorst, 11830. were provided a great many parents would gladly avail themselves of it because they could get their children really well fed at a price at which they could not feed them at home, and from the tenor of Dr. Macnamara's evidence we gather that he would anticipate considerable advantage to be taken of a meal provided at a low cost.

249. On the other hand Mrs. Wilton Phipps does not think there would be Phipps, 211. many applicants for a 1d. or 2d. dinner. She says:—

"When you ask the ordinary parent about paying 2d., he always answers, 'We can feed our child for less at home.' But whether they feed them properly or not is another question."

Miss Frere takes a similar view. She says:—

Frere, 480-1.

"If such a system were tried, I believe that at the end of the month the paying list would be wiped out, because there would be no payers to come."

250. Mrs. Dibdin finds that only very few parents in Holborn now take ad- Dibdin, 1829- vantage of the facilities which are offered for their children to have a 1d. meal at 1833. the school, but this may be because that meal would be side by side with the children who are being fed free. And Mr. Hookham holds much the same Hookham, 1246. opinion. Asked whether, supposing a more attractive meal than that now provided in Birmingham were given, parents would not be willing to pay for it, he replied:—

"It is difficult to say. Experience, as far as it goes, is against it, and, speaking for myself, I should say, from my knowledge of the Birmingham working man, if there is no distinction made between the paying and the non-paying children, I feel sure that the Birmingham artisan would not send his children. He would not let them go to receive a meal in regard to which it was not known whether it was given free or not. You would only get eventually those who could not pay. I do not believe that the two classes would mix in that way in England. I am quite sure they will not in Birmingham."

251. Mr. Wilkinson does not think "a special penny dinner" would succeed at Bolton, and Mr. Goddard does not believe a school restaurant or cheap dinner would answer at Newcastle. From her experience in Limehouse Miss Warry Goddard, 3467. thinks that such a meal "would be very well attended at first, but not afterwards." Warry, 6253-9.

Beckley, 2248-
2254.
Foster, 1284.
Leslie, 1019-
1067-1073.

252. Other witnesses again, like Father Beckley, Mr. Foster of Birkenhead and Mr. Leslie of Liverpool declined to express any opinion. But Mr. Leslie quoted an interesting case at Liverpool, where the successful enterprise of an "old woman" in providing a cheap children's meal certainly points to possible success, if a school meal were established on a commercial basis:—

"It is an independent organisation which an old woman started in Liverpool, which, I am told, she has worked up to large proportions. The children stream in there in the middle of the day. She does not know in the least where they come from. She gives them a very good meal of meat and vegetables for a penny each. They have the meal and go away."

"There is no selection?—There is no selection whatever. She makes her living out of it. She gives a very good meal for the penny."

"How many does she accommodate?—Fifty or sixty a day. She goes on until there is nothing more to sell, and she tells the unfortunate children who come late: 'There is nothing more for you; wait until to-morrow.'

"It is on a commercial basis?—Quite; she makes it pay."

"These children are entirely apart from those of whom we have been speaking?—Altogether. She never asks where they come from or who they are."

"It is just like any other catering shop?—Quite."

"Do the children get the pennies given to them by philanthropic people?—Presumably so, or at home. She does not know. The child pays the penny, gets its meal and goes away, and she knows nothing more."

Burgwin, 393-6.

Adler, 2382-3,
2434-S.

Shovelier, 5128.

253. Mrs. Burgwin thinks cheap school meals might answer in certain districts of London, but she would like children to go home to their meals whenever possible. Mrs. Adler considers that a penny dinner might be a convenience to many Jewish parents and that a good many would take advantage of it. Asked whether there would be any demand for a meal to be paid for by the parents at so much per head if provided, Mr. Shovelier answered:—

"I think there ought to be, but I am bound to say that many of the parents that I know in the district have been spoiled. If they can get a thing for nothing, and have been taught to get it for nothing, and have learned that they have only to do certain rather unworthy things to get it for nothing it is rather difficult to unlearn it. It is desirable that they should unlearn it. When you say would they pay, they would ultimately pay, but not willingly. They would have something to unlearn. They are exceedingly poor."

Phipps, 202-6.

Burgwin, 394-6.

Elliott, 1446-9,
1592.

254. Several of our witnesses deprecate the provision of cheap school meals as injurious to family life. Thus Mrs. Wilton Phipps would rather see the children go home than stay at school for their dinner, and Mrs. Burgwin takes the same view, and if she possibly could would send every child home. Sir Charles Elliott does not appear to favour the proposal. He fears that the self-supporting dinners would gradually become free dinners. But he appeared to think that the cheap school meal might be useful if carefully guarded.

"If you could confine it to the parents who have to be out, where the mother is working out all day and cannot cook a dinner, or cannot prepare a dinner for the children, it would, undoubtedly, be useful. That is, I think, the more general direction in which underfeeding extends. We have a good many cases of that. They can always get bread and butter, or jam perhaps, but not a regular dinner. It might be worth while, I dare say, to try in such cases how far the parents would give their children money. They often do so now. They often send the children to school with a penny or two-pence in their pockets to buy something for themselves, and which is very often spent in sweets, as you may suppose."

Harvey, 1791-2.

255. Mr. Harvey, too, is anxious not to see school restaurants introduced generally. While admitting that they might ensure that the children were receiving wholesome food, he thinks that the ultimate harm from the breaking up of home life would be greater than the amount of good done by the food.

Dendy, 5672-
5697, 5726-5736,
5753-9, 5765-
5771.

256. Miss Dendy's evidence on this matter is deserving of very close attention, though she holds that her proposals for school restaurants could not be carried out by voluntary effort. Arguing from the success of the school meal in the "Special Schools" at Manchester, Miss Dendy proposes to extend it to certain of the ordinary schools. She thus outlines her proposal:—

"The poorest of our Schools in Manchester might, as it has been said, be enclosed in a ring. Hence. They are all more or less in the centre of the town. I should like to have one restaurant which would serve, perhaps, five or six schools. It need not be a costly building. A corrugated iron building, a long one-storeyed building with a kitchen at one end, a table or tables down the middle and benches, would be all that would be necessary. The initial cost need not be great. I would put in operation exactly the same machinery that we have now for finding out these poverty-stricken children, and I would assume at the beginning that everybody could pay. I would allow no one to go to the restaurant at the beginning who did not pay. The Medical attendant who is going in and out of the schools might be notified if children seemed to be in a bad condition from mal-nutrition, then inquiry might be made as to whether it was mal-nutrition from improper food or whether it was mal-nutrition from lack of food, and then, whether that lack of food arose from wilful neglect or from absolute poverty. In that way we could sift down to the absolute poverty. Where it was a question of wilful neglect, I should like to see put in force slight extension of the law which enables us to send children to a day industrial school. A very slight extension would enable us to force these parents to feed their children. Where it was a case of absolute poverty I would like the Education Authority to be able to give a ticket. I would like all children to present a ticket for their meals. I do not see why there should necessarily be distinction between those who were fed by the Education Committee and those who were fed by their parents."

257. Miss Dendy fully appreciates the importance of doing nothing to impair family life, but in Manchester the mothers as a rule go out to work, and no family mid-day meal is possible. The admission of children would not therefore require much attention, but she would rigidly restrict it to those whose parents could not for various reasons provide a meal at home. Many Manchester children have money given them to buy their dinner. Miss Dendy describes the result:—

Dendy, 5696.

"If you give a child a penny with which to buy a dinner, I know what it means; it means fish and chips, or tarts. Tinned salmon, a very favourite meal, and plum cake go together very nicely."

She points to the success of the cheap meal given at the secondary school:

"In the Municipal Secondary School, owing to Mr. Wyatt's exertions to provide a wholesome meal for the higher class of children some time since a restaurant was established, and there any dinner can be obtained varying from 1d. to 6d. We knew of children coming to the town with 6d. to spend, who spent it in as unwholesome a way as the children I have been speaking of. We have an excellent school restaurant going on there, which more than pays its way. We have a cook, and, I think, three kitchen maids, and the whole thing is working well. The only thing is, that it needs, to be made considerably bigger. We cannot take a penny out of the rates. There are children who cannot pay for a meat and pudding dinner. For 6d. we provide meat, two vegetables, and bread, served with a clean cloth and a glass of water; we provide a cheaper dinner with gravy instead of meat, and for a penny we provide portions. It is very largely patronised, and it more than pays its way. It has to pay, or we could not go on."

258. On a review of the whole evidence upon this important point, we are unable to come to a clear conclusion whether or not a school restaurant supplying a meal for a modest price of 1d. or 2d. would or would not succeed. We should welcome experiments made in this direction, and they should be tried in places where the provision of a home meal by the mother in the middle of the day is for some reason or another impossible. The money to pay for the dinner should not be given to the children, since the risks of their using it on sweets or unsuitable food are great. There should be a system of tickets purchased by parents, who having paid for them will be pretty sure to see that their children use them. It will probably be found best to keep these restaurant dinners quite separate from any system of free dinners. The evidence before us points to the failure of the cheap meals paid for by the parent having been often due to their being served with free meals. No plan has been brought to our notice under which it would be really possible to keep secret the fact that a child is receiving a free meal, and we doubt much whether any such plan is feasible. We have not found any reason to suppose that children receiving free meals are condemned by those who pay, but we have been told of cases where the children who pay envy those who do not, and it is certain that the tendency, Rowe, 2725-6, where a meal is free to some and paid for by others, is for it to become eventually more and more a free meal.

5. *Manner of Serving Meals.*(a) *Use of School-rooms.*

259. Under present arrangements the use of schoolrooms and class-rooms for the serving of children's meals is a very common practice. There are obvious objections to this, and our witnesses on the whole were of opinion that it should be avoided if possible. On this matter teachers are probably the best authorities. Accordingly we may quote the opinion of Mrs. Burgwin, *Burgwin 384-7.* who said:—

"As I know our schools at present they are not fit to give meals in. Just imagine hundreds of quarts of soup in a schoolroom. I positively cannot stand it myself. I know some schools where it is given and the classroom where it is given; I could not bear it in the afternoon, where I have had to come out, and I am fairly strong. The smell is so great that it is not to be expected that one could, even if not of a nervous temperament, endure it."

Similarly Miss Ling said:—

Ling, 5052-3.

"For one thing we have to use a room which has been in use up to twelve o'clock. They give the children their dinner and then when they are all gone and it is cleared up, we have to use it again in the afternoon for a classroom, which, of course, is not nice. It means that the washing and sweeping have to be done before the children come back in the afternoon. The desks need to be washed down, and the floor swept for the afternoon school. Then we are not able to attend much to the manners of the children, you see, or spread any dinner at all. They have to have it on the desks where they have been working."

260. No doubt the objections thus put forward apply rather to dinners than breakfasts, since the latter are of a less savoury nature than the former and usually on a smaller scale. Moreover, the breakfasts occupy less time than dinners and being given before the lessons begin, their effect on the freshness of the rooms is less noticeable than that of dinners, which curtail the already too short interval for opening windows and doors and flushing the rooms with fresh air.

261. Some witnesses, however, as for instance Mr. Hookham, Mrs. Dibdin, Mrs. Adler and Mr. Wilkinson, stated that no objections have been found to the use of schoolrooms.

262. One argument in favour of giving the meals at the school is found in the objection to sending delicate children out for any distance on wet or cold winter days. Probably the ideally best system would be to have a special room attached to the school which would not be used at all for teaching. Failing this we consider that it is better to find a mission room or hall as near at hand as may be rather than to use the school itself.

(b) *Meals should be Orderly.*

263. Closely connected with this question of the use of the schoolroom is a matter upon which several of the witnesses laid great stress, viz.: the importance of making the meal a lesson in manners and not merely a laying in of provider.

*Phipps, 212-5.
Burgwin, 388-392.
Elliott, 1460.
Blair, 3698.*

264. Thus Mrs. Phipps looks upon the school meal "as part of the education of the children," and adds that the meals as served in the London Cripples schools educate and refine the children, and Mrs. Burgwin spoke to the same effect. Sir Charles Elliott and Mr. Blair also alluded to this point of teaching "the manners of the table." If the meals are served at the ordinary desks in a schoolroom, or behind canvas enclosures in the playground, as at Birmingham, it is difficult to see how they can be made in any real sense educative agencies. We are in accord with those witnesses who desire to make the school meal a civilising and educative influence on the children's life.

6. *Can Cookery Centres be utilised?*

265. We have had occasion to consider in the course of our enquiry whether and to what extent use can be made of the cookery centres and classes in providing meals for school children. An interesting attempt in this direction has been made at Norwich, and was described to us by Mrs.

Pillow, under whose management, with the acquiescence of the Local Education Authority, it was conducted. Three cookery centres were used for the purpose, on three days in the week. The meals were served on the desks in the kitchens and were cooked by the scholars in attendance at the cookery centres as part of their ordinary course of instruction. We fear that this necessitated some breaches of the cookery syllabus approved by the Board of Education, but Mrs. Pillow contended warmly that in the long run the scholars learning cooking were benefited. She admitted, however, that the number for which feeding provision can be made at the cookery centres is strictly limited, and that they cannot of themselves supply a complete system of feeding children. No objection seems to have been made by the parents of the children who were employed in cooking the free dinners.

266. In London some use has already been made of the cookery centres in connection with the feeding of children, and Sir Charles Elliott is of opinion that they might well be used for providing the necessary meals during the months when the supply required is small. It has already been mentioned that an experiment in this direction has lately been authorised by the London County Council. Some use has also been made of these centres at Bristol and at Bolton. Mr. Leslie, however, thinks that their use would be impracticable at Liverpool, and at Manchester, while Mr. Wyat told us they have not been used, Miss Dendy said that the absence of any dining halls in connection with them made it impossible to take advantage of them. At Dudley the four cookery centres belonging to the Education Committee were used for preparing the breakfasts, but it does not appear that meals were served at them.

267. We are in full sympathy with the desire which has been generally expressed to use the cookery lessons for bringing the scholars into immediate contact with the needs of their own homes, and to make the lessons more practically useful than they have often hitherto been. But we consider that any attempt to use them with the primary object of providing children's meals should be deprecated as certain to interfere with their proper aim of giving a well balanced and graduated course of instruction to the children. The part which they can properly play in a large system of feeding children can only be small and secondary.

7. *What should the Meal be?*(a) *Time of the Meal.*

268. There are few matters upon which we have found opinion to be more divided than the relative importance of breakfast and dinner. The schemes which have been described to us are almost equally for the provision of breakfast and dinner, and while in some instances the opinion which has determined the giving of one in preference to the other has been merely founded upon convenience, in others it has been based upon principle.

269. Among the supporters of breakfast Mr. Hookham's beneficent work at Birmingham entitles him to be placed first, and he is ready to justify his preference of that meal by sound argument. He says:—

"My reasons are chiefly gathered from answers to questions which I have sent round to head masters and mistresses (thirty-seven in all), in charge of the schools where these breakfasts are given. One question asked was, 'If only one free meal were given, would you, as a teacher, prefer that meal to be breakfast or dinner?' With the exception of two only, and these speak doubtfully, all are unanimous and emphatic in favour of breakfast. Many good reasons are given of which I may quote three. (1) That otherwise the children would get nothing to eat from tea time over-night till dinner time next day, about seventeen hours. (2) That the parents living literally from hand to mouth often earn enough during the morning to provide some sort of dinner. (3) That all the heaviest school work is done in the morning."

270. It is also to be gathered that in Mr. Hookham's opinion the danger of pauperising the parent by giving breakfast is less than that incurred by giving dinner. Upon the same side in this matter are Mr. Leslie, Father Beckley, Mr. Mantle, Mr. Rowe, Miss Norris, Mr. Kirk, and Mrs. Humm. Sir Charles

- Elliott, 1494-7. Elliott is also inclined, though doubtfully, to take the same view, and he indicated two further reasons for breakfast besides those already adduced by Mr. Hookham, namely, that the laziness of mothers leads more frequently to the child's loss of breakfast than of dinner, and that the offer of breakfast has the advantage of bringing the child punctually to morning school. There remain the arguments in favour of breakfasts based upon convenience which were put forward by Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Moss as having led to the establishment of breakfast schemes rather than dinner schemes at Brighton and Sheffield respectively. When there is lack of apparatus and the meal has to be served in the school, breakfast wins the day as being simpler to prepare and more quickly and easily served.
- Lindsey, 5829-5830.
Moss, 5946-7.

Dibdin, 1882-8.

Adler, 2344.
Wyatt, 2826,
2941-2.

271. The champions of dinner take their stand on the accepted fact that dinner is regarded in England as the principal meal of the day and that the food of which it is ordinarily constituted is usually of a more solid and satisfying character than that given for breakfast. Many of them also hold that the cases where a child goes absolutely breakfastless are comparatively rare, while the absence of the mother on work during the day time makes the dinner a very precarious meal at best. On the side of dinner, evidence was given by Mr. Lee Jones, Mr. Foster, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Priestman and Miss Dendy. On the same side were Mrs. Dibdin, who has tried breakfasts in London and found the children would not eat them, Mrs. Adler, who mentioned a similar experience, and Mr. Wyatt, who told us that breakfast has been abandoned in Manchester because "dinner was the more substantial thing" and because children were more likely to get food at home at the beginning of the day than in the middle. It was mentioned by several witnesses that children, though in need of food often have no appetite for breakfast after passing the night in stuffy rooms.

272. We consider that the arguments as between breakfast and dinner are on the whole evenly balanced, and that agencies giving only one meal a day may properly decide for themselves whether to give breakfast or dinner according as particular local arrangements best admit.

(b) *Nature of the Meal.*

273. There can be no doubt that on the whole it is easier though perhaps rather more expensive to provide a satisfactory cheap breakfast than dinner, since the food may properly be the same day by day. Not much variety in breakfasts is expected or indeed possible. Tea should be eschewed as affording no nourishment and being the staple drink at the present time in the children's homes. Cocoa with milk should be given where possible, varied perhaps sometimes with coffee also with plenty of milk. Porridge, though inferior to nothing as an article of food and also one of the cheapest forms of diet, is often disliked by the children. As to porridge Mrs. Burgwin told us her experience in Southwark:—

"It took us two or three years in Southwark to make the children eat porridge. Some of the Committee were almost inclined to give in. We had the greatest difficulty. I said, 'Oh no, it is porridge or nothing.' In the morning they would eat the hardest and driest bread you could give, but they would leave the porridge. At one or two shops I enquired in, some years after, the shopkeepers said, 'We sell a good deal of oatmeal now in the district.' It was thought that at dinner time and so on they used oatmeal. At one of the shops I was told that they sold more oatmeal than they had ever done before. There is no difficulty now in getting a child to eat porridge in the morning in those districts. They have taken to oatmeal."

Dendy, 5751.

274. Miss Dendy at Manchester finds no difficulty in getting the scholars in the Special Schools to eat the porridge, though the mothers tell her that their children will not eat porridge or bread and milk.

275. Mrs. Dibdin has found a plan of making the porridge "tasty," as the London child would have its food to be:—

Dibdin, 1969.

"At the day Industrial School at Drury Lane they would not eat porridge. I suggested onion porridge, and then they did take it; but before that they would not because it was not tasty enough."

276. Miss Norris finds at Bristol that children take some time before they Norris, 3286- like the porridge, and her experience hardly agrees with Mrs. Burgwin. She 3290. says it has not made much way in the homes.

277. The ordinary food given for dinners to school children is soup and bread. Soup is no doubt wholesome, but all kinds of soups are not equally nutritious, and any how in the interests of children some variety is much to be desired. Such variety is in some places attained, and in the Special Schools where the meals are taken by all the children and are provided daily, quite an attractive menu is usually found. Here, however, the cost per head is usually a good deal beyond the penny which seems to be regarded as the standard sum for a child's meal.

278. It is no uncommon thing to find that milk is given in the middle of the morning even where a breakfast or a dinner is also provided. Some of our witnesses laid special stress upon the value of this supply of Phipps, 47-9, milk which is largely given in the Special Schools. One of them, Mr. 113-7, Harvey, "would like to see a general supply of milk to all the schools in Harvey, 1693, London." This proposal that food relief in school shall take the form of *et seq.* milk has also, we understand, been put forward in a magazine article by Canon Barnett.

8. *Importance of Permanence of Agencies.*

279. A feature which will be noticed on studying the lists of agencies given in Appendix II. is the high proportion of them which are not of a permanent character. Taking the lists exclusive of London, where the larger central agencies are permanent though the schools in which meals are supplied are not constant, we find that in the County Boroughs only forty-one are permanent, that is to say, have been in existence more than two years, while the remaining thirty-six are either newly established or intermittent in their operations. Similarly in the Boroughs there are twenty-three permanent agencies as compared with eighteen new or intermittent. In Urban Districts there are seven to fifteen, and in the Counties twenty-six to twenty-four. There has no doubt been during the last year or two a great quickening of interest in the question of feeding children. It may, therefore, be expected that a good many of the new agencies which have only had one year's existence will prove to be lasting. There is, however, enough evidence of the proneness for starting school meals hastily upon some special emergency, such as a strike or lock out or depression of local industries, to justify us in calling attention to the importance of keeping up regularly any effort which may be made to provide for underfed and destitute children. It is unnecessary to dwell on the waste and mischief which are caused by spasmodic efforts of charity. The lines upon which help is to be given should be carefully laid down and the organisation should be kept always in existence and ready to deal with any large necessities which may arise. In severe weather when employment is scarce there are always some children who will need help, and it is seldom indeed that in a considerable centre of population no children at all will be found requiring relief. Several witnesses called attention to this matter of the importance of a permanent Leslie, 1012-3 Elliott, 1476-7 Dibdin, 1870-1 existence for the feeding organisations.

9. *Period over which Feeding should extend.*

280. The point dealt with in the preceding paragraph leads us on to the question of the period over which any school feeding which may be organised should extend. A glance at the returns collected in Appendix II. will show that in the great majority of cases that period is confined to three or four or at most five months of late autumn and winter. There are, it is true, exceptions, such as are found in Mr. Hookham's breakfast scheme at Birmingham, and the feeding scheme now being carried out by the Bradford Education Committee. But as a rule the meals are begun with the first cold weather in November or December, and are stopped altogether in February or March. Usually when the meals begin there is a large attendance of children, and though the numbers drop off somewhat before

Frere, 492-3.
Elliott, 1506-7.
Beckley, 2189-2190.

Harvey, 1675-1680.

Adler, 2359.
Norris, 3303

Priestman, 4374,
4380.

Hookham, 1162.

they are discontinued, there is generally up to the very last day a considerable attendance. These facts lead to the inference that, if the meals are needed at all, they are needed, though possibly for a smaller number of children, both before and after their present period, and probably to some extent throughout the year. No doubt the want in winter is more acute, and sharp weather unlooses the purse strings of the charitable public. But the need for food does not cease with the cold weather, though the warmer days and nights may make the pinch of hunger less acute, and brisker demand for labour may bring more money to the home. None of our witnesses averred that no feeding is needed except in the winter months, and many mentioned that meals should be obtainable throughout the year. Among these may be mentioned, as regards London, Miss Frere, Sir Charles Elliott, Father Beckley, and Mr. Harvey. The latter spoke very strongly on this point. He said:—

"One of the great difficulties is that in most schools the food supply stops at Easter. In some of the schools the teacher picks out a very few children who are urgently in need of help, and manages to find assistance, sometimes out of his own pocket, during the summer; but I think that is very unsatisfactory. In very many cases where help is really needed I think it is needed right through the year."

281. Mrs. Adler fully admitted that food should be given all through the year, but she fears it would be "too troublesome and too difficult." Miss Norris, from her experience at Bristol, spoke to the same effect, but considers that the difficulty of getting sufficient funds and sufficient voluntary workers stands in the way. At Bradford Mr. Priestman and his committee have so far felt the importance of continuing the feeding that the meals there have this year been carried on without intermission, and similarly at Birmingham Mr. Hookham has given material evidence of his conviction on the matter by giving breakfasts to a daily minimum of 800 children through the summer.

282. We consider that any feeding agency which is efficiently organised will make provision for any cases of temporary destitution which may occur at any time in the year, and not in the winter months only, though the provision in the warmer weather and longer days will usually be on a much smaller scale than in winter time.

10. How often Meals should be given.

Burgwin, 398-402.

283. It has been already remarked that, especially in London, it is no uncommon practice to provide the meals on only two or three days in the week, and sometimes even on one day only. All the witnesses agreed on the importance of frequency and regularity when meals are given, and the Joint Committee have called special attention to the weakness of London arrangements in this particular. In some cases food has been supplied not only on the five school days, but also on Saturdays and even Sundays, and occasionally also through the Christmas holidays. It would, seem however that a system of school meals would naturally be confined to school days. If only four days can be covered the day to be omitted should be Monday, as our evidence goes to show that it is usual to find a substantial meal, sometimes a too substantial one, supplied in the home on Sunday, the remains of which are available for consumption on Monday. On this point Mrs. Burgwin, while urging that if a meal system is to be started it should "provide at least for the five school days" considers that possibly Monday might be more wisely omitted than Saturday. As to Sunday she says:—

"I think there is mostly something for Sunday. It is almost a fetish with people. In fact they spend too much on Sunday dinner. It is all wrong. The winkle-shells appear in the streets on Monday morning. They have dinner, and also winkles for tea."

284. Mr. Harvey's evidence was to the same effect, and Mrs. Dibdin would wish to see meals given on four or even five days a week if possible. Father Beckley also concurred. Mrs. Adler finds that in Jewish homes full provision is usually made for meals on Saturday (the Sabbath) and on Sunday, and though she considers that two meals a week are better than nothing she has no doubt that four are more than twice as useful as two.

285. We have referred on this point entirely to the London witnesses, for it is unusual outside London to find that the meals are served on less than three or four days a week. But even where the meals are regularly given it does not follow that children will receive them regularly. This is a point on which we desire to lay great stress. The evidence and the returns made to us show that there is room for much more care than is at present shown in the distribution of food tickets to the children. The keeping of a register showing what children are fed and on what days is far from common, and there is no doubt a tendency to spread the distribution of meals over too large a number, giving each child one or two meals a week instead of picking out the really destitute children and seeing that they are regularly fed. On being asked whether he would rather see a meal given five days a week to the children most in need than a few days in the week to a larger number Mr. Harvey replied:—

Harvey, 1780.

"Certainly; I feel very strongly about that. I feel that at present the funds are wasted through their being distributed over too large a number of children. I was present at one school when the headmaster asked the boys whether they would like to have their ticket this week or next week. A certain number of the boys were going to get tickets."

And Mrs. Pillow admitted that one of the weak spots in the arrangements at Norwich was that a child only got a meal once a week. "There was no system of feeding the children regularly. They had to take it in turns." Pillow, 4222-9. On this point of regular feeding great stress was laid by Mrs. Phipps, Mr. Phipps, 135-6. Hookham and other witnesses, especially by Mr. Priestman, who told us that Hookham, 1164. at Bradford children on the feeding list are fed whenever there is a meal, Priestman, 4456- that is six days a week in winter, and five days at other times. On being 4462. asked whether he attached great importance to feeding each child every day he assented and added:—"If it is done at all it ought to be done regularly."

11. Effect of Meals on the Children.

286. As to the effect upon the children of school meals as now given by the voluntary agencies, there is a general impression among managers and teachers that the children are rendered brighter and more able to profit by their lessons. No doubt if a child is actually starving the beneficial effect of a wholesome meal is distinctly apparent. But cases of actual starvation are probably rare, and it is at least doubtful whether any really beneficial result is obtained by two or three meals in the week, especially when, as is too often the case, the parents and children have no notice beforehand of the times when these meals will be given. This is a point upon which it is almost impossible to lay too great a stress. If a parent thinks there is a chance of a meal being given, the temptation is very great to provide no food at home. The child may find that its meal is to be, not to-day, but perhaps two days hence, and the action of the voluntary agency has resulted in depriving it of a home meal it might otherwise have had, and in encouraging thriftlessness and carelessness on the part of the parent. Of course, where children whose names are once placed on the feeding list, receive such meals as are given until they have received due notice that their names are taken off, the unfortunate consequences referred to cannot occur. On the whole the evidence offered to us shews that where regular meals are given once on every school day during a certain period of the year the children benefit by them, and where dinner or breakfast is given regularly throughout the year, as in the London Cripples Schools, there can be little doubt indeed upon the matter. But Miss Norris, 3338, is unable to say that the winter breakfasts at Bristol result in putting the 3420-2. children into better health, though it may be that appearances are deceptive.

Norris, 3340.

"One must confess that the children look so well and so well fed when they come, except in a few cases. The children we send to camp, for instance, look so rosy and so bonny that you would not think that they were underfed children, and yet, from my own personal knowledge of the homes of the children in my own district where I work, I know that they are underfed."

Ling, 5094-7.

Humm, 5271.

Phipps, 123-9.

Hookham, 1260.

Norris, 3338.

3420-2.

Frere, Precis D.

287. Miss Frere roundly asserts that the school meals did nothing for the Tower Street children. She says:—

"We find they are just as healthy and do their lessons just as well now when they go home for dinners as they did in the years when we fed sixty a day regularly, and gave tickets to anyone who cared to have them. This point our experience at Tower Street has proved. We do not consider our school feeding made them fitter for school work than their home feeding does."

Rowe, 2707.

And Mr. Rowe admits that the Salvation Army breakfasts cannot be said to raise the physical condition of the children, though if they were not thus fed they would be very badly off.

Hall, 5642-7.

288. Among our witnesses on this point, we would quote Dr. Hall, who has had experience in Leeds, where he has fed some 100 children with two meals on five days a week. Of the results he says:—

"That has answered remarkably well. The children have improved. They were very much below weight. I fed them for a fortnight, and purposely gave them as much as they could take. Their weights increased in a fortnight in such a manner that, if they had continued at the same rate of increase, each child would have weighed two stone more at the end of the year. Please understand that they were very much below weight. I weighed fifty-five children aged seven to eight years—twenty-eight boys and twenty-seven girls—on December 29th. I weighed them again on January 12th and January 13th. They had gained altogether sixty-three pounds. This is at the rate of two stone per annum each. It must be remembered that at the end of November these children were much below the normal weight. We fed them abundantly. We gave them abundant breakfast and abundant dinner."

Dr. Hall, however, insists that underfeeding is not a question of mere hunger; and that children who are chronically underfed and ill-nourished are not necessarily hungry. He says that underfed children have small stomachs, "slum stomachs" he calls them, and perverted appetites; they refuse plain nutritious food; prefer stale food, and crave for condiments, pickles, and highly seasoned articles, such as liver and onions and black puddings. He has had great difficulty to educate the children to eat simple nutritious food, such as fish or rice pudding. He then goes on to point out the immense superiority in physique of Jewish to Gentile children, owing to the care as to their food which is taken by the Jewish parents.

289. We consider that it is open to question whether any substantial benefit is gained by the provision of two or even three meals a week. Meals when provided should be available at least on every school day, and the object in view should be to feed a few really destitute children of deserving parents regularly, rather than a large number of children irregularly. Care should be taken that whenever a child is to be fed the parent has good notice beforehand, and the feeding should be continued until the parent has again good notice that it is about to cease. Registers should be kept showing exactly what children are fed and the days upon which meals are given to them.

V. SUMS EXPENDED.

1. Total amount.

290. We are specially directed in our reference to enquire into the "sums expended by the various voluntary agencies for the provision of meals for children at Public Elementary Schools." We have accordingly asked for returns of expenditure for the last completed year from each of the agencies of whose existence we have been made aware. The results of this enquiry will be found in detail for each agency in Appendix II. and may be tabulated as follows:—

	£
Counties - - - -	1,004
London - - - -	10,299
County boroughs - - -	17,912
Boroughs - - -	3,089
Urban districts - - -	1,264
 Making a grand total of	 £33,568

291. In considering these figures it must be borne in mind that they are very far from representing the full amount of money spent out of charitable sources in England and Wales on feeding children in the Elementary Schools. They represent only what is disbursed by agencies existing for the special purpose of supplying meals to school children, or having, at any rate, departments devoted to that purpose, and they take no account of the doubtless much larger sums which are spent upon food for school children by the innumerable parochial and philanthropic agencies which exist all over the country, such as soup kitchens, District Visiting and Relief Societies and local charities, not to speak of the amounts which reach needy families directly from private benevolence. Moreover, the figures themselves cannot be taken as giving more than a rough idea of the amount disbursed in any twelve months by the School Feeding Agencies. In some cases the figures recorded refer to the winter of 1903-4, in others to that of 1904-5. Accounts are made up for all sorts of varying periods, sometimes by the calendar year, which will embrace parts of two winters, sometimes from autumn to autumn, in which case the accounts covering last winter were often not available when our returns were obtained. Sometimes, again, accounts have not been kept at all or have been mislaid, and in many instances the figures relating to the feeding of school children are not separable from those for clothing or from the general expenditure of an organisation of which feeding forms only one branch.

2. Expenditure in London.

292. The difficulty of obtaining anything like an accurate account of the money expended by the feeding agencies has been especially marked in the case of London. Through the kindness of Mrs. Burgwin, we have been supplied with a statement of the manner in which the fund collected by the Referee Newspaper has been distributed and we have endeavoured (not always successfully) to collect information as to the operations of the agencies which have received grants from that Fund. These grants are given not only to the Relief Committees or other persons who arrange for the feeding of children in particular schools, but also to the Mission Halls and other agencies which purvey the meals. The same is the case with the grants of the London Schools Dinner Association. To take an example, we find that a grant is made by the Referee Fund and also by the London Schools Dinner Association to St. Agnes' Rooms, otherwise known as St. Clement's Mission, in North Kensington. This Mission provides meals for the hungry children attending the Sirdar Road Council School, as to which evidence was given to us by Miss Wrigley, and payment for these meals is made to the Mission by the Relief Committee established for the School at the rate of a halfpenny per head. This money so paid over by the Relief Committee is provided entirely out of grants made to the School by the two Central Funds already named, viz., the Referee Fund and the London Schools Dinner Association, but in the published reports of the latter it appears as the proceeds of children's payments. Again, the cost of these meals appears in the Report of the London Schools Dinner Association as a halfpenny per head, which is the amount which the School Relief Committee returns to the Association as having been paid for the meals, but it is obvious that the real cost of the meals is considerably more, since the Mission would be unable to supply them at the price paid, were it not for the grants already referred to and other financial assistance, which is obtained from elsewhere. The example given is only typical of many more.

293. In attempting to arrive at the total amount spent in London in one year on children's meals we have found it necessary to assume that the full amount paid out by the Referee Fund was so spent with the exception of the small sum of £145, which was given to agencies outside London County. We are not, however, able to show in the Appendix how all the Referee grants were appropriated, since some of them went to agencies not keeping separate accounts for children's meals, as for instance to certain parochial and other

Missions and Soup Kitchens which provide for adults as well as children. Moreover, the sum of £370, or thereabouts, was paid to the teachers of Special Schools, and our statements of accounts for these are by no means complete. Starting then with the money spent by the Referee Fund, we take next that spent by the other Central Associations, from which we have to deduct in every case any money which we can trace as coming from the Referee Fund, and therefore having already been counted. Thus from the £1,903 spent by the London Schools Dinner Association we must take off the £50 which that Association receives from the Referee Fund, and from the £390 spent by the East Lambeth Teachers' Association we must deduct the £130 received from the Referee Fund and the £5 received from the London Schools Dinner Association. A similar course has had to be followed with regard to other London Feeding Agencies, and we have thought it fair as regards money appearing as derived from children's payments to assume that at least half has been derived from one or other of the Central Agencies, even after deducting all which upon inquiry we have proved to be thus obtained. We are conscious, however, after taking all precautions, that the sum of £10,299 entered above as spent in London in one year is only an estimate, even if it is an approximately accurate one. The state of confusion thus indicated seems to afford an opportunity to the London County Council, as the Local Education Authority for London, and the only body which has the means of obtaining full and accurate returns in this matter from the schools, to set on foot an inquiry with a view of ascertaining exactly what is being spent within the cognisance of the managers and teachers and School Relief Committees upon the feeding of children in the Public Elementary Schools of London. Exact figures as to this cannot but be of great value, though, even when they have been obtained, there will remain all the agencies under which children are fed independently of the schools and from which it seems almost hopeless to expect accurate returns.

3. Cost of a Meal.

294. Coming to detail we find that the cost of a child's meal is generally Lee Jones, 846-7. found to vary between 1d. or a little under, and 2d. Mr. Lee Jones of Liverpool, who has had experience on a large and varied scale, considers that if a "quite ample meal" is to be provided, the price, including all expenses, ought not to be put below 1d., though it is possible to provide a

Pillow, 4276. dinner of soup and bread for $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and Mrs. Pillow told us that "for $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. a splendid meal could be given." Experience at Birmingham shews that an extremely simple meal of soup, bread and jam, such as is there given, can be actually supplied, so far as food material goes, for considerably less than $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and at Liverpool an enterprising person actually supplies a dinner of meat and vegetables at 1d., at a profit to herself. Breakfast, if much fresh milk is given, appears generally to cost more than dinner. Mr. Hookham's breakfasts at Birmingham work out at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., and Mr. Rowe told us that the actual cost of the Salvation Army breakfasts which are supplied to children for $\frac{1}{2}$ d. is from 1d. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. But where porridge is given the cost is fractionally lower. Thus, at Bristol, Miss Norris stated the cost of the breakfast of porridge with milk and sugar, bread and treacle, to be less than 8d. Mr. Wyatt mentioned that at Manchester the milk given at the Friday dinner to Roman Catholic children instead of the ordinary soup is considerably more expensive than the latter, and he added:—

"What I have always said with regard to these free meals is that the limitation of cost largely depends on the limitation of the provision. You may give a child a halfpenny dinner, but not as much bread as he wants. A great many children will eat a pound of bread, which in itself costs over a penny, so that all those ingenious arrangements for half-penny and farthing dinners simply mean limitation of food."

295. In dealing with the figures as to cost of meals which are given in the oral evidence and in Appendix II., it must be remembered that in some cases the cost represents the price of the food only; its preparation and the use of rooms, utensils, fuel and service being given free. In other cases some

or all of these further matters are taken into consideration. Then, again, the scale upon which meals are provided is a very important element in arriving at the cost. Again, it is not uncommon for a feeding agency to agree with a soup kitchen or Benevolent Association to supply a meal at a fixed price, which is then returned as the cost of the meal. Closer enquiry shows that the meal is often provided at a loss which is made up out of the funds of the contracting association. This is very common in London where meals appearing in the Report of the London Schools Dinner Association Diggle, 2071-2. as costing 1d. may often actually cost considerably more. Thus at the Moffat Institute in Lambeth where scholars from several council schools are fed at a cost of 1d. to the Relief Committees which send them, the £83 12s. 1d. received in pennies has had to be supplemented by a further sum of £20 3s. 2d. in order to defray the actual cost.

4. Sources of Income.

296. A column in Appendix II. shews the receipts of every feeding agency. In the return which we sent out we asked to have these arranged under the following heads: (a) subscriptions, (b) endowments, (c) payments by parents of children, (d) other sources, if any. As might be expected we have found that in the great majority of cases the income was wholly derived from subscriptions. Income from endowments was very rare, but we observe that the London Schools Dinner Association receive £100 per annum from the City Parochial Foundation.

297. Under the head of parents or children's payments a considerable sum of money appears, especially in the London area, but it is very doubtful indeed whether this money is to any large extent really derived from the source specified. It is not uncommon for teachers or school managers, who have funds placed at their disposal by charitable societies or persons, to give pennies to children to buy dinner tickets. Money so paid will, of course, appear in the accounts of the Feeding Agency as contributed by children and parents. Outside London the total amount shewn by our returns as received from parents and children is only £54 13s. 3d. out of a total income of £26,309 16s. 3d.* It will thus be seen that the money necessary to meet the expenditure on children's meals is, at present, almost entirely derived from voluntary contributions.

5. Facility of obtaining Money.

298. Nearly all the witnesses stated that no difficulty has been experienced on the part of the voluntary agencies in raising the funds necessary for their operations. Thus, Mrs. Burgwin after telling us that the "Referee Fund" Burgwin, 463. at once raised its subscriptions from £3,000 to £4,000 on issuing an appeal, added in advancing her plea for "feeding centres" her belief that "the charitable public would subscribe the money for the food." Similarly Mrs. Dibdin, 1875-1881. anticipates no difficulty in getting the money which will be required for the support of her Holborn scheme, and Mrs. Adler who finds accommodation a greater difficulty than money, has been able to establish the "Jewish Adler, 2393-5, Children's Penny Dinner Association" free from pecuniary embarrassments, 2429-2430. and hopes to be able to get all she needs in future. Mr. Mantle was at once able to raise the money necessary for his Deptford breakfasts. He Mantle, 2471. said:—

"The whole amount, between £400 and £500, was contributed by friends to whom I appealed. I found that there were a good many friends, who were delighted to help the children, who would be reluctant to help adults. They felt, as we felt, that the children suffered the most and deserved it the least, and that such charity was far less likely to be abused by the children than charity given in any other way. I had no difficulty in getting all that was necessary. It was between £400 and £500."

* This is the total income shown by the returns printed in Appendix II. In several cases, e.g. Bradford, Dover, Bilston and Gorton the income given is applicable to other purposes besides children's meals.

Elliott, 1420
(*précis*).

299. Again Sir Charles Elliott is convinced that "it is not likely that in future there will be any deficiency in the influx of subscriptions," and expressed himself to us as follows:—

Elliott, 1552.

"I say it is impossible to conceive, if proper measures are taken, that the charity of London would fall short in this matter. The funds of the great supply associations come to about £9,000 altogether. £17,000 is collected for the Country Holiday Fund. Dinners are more important, far more, than country holidays. If you can get £17,000 for the one thing, you ought to be able to get £30,000, if you want it, for the other."

Leslie, 1016.

Foster, 1353.

Wilkinson, 3038-
3039, 3045
(*précis*), 3155.

300. So far we have cited evidence as to London only, but the witnesses from the provincial towns spoke to the same effect. Thus, Mr. Leslie thinks that a public appeal for funds would succeed in Liverpool. Mr. Foster found that at Birkenhead the necessary funds were forthcoming for what was done there last winter, and that more could have been got, had it been wanted, though he expressed a doubt whether voluntary contributions would be forthcoming from year to year. Mr. Wilkinson bore the strongest testimony to the willingness of the Bolton public to help the children. He said:—

"We can always get money, as I can prove, with regard to feeding children. If it is for the children people will provide the money. We only have to ask once. With regard to feeding the children, we got over £500."

Grant, 6198.

Wyatt, 2810-1.

And at Hull want of money has never cramped the operations of the "Hull School Children's Help Society." At Manchester there would appear to have been no lack of money, but no public appeal was made, as it was not thought a dignified thing for the Council to appeal for subscriptions.

301. The only place from which we heard of difficulty as to money was Birmingham. As to the position there, Mr. Hookham, whose own liberality entitles his opinion to carry very great weight, on being asked whether if an appeal were made by responsible persons there would be any difficulty in collecting the sum of £4,500, which he named as necessary, replied:—

Hookham, 1195.

"I think there would be more than difficulty. I think there would be an impossibility. As a subscriber I have seen the last published accounts of the Birmingham Free Dinners Association. This charity has been in operation for from fifteen to twenty years and has had amongst its officers and on its committee and subscription list some of the most influential people in the district. Its total list of subscriptions and donations is under £300 per annum, and even this includes £75 contributed by the teachers in the council schools. To raise a sum of £4,000 to £5,000 a year by these means seems to me quite hopeless."

The sum named by Mr. Hookham is no doubt one which many people might consider unnecessarily large, but his gloomy views of the support given to the Birmingham Cheap Dinner Society are borne out by the Manager, who writes as follows:

"More than twenty years' continuous responsibility as manager of this society has convinced me that we cannot claim to have fulfilled the requirements of the City in respect to its underfed children, but we have done what we could with the funds available."

6. Voluntary help in—(i) Personal Service.

302. A great part of the work of the children's feeding agencies, whether in the preparation of food or in the serving and preparation of the meals, is done by unpaid helpers. Special mention has been made of the diligent and self-sacrificing work of the teachers in this connection, and the limits within which their help should be confined have been indicated. It is very common for ladies to undertake the supervision and serving of the meals, attending for the purpose under a carefully arranged rota, and if the need is properly made known there is no reason to suppose that difficulty will be found in obtaining the helpers who are needed. They can usually be found in sufficient quantities to provide for a midday meal, but the case is different where early attendance for breakfast before school on winter mornings is in question. Thus, though at Bristol it is found possible to dispense with the presence of teachers at the children's breakfasts, considerable difficulty is experienced in getting the necessary voluntary assistants owing to the distance of their homes, and for the breakfasts at Sheffield Mr. Moss told us it was not easy to get voluntary help.

Adler, 2373-4.
Wilkinson, 3110,
3155.

Norris, 3320-3.

Moss, 5948.

(ii.) *Gifts in kind.*

303. The returns sent in to us show that it is no uncommon thing for an agency to receive gifts of food such as meat or game, bread, groceries and vegetables. Such gifts are often made by local tradesmen who take an interest in the well-being of their poorer neighbours.

VI. FURTHER POINTS ARISING ON THE REFERENCE.

(i.) *The Relief (School Children) Order 1905.*

304. On the 26th April, 1905, some six weeks after the date of our appointment and reference, the Local Government Board issued an Order, entitled, "The Relief (School Children) Order, 1905," to the Poor Law Guardians in England and Wales. We print this Order, and also two circulars which were sent out with it by the Local Government Board and the Board of Education, respectively, in Appendix IV. below. After stating in their circular that it is the duty of the Guardians to afford the requisite relief to any child who is, in fact, destitute of necessary food, the Local Government Board go on to explain the provisions of the Order which are intended to make it possible to recover from the father, where he can afford to pay it, the cost of any relief given to the child. It is too early yet to form any clear opinion as to the effect of this Order, nor indeed would the expression of any such opinion fall within our reference. The Order has, however, as was inevitable, been frequently referred to in the evidence offered to us, and we have gathered that much difference of opinion is prevalent throughout the country as to its meaning and possibilities, as to its efficiency in meeting the mischief at which it is aimed, and what is to us more important, as to its effect upon the operations and even the very existence of the Voluntary Feeding Agencies. In some places we have been told that no steps are being taken, or are likely to be taken, towards giving effect to the provisions of the Order. In London the County Council, as we understand, have resolved not to initiate any action, though they will co-operate with the Guardians when they are asked to do so. At Bradford conferences have been held between the Local Education Authority and the Guardians, and a joint course of action has, we understand, been agreed upon, under which the existing free meal system will continue to exist with modifications. At Manchester conferences between the Authorities interested have been similarly dealing with the situation, but we were assured both by Mr. Wyatt and Miss Dendy that the issue of the Order has put an end to the operations of the sub-Committee of the Local Education Authority which has hitherto managed the supply of school meals. So far as our information goes no alternative plan has yet been agreed upon. It is probable that before this Report is issued many Local Education Authorities throughout the country will have decided whether they will take any and what action under the Order, and it is possible that some of the difficulties surrounding it will have been elucidated by its practical administration. Meanwhile there does not seem to be any adequate reason why the Order should cause any existing Voluntary Feeding Agencies to discontinue their work or should prevent the public from continuing to contribute to their funds. It should still be found possible for the agencies, while leaving to the Guardians, as suggested in the circular of the Board of Education, the duty of relieving cases of permanent poverty and neglectful parents, to give more adequate help than has hitherto been possible to the cases of temporary distress which are always found in periods of severe weather and slack employment.

(ii.) *Retarded Children.*

305. We are directed in our reference to have "special regard to children who, though not defective, are from malnutrition below the normal standard." The class of children referred to in these words is no doubt that, or part of that, dealt with in Paragraph 317 of the Report of the Committee on

Physical Deterioration for whose benefit the Committee, following the opinion of Dr. Eicholz, have recommended temporary treatment in "special schools." It should be noted, however, that these children, who are for convenience ordinarily referred to as "retarded" children, embrace in their numbers those whose backwardness and want of development is due to other causes than defective food, such as late hours, premature employment and insanitary homes. The determination whether the backwardness of any particular child is due to malnutrition or some other cause must be one for a medical specialist alone, and it is probable that even medical specialists would often disagree, especially as more than one of these causes may be in operation in any given case, so that it may be impossible to allot to each cause its proper share of blame. Anyhow, we have not found that the class of children to whom special attention is directed in our reference, is one the existence of which is generally recognised by our witnesses, and it is abundantly clear that, so far, no steps have been taken by the Voluntary Feeding Agencies to make any exceptional provision for their needs. They are treated just in the same way as the normal scholars. We do not feel able, as matters at present stand, to recommend any particular alteration having for its object the relief of these children in the existing systems of the Feeding Agencies, recognising as we do that they are not readily discoverable, if indeed they are discoverable at all. No doubt, however, as systematic medical inspection of schools and scholars becomes established, some, at any rate, of these children will be pointed out by the school doctors and nurses, and will be designated for attention on the part of the teachers and those in whose hands the feeding arrangements may rest. It is probable that more of them will prove to owe their malnutrition to improper feeding than to insufficient feeding, and as the standard of knowledge in the homes is raised it may be hoped that their numbers, now without doubt considerable, may be materially diminished. The tenor of the evidence in our possession, both that given by our own witnesses and that given before the Committee on Physical Deterioration, points to the homes as the proper place in which to attack the evil. We cannot think that school meals during the winter months, however well organised, can of themselves do much to bring up ill-nourished children to a normal standard.

Elliott, 1517-
1526, and other
witnesses
(*assim.*).

VII. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BETTER ORGANISATION.

306. The following is a summary of the recommendations which have been made in the above Report for better organisation of voluntary effort. It should be understood that they apply only where arrangements are made for feeding school children. It does not fall within the terms of our reference to recommend that such arrangements should be made; nor are we called upon to express any opinion as to the wisdom, from an economic or social point of view, of relieving children apart from their families by the provision of school meals.

1. The Local Education Authority or some central body authorised for the purpose by them should be kept regularly informed of any feeding of scholars which is in any way organised in connection with the schools maintained by the Authority and of all funds received by managers or teachers for that purpose. This recommendation applies with special force to London. (Pars. 148, 207-8, 293.)

2. The Local Education Authority should co-operate as far as practicable with any Feeding Agency established in its area; and, unless there is any good reason to the contrary, should be represented thereon, though such representation may not be feasible or even desirable in London and the County areas. (Pars. 207-8.)

3. Any organisation for feeding school children should be of a permanent character; that is to say, the framework of the organisation should be kept continuously in existence, notwithstanding that its operations may be in some cases properly intermittent. (Par. 279.)

4. Provision should be made for enabling meals to be given where necessary throughout the year, though summer needs will generally be small. (Pars. 280-2.)

5. Where meals are provided, it is desirable that they should be obtainable at least as often as every school day. (Pars. 283-9.)

6. The object of the agency should be to feed the most destitute children regularly rather than a larger number irregularly. (Pars. 285-9.)

7. The children of families in temporary distress should be made the first care of any Feeding Agency. (Par. 237.)

8. It is not desirable that Teachers should be required to take part in serving or supervising children's meals. (Pars. 211-5.)

9. While Teachers may properly make the initial selection, they should not be made responsible for the final choice of the children to receive meals. (Pars. 216-222.)

10. A "Relief Committee" should be formed for each school or group of schools and provision should be made for placing on such Committee an adequate number of women. (Pars. 231-3.)

11. In selecting children to receive meals :—

(a) The information in the possession of School Attendance Officers should be utilised. (Pars. 224-5.)

(b) The co-operation of Poor Law Guardians and Relieving Officers should be invited. (Pars. 226-9.)

(c) As far as possible the co-operation of religious and philanthropic agencies in the district should be enlisted. (Par. 230.)

(d) Where there is a School Medical Officer or nurse their advice and help should be obtained. (Pars. 235-6.)

12. Care should be taken to give adequate notice beforehand to their parents when children are to receive meals; sufficient notice of the discontinuance of meals should similarly be given. (Pars. 286, 289.)

13. The parents should be told clearly that they are in receipt of charitable relief for their children where such is the case; and greater effort might be made to obtain payment from parents for the whole or part cost of meals supplied to their children. (Pars. 238-241.)

14. Care should be taken to make the meals orderly and to give them a civilising and educative effect upon the children. (Pars. 263-4.)

15. Registers should be kept showing exactly what children have received food and on what days. (Pars. 285, 289.)

16. Schoolrooms and classrooms should not be used for meals if other convenient rooms can be found. (Pars. 259-262.)

17. Cookery centres may in some cases be usefully employed for the provision of children's meals. But a cookery centre can only provide for a few children, and it should be remembered that its essential purpose is the provision of cookery instruction. (Pars. 265-7.)

307. In conclusion we desire to record our thanks to our Secretary, Mr. E. H. Pelham, for the conspicuous ability and assiduity which he has shewn in the discharge of his duties. He has rendered us invaluable assistance, alike in the conduct of the Enquiry, and in the preparation of the Report.

We have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's obedient Servants,

H. W. SIMPKINSON,

H. FRANKLIN PARSONS,

CYRIL JACKSON,

MAUDE LAWRENCE,

RIVERSDALE WALROND.

E. H. PELHAM, *Secretary,*

9th November, 1905.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

SUMMARY OF RETURNS AS TO MEDICAL INSPECTION.

These summaries are based upon the returns which the Committee has received in answer to their inquiries from the various Local Education Authorities throughout England and Wales. The information thus obtained has been supplemented in certain instances from the evidence subsequently given on the subject, from memoranda giving additional information, which were kindly supplied at the request of the Committee, and from reports and other documents which have been received. When these documents have been printed, the fact has been mentioned in the summary. The following explanations are necessary in order to make certain points clear in the summary:—

- (1.) Unless the contrary is stated the inspection extends to Council and Voluntary schools without distinction.
- (2.) In many cases an important part of the duties of the School Medical Officer is to examine the teachers and other officers of the Education Committee. No reference is made in the summary to this work, as it does not appear to come within the scope of this inquiry.
- (3.) It is to be assumed unless the contrary is stated, that in all cases the Medical Officer is employed only part time. The remainder of his time is generally devoted to private practice.
- (4.) Where the salary is mentioned, it is for the services of the Medical Officer to the Education Committee, though it includes as a rule the examination of teachers and officers referred to in (2).
- (5.) Cases marked † are those in which the Board of Education have approved arrangements for putting into force the provisions of the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899. Beyond this no reference is as a rule made to these cases.

COUNTIES.

[*N.B.—Only those counties are given in which something is being done, including those marked †, as explained in (5) above.*]

1. **BEDFORDSHIRE**.—Head Teachers are directed to notify to the Secretary to the Education Committee all cases of defective eyesight.
2. †**BERKSHIRE**.—In cases of reported defective eyesight, the Committee arrange for the examination of the children by a competent authority. Teachers report cases of infectious disease. In suspected cases they urge parents to get children examined by a doctor. Committee are prepared to pay a fee of 2s. 6d. for each examination.
3. †**CHESHIRE**.—Medical Officer of Health examines defective children. Teachers in Altringham district test eyesight.
4. †**DERBYSHIRE**.—Notices are issued to parents as to the treatment of certain diseases, also to teachers as to the symptoms of infectious diseases.
5. **DEVON**.—At East Stonehouse a Medical Officer appointed (salary £15 15s. 0d. a year) visits schools, and inspects any child brought to his notice by the teachers for any kind of defect, but chiefly those suspected of infectious disease, and those alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
6. †**DORSET**.—Nothing.
7. **ESSEX**.—A system of medical inspection exists in the Purfleet, Grays, and Maldon districts. At Grays Medical Officer examines children for infectious diseases, dirty heads, etc., as well as children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
8. **GLOUCESTERSHIRE**.—A medical inspection of the children in the 44 schools in the area of the Stroud Union was conducted during a period of nine months. Each child was examined by the Medical Officer; statistics were compiled as to weights and measurements, infectious diseases, and general physical condition. The teachers co-operated; the cost was under £100 (See evidence by Dr. Martin.)

9. HEREFORDSHIRE.—In case of outbreak of infectious disease managers consult local Medical Officer.
10. HERTFORDSHIRE.—In Watford, District Medical Officer appointed (salary £50 a year) visits each school at least quarterly; examines hygienic condition of the school premises; examines classes and cases specially selected by teachers for any physical defect or ailment, but especially defective eyesight. Teachers specially assist in detection of defective eyesight and of symptoms of infectious disease. He examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
11. KENT.—Teachers may obtain medical examination of any child they consider unfit to attend school.
12. LANCASHIRE.—In several schools the teachers test the eyesight. In others the District Nurse visits the school and attends to small ailments, and gives advice. Local Medical Officers of Health sometimes visit the schools for the prevention of infectious disease.
13. LINCOLNSHIRE. (Holland).—In the East Elloc Rural District Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances visit schools to examine the children and inspect the premises.
14. [†]LINCOLNSHIRE. (Lindsey).—Nothing.
15. [†]LEICESTERSHIRE.—Nothing.
16. MIDDLESEX.—County Medical Officer's services are at the disposal of Education Committee (no additional salary). In the Southall District a local medical man visits each school periodically and examines children for the detection and prevention of infectious diseases.
17. [†]OXFORDSHIRE.—Nothing.
18. SOKE OF PETERBOROUGH.—Teachers test eyesight, and report all cases of defect to the Education Committee, who communicate with the parents.
19. [†]SCILLY, ISLES OF.—Nothing.
20. SHROPSHIRE.—In cases of the alleged unfitness of a child to attend school, medical certificates can be obtained at a charge of 1s., met by the Local Authority.
21. [†]SOUTHAMPTON.—Nothing.

[†]LONDON.
The staff consists of a Medical Officer and assistant giving whole time, and twenty-three other assistants (half time); there are besides twelve nurses giving whole time, and it is proposed to appoint twenty more. The examination includes the general condition of scholars, their physique, condition of special senses (seeing, hearing, etc.), mental abilities, prevention of infectious disease, personal

22. SURREY.—A Medical Officer has just been appointed, at a salary of £500, to start a regular system of medical inspection in the area; the following matters will probably be dealt with: eyesight, hearing, teeth, general physical condition of the children; anthropometric survey. (See scheme printed in Appendix V.)
23. WEST SUSSEX.—A Physical Instructress has been appointed; she devotes her whole time to the work; she is paid £150 a year; incidental expenses amount to £50. She chiefly attends to the physical condition of the children and gives advice to teachers. Cases of defective eyesight and hearing are noted, which the Education Committee try to get attended to. Children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school are medically examined. Teachers notify cases of suspected infectious disease. The Committee is about to institute the taking of the weights and measurement of children, records of which will be kept in all schools. (See Memorandum by Miss Moseley in Appendix V.)
24. WIGHT, ISLE OF.—A system has been established for the notification of inspected cases of infectious diseases by the teachers to the District Medical Officer of Health.
25. [†]WILTSHIRE.—County Medical Officer assists the Committee with his advice on questions of general application. No definite duties have been assigned to him.
26. WORCESTERSHIRE.—Free medical certificates (1s. paid by local authority) are granted in cases of infectious and other disease, where parents are unable to pay.
27. [†]YORKSHIRE (E.R.).—Medical Officer appointed (salary £50 a year), gives advice as to general health of the scholars. Teachers notify local Medical Officers of Health of cases of infectious disease.
28. YORKSHIRE (W.R.).—Nothing has yet been done, it has, however, been decided that the department of the County Medical Officer shall be reorganised and the staff increased so as to enable it to deal with the work. Question is now under consideration by the Education Committee. (See Statement in Appendix VII.)
29. PEMBROKESHIRE.—Attendance officers report cases of epidemic and cases of defective children.

cleanliness. The teachers assist in the inspection of eyesight. In the Woolwich district a measles history of each child is kept. The salaries of the above mentioned staff amount to £5,985. The extra nurses would cost £1,600. There is a clerical staff whose salaries amount to £797. (See Dr. Kerr's evidence and Memorandum in Appendix V.)

COUNTY BOROUGHS.

1. BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Teachers are notified by the Sanitary Inspector of any case of "notifiable" infectious disease; and are empowered to obtain medical examination of suspected cases of non-notifiable infectious disease.
2. BATH.—Medical examination of suspected cases of infectious disease. Medical Officer of Health arranges for the periodic examination of School buildings.
3. [†]BIRKENHEAD.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £80 a year). Inspection of children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Officer visits each department once a year, or oftener if required, and confers with head teacher as to the general health of the scholars, and inspects the sanitary conditions of the premises during school hours; examines plans of new buildings.
4. [†]BIRMINGHAM.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £250 a year). Sight and hearing specialists are paid 10s. 6d. a case. Teachers notify cases of infectious disease. Officer visits each department at least once a year to inspect the premises and to confer with the head teacher as to the general health of the scholars, and as to particular cases of defective eyesight, hearing and mental capacity; inspection of children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, specialists employed when necessary. Head teachers report cases of dirty heads; the homes of such children are visited by Lady Health Inspectors.
5. [†]BLACKBURN.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £100 a year). Examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend schools, also other special cases of eyesight, etc. Three Lady Health visitors of the sanitary department visit the parents of children found with dirty heads, ringworm, etc., and instruct parents. The sanitary condition of the premises is frequently examined by the Medical Officer and the sanitary authority. Teachers report cases of infectious disease. (See Memorandum by Dr. Greenwood in Appendix V.)
6. BLACKPOOL.—Managers may obtain medical advice in special cases, provided the fee does not exceed 2s. 6d. Teachers test eyesight.
7. [†]BOLTON.—Two eye specialists are employed in the inspection of the children's eyesight. Cost estimated at £350. Teachers report all cases of children with dirty or verminous heads, and homes are visited, and parents in bad cases are prosecuted by the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Teachers report cases of infectious diseases, and homes are visited by the sanitary authority if necessary. (See evidence by Mr. Wilkinson.)
8. [†]BOOTLE.—Nothing.
9. [†]BOURNEMOUTH.—Sanitary authority have conveniences tested and cleaned daily.
10. [†]BRADFORD.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £500 a year), works full time. Teachers report weekly or oftener cases of infectious disease, and children are examined when necessary. Examination of children reported to be physically unfit to attend school. Schools visited at least once a quarter, their sanitary condition is examined and the general health of the scholars discussed with the head teachers, and special cases examined. Teachers test eyesight once a year, records are kept. Children with dirty heads are excluded, and Attendance Officers see that action is taken. (See Memoranda by Drs. Crowley and Kerr in Appendix V.)
11. [†]BRIGHTON.—Medical Officer appointed for examination of special cases (fee for each case). Medical Officer of Health advises Education Committee, and examines children in cases of infectious diseases, the prevention of which is very carefully organised. A nurse (salary £80) has been appointed who attends to the cleanliness, etc., of the children, and visits the homes to instruct parents on the subject. (See Memorandum by Medical Officer of Health in Appendix V.)
12. [†]BRISTOL.—Teachers notify "non-notifiable" diseases to Medical Officer of Health.
13. [†]BURNLEY.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £120 a year). Visits school once a quarter and inspects children selected by teachers; examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend schools, also other special cases of eyesight, etc. Three Lady Health visitors of the sanitary department visit the parents of children found with dirty heads, ringworm, etc., and instruct parents. The sanitary condition of the premises is frequently examined by the Medical Officer and the sanitary authority. Teachers report cases of infectious disease. (See Memorandum by Dr. Pullon in Appendix V.)
14. BURTON ON TRENT.—Nothing.
15. BURY.—Nothing.
16. CANTERBURY.—Nothing.
17. CHESTER.—Doctor appointed to examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. It is under consideration to include educational duties among the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, and to pay him £50 for these duties.
18. [†]COVENTRY.—Nothing. The appointment of a Medical Officer is under consideration.
19. [†]CROYDON.—Medical Officer of Health is appointed Medical Officer (salary £100 a year); visits the schools once a year to examine the sanitary condition of the premises and to report on the

- general health of the scholars. Examines all new plans. Examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Children with dirty heads excluded. Careful regulations for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease.
20. [†]DERBY.—Medical Officer of Health is Medical Officer (no special salary). Visits each school twice a year, reports on sanitary condition of premises and general health of the children, and examines children selected by the teachers for defective eyesight, hearing and general physical condition. Examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, and for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. (See Memorandum by Dr. Howarth in Appendix V.)
21. [†]DEVONPORT.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer to examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school; he also inspects the sanitary condition of the school premises. Teachers report any cases of infectious disease. New and more complete arrangements are now being made.
22. DUDLEY.—Nothing.
23. EXETER.—Medical Officers of Health are called in to examine special cases.
24. GATESHEAD.—Nothing.
25. GLOUCESTER.—Nothing.
26. GREAT YARMOUTH.—Teachers examine eyesight. Medical Officer of Health is in touch with officers and teachers as to children from homes where notifiable disease exists.
27. GRIMSBY.—Two Medical Officers appointed; examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, or to be suffering from infectious disease. Examine sanitary condition of premises at least twice a year. Each is paid £21 a year.
28. [†]HALIFAX.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £150 a year.) He visits each school quarterly, and reports on the sanitary condition of the premises and the general health of the scholars. Examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Teachers examine children's eyesight, teeth and hearing, and bring special cases before the Officer. They also examine for dirty heads and communicate with parents on the subject. (See Memorandum in Appendix V.)
29. HANLEY.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £100 a year); visits schools three times a year and examines special cases of sight, hearing and mental capacity brought forward by the teachers; subsequently personally attends to cases of defective eyesight. (See Memorandum by Dr. Stuart in Appendix V.)
30. [†]HASTINGS.—Nothing.
31. HUDDERSFIELD.—Appointment of a Medical Officer under consideration. Teachers report at once cases of suspected infectious disease.

32. IPSWICH.—Medical Officer of Health examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Cases of infectious disease are notified to teachers by Sanitary Authority.
33. KINGSTON-UPON-HULL.—Medical Officer appointed; visits each school once a year and sees special cases of eyesight and hearing, which have been selected by teachers after a general inspection of the children.
34. [†]LEEDS.—Medical Officer appointed to examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Prevention of spread of infectious disease organised.
35. [†]LEICESTER.—The appointment of a Medical Officer to devote his whole time to the work has been determined upon. His salary is to be £425. The existing officer examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, and of cases of suspected skin disease. In addition, the new officer will visit the schools regularly and inquire into the ventilation and sanitary condition of the premises, the general health of the scholars, and note cases of defective eyesight, hearing, etc.
36. [†]LINCOLN.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (Salary £10 10s. and fees). Visits schools when required and sees selected cases; examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school; sanitary condition of premises inspected by a plumber.
37. [†]LIVERPOOL.—Victoria Nurses examine children and treat them for dirty heads, cuts, sores, etc. Teachers test eyesight. Children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school are examined. Teachers and attendance officers notify cases of infectious disease. (See Mr. Leslie's evidence.)
38. [†]MANCHESTER.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £600 a year, incidental expenses £150). He gives his whole time to his duties. Visits schools once a year, reports on sanitary condition of premises, and sees cases of defective eyesight and hearing, which have been selected by the teachers after a general inspection of the children. Examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Enquiry as to badly nourished and backward children. (See Dr. Ritchie's Memorandum in Appendix V.)
39. MIDDLESBROUGH.—Nothing.
40. [†]NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—Medical Officer appointed (salary 225 guineas a year; visits each school at least once in three months, confers with the Head Teacher on the general health of the scholars, and examines any special cases, especially eyesight, brought to his notice; examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Visits schools for detection and prevention of the spread of infectious disease.

41. [†]NORTHAMPTON.—Medical Officer appointed. Examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, also eyesight, hearing, and physical condition of any child to whom a head teacher has called attention. Medical Officer of Health visits schools for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease.
42. NORWICH.—Two Medical Officers appointed, who examine cases especially referred to them. Eye specialist examines cases of defective eyesight reported by the teachers. Medical Officer of Health or Lady Sanitary Inspectors investigate cases of suspected infectious disease reported by the teachers.
43. [†]NOTTINGHAM.—Two Lady Health Visitors visit the schools for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease, and to report upon and advise the teachers as to matters of school hygiene. Children alleged to be physically unfit to attend schools are examined by Medical Examiners (paid by fee).
44. [†]OLDHAM.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £150 a year), works two to two and a half hours daily; visits each school once a year to report on the sanitary condition of the premises and examine any special cases selected by the teachers. Teachers inspect eyesight of every child once a year, and Medical Officer examines all cases of defect. Teachers notify and are notified of cases of infectious disease. Officer examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
45. OXFORD.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £35 a year); examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
46. [†]PLYMOUTH.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £60 a year); visits each school once a year and examines children selected by teachers as being defective (except as to eyesight). Advises on questions of school sanitation and the health of the children. Eye specialist (salary £40 a year) also visits each school once a year and examines cases selected by teachers.
47. PORTSMOUTH.—Nothing.
48. PRESTON.—Teachers instructed in school hygiene and how to act in cases of infectious disease.
49. [†]READING.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £125 a year); he visits the schools three times a year, and examines the sanitary conditions of the premises and cases of eyesight and other defects brought to his notice by the teachers. Also examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. A nurse is employed to attend to dirty and verminous heads. Teachers notify cases of infectious disease to the Medical Officer of Health. (See Dr. Price's evidence.)
50. ROCHDALE.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £100 a year); visits each school at stated periods to report the sanitary condition of the premises and examine special cases of eyesight, hearing and other physical defects brought before him by the teachers. Anthropometric records kept. Examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Teachers notify cases of infectious disease. (See Memorandum by Secretary in Appendix V.)
51. ROTHERHAM.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £45 a year), visits each department once in three months; he reports upon the sanitary condition of the premises and the general health of the children, and examines any case of bad eyesight, hearing, or other physical defects, brought before him by the head teacher. Teachers examine eyesight of all the children. They report cases of infectious disease. Cases of ringworm and dirty heads are excluded. Officer examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
52. ST. HELENS.—Teachers notify "non-notifiable" diseases (paid 3d. for each case). Medical Officer of Health and staff visits schools and sees cases of suspected infectious disease, and of dirty and verminous heads reported by teachers; also examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
53. [†]SALFORD.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer, has an assistant Medical Officer (salaries £345 a year); visits schools periodically, reports on ventilation and sanitary condition of the premises, and sees cases of bad eyesight, hearing, and other defects submitted by teachers. Teachers examine eyesight of all children. Anthropometric survey is made. Teachers report cases of infectious disease. Cases of suspected infectious disease are examined, and of children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. (See Dr. Tattersall's evidence and Report in Appendix V.)
54. [†]SHEFFIELD.—District Medical Officers examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Teachers test eyesight. Careful instruction to teachers as to prevention of spread of infectious disease.
55. SOUTHAMPTON.—Nothing.
56. SOUTH SHIELDS.—Medical Officer appointed (paid by fees); examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school; and when necessary cases of suspected infectious disease. Teachers notify cases of infectious disease to Medical Officer of Health.
57. STOCKPORT.—Teachers notify cases of infectious diseases to Medical Officer of Health. He has made an examination of feeble-minded children.
58. SUNDERLAND.—Nothing.
59. [†]TYNEMOUTH.—Teachers are notified of cases of infectious disease by Medical Officer of Health, to whom attendance officers also notify cases.

60. WALSALL.—Nothing.
61. WARRINGTON.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (no special salary); visits schools for the detection of infectious disease. Teachers notify cases of infectious disease. Establishment of Medical Inspection under consideration.
62. WEST BROMWICH.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (no special salary); examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, and visits schools and inspects when infectious diseases are prevalent.
63. WEST HAM.—Medical Officer appointed; examines school premises.
64. WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Teachers pay strict attention to cases of "non-notifiable" infectious diseases. They are notified of cases of infectious disease.
65. WIGAN.—Nothing. Appointment of Medical Officer under consideration.

BOROUGHS.

1. ACCRINGTON.—Medical Officer of Health visits the schools in connection with any outbreak of infectious disease.
2. ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Nothing.
3. ASTON MANOR.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary, £47 5s. a year), examines sanitary condition of school premises, attendance officers notify to him cases of non-notifiable infectious and parasitic disease, and he takes necessary steps.
4. BACUP.—Nothing.
5. BANBURY.—In cases of infectious disease Medical Officer of Health visits the school.
6. BARNSLEY.—Medical Officer appointed (paid by fee) to examine cases of suspected infectious disease, and physical defects notified to him by the teachers. Medical Officer of Health notifies teachers of cases of infectious disease.
7. BARNSTAPLE.—Nothing.
8. BATLEY.—Medical Officer of Health is consulted when occasion requires.
9. BEDFORD.—Nothing.
10. BERWICK-UPON-TWEED.—Head teachers are empowered to call in a medical man to examine any case of suspected infectious (say, skin) disease.
11. BEVERLEY.—The Medical Officer of Health is asked to inspect if necessary.
12. BEXHILL.—Nothing.
13. BOSTON.—Teachers call in the Medical Officer of Health in cases of suspected infectious disease.
14. BRIDGWATER.—Nothing.

15. BRIDLINGTON.—Medical Officer appointed who examines any cases submitted to him by officers and teachers. He is paid by fee.
16. BRIGHOUSE.—All cases of infectious disease are notified to Medical Officer of Health.
17. BROMLEY.—Nothing.
18. BURSLEM.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (paid by fee); he examines cases of suspected infectious disease and of defective eyesight reported to him by the teachers.
19. BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—Medical Officer of Health visits the schools in times of epidemic.
20. CAMBRIDGE.—Nurse appointed to visit homes of children suffering from non-notifiable diseases.
21. CARLISLE.—Medical Officer appointed (salary, £60 a year), examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, also defective children. Teachers and attendance officers notify cases of infectious disease to Medical Officer of Health, who has special powers for visiting schools.
22. CHATHAM.—Nothing.
23. CHELMSFORD.—Nothing.
24. CHELTENHAM.—Nothing.
25. CHEPPING WYCOMBE.—Nothing.
26. CHESTERFIELD.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £40 a year), visits each school quarterly and examines chiefly with regard to defective vision; examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, and cases of suspected infectious disease, and in times of epidemic makes a systematic examination of the whole school; reports on sanitary condition of the school premises.
27. CHORLEY.—Nothing.
28. CLITHEROE.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £15 a year), he visits all schools once in three months as to the cleanliness and health of the scholars, and to examine the children as to eyes, hair, and teeth (See Memorandum by Dr. Barber, in Appendix V.)
29. COLCHESTER.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (no separate salary); he examines cases of suspected infectious disease, notified by the teachers.
30. COLNE.—Nothing.
31. CONGLETON.—Nothing.
32. CREWE.—Medical Officer of Health periodically visits schools and reports on the sanitary condition of the premises, he inspects cases of suspected infectious disease notified by the teachers; the notification of disease is carefully organised.
33. DARLINGTON.—Nothing.
34. DARWEN.—Medical Officer of Health or Medical Attendant examine cases of suspected infectious disease, and defective children reported to them. He has visited the schools and reported on the ventilation, lighting, and general sanitary arrangements of the children. He is making a tour with a view to testing eyesight and hearing, and is about to inspect defective children.
35. DEAL.—Nothing.
36. DEWSBURY.—Nothing.
37. DONCASTER.—Nothing.
38. DOVER.—Sanitary Officer and Attendance Officers with Medical Officer of Health supervise detection and prevention of infectious disease.
39. DUKINFIELD.—Nothing.
40. DURHAM.—Nothing.
41. EALING.—Nothing. The appointment of a Medical Officer is under consideration.
42. EASTBOURNE.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £50 a year), visits schools frequently and advises on any case requiring attention, especially defective eyesight; ringworm and dirty heads attended to. Examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Teachers notify cases of infectious disease, the prevention of which is carefully organised. The sanitary condition of the premises is reported on and new plans examined. (See Evidence of Dr. Willoughby.)
43. EAST HAM.—It is proposed that educational work should be included in the duties of the new Medical Officer of Health.
44. EAST RETFORD.—Nothing.
45. ECCLES.—Nothing.
46. FALMOUTH.—Head teachers are instructed at once to notify cases of infectious disease.
47. FAVERSHAM.—Nothing.
48. FOLKESTONE.—The head teachers report at once cases of suspected infectious disease to the Medical Officer of Health, who visits the school and examines any cases.
49. GILLINGHAM.—Nothing.
50. GLOSSOP.—Nothing.
51. GRANTHAM.—Medical Officer of Health visits schools and examines children in times of epidemic.
52. GRAVESEND.—Nothing.
53. GUILDFORD.—Medical Officer appointed to examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
54. HARROGATE.—Teachers advise parents to obtain advice in cases where a child is found to be defective. Teachers have attended lectures on the subject.
55. HARTLEPOOL.—Nothing.
56. HARWICH.—Nothing.
57. HASLINGDEN.—Nothing.
58. HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.—Nothing.
59. HEREFORD.—Nothing.
60. HEYWOOD.—Nothing.
61. HORSEY.—An infectious disease register is kept by the teachers. The appointment of a Medical Officer is under consideration.
62. HOVE.—Nothing.
63. HYDE.—Nothing.
64. ILKESTON.—Medical Officer of Health, though not specially appointed Medical Officer, visits schools in order to detect any children suffering from infectious disease and to examine any children suffering from bad teeth, defective eyesight, etc.
65. JARROW.—Nothing. The matter is under consideration.
66. KEIGHLEY.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £50 a year); examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Every school is visited at least once a year, generally much oftener, and any cases of defective eyesight or hearing, physical defect, vermin, etc., are examined, which are brought forward by the teachers. Teachers notify cases of suspected infectious disease. The sanitary condition of premises. (See Memorandum by Dr. Scatterby in Appendix V.)

67. KENDAL.—Committee have had an inquiry made into all the children in the Borough, who are suffering from any defect, etc., a special circular on health has since been issued.
68. KIDDERMINSTER.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £40 per annum); examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school; visits every school three times a year, reports on the general health of the scholars and the general sanitary condition of the premises, and examines the eyesight, hearing, or other physical defect of any scholar, brought before him by the teacher. Gives advice as to methods of instruction from a hygienic point of view. Teachers notify cases of suspected infectious disease.
69. KING'S LYNN.—Nothing.
70. KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES.—Nothing.
71. LANCASTER.—Children's Aid Society assists crippled children.
72. LEAMINGTON.—Nothing.
73. LEIGH.—Nothing.
74. LEWES.—Nothing.
75. LONGTON.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer. No duties assigned to him: visits schools for prevention and detection of infectious disease.
76. LOUGHBOROUGH.—Nothing. Appointment of Medical Officer under consideration.
77. Lowestoft.—Medical Officer of Health examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, also cases of suspected infectious disease. Teachers notify all such cases. Appointment of Medical Officer under consideration.
78. LUTON.—Three Medical Practitioners appointed who for a fee of 1s. examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
79. MACCLESFIELD.—Nothing.
80. MAIDENHEAD.—Nothing.
81. MAIDSTONE.—Doctor appointed to issue medical certificates at request of the Attendance Committee.
82. MANSFIELD.—Medical Referee appointed to examine children certified as unfit to attend school.
83. MARGATE.—Medical Officer appointed to examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school (fee 2s. 6d. per child).
84. MIDDLETON.—Nothing.
85. MORECAMBE.—Organised arrangements for prevention of infectious disease. Teachers notify suspected cases.
86. MORLEY.—Nothing.
87. MOSELEY.—Nothing.
88. NELSON.—Nothing.
89. NEWARK.—Nothing.
90. NEWBURY.—Nothing.
91. NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYNE.—Nothing.
92. NEWPORT (ISLE OF WIGHT).—Nothing.
93. NEW WINDSOR.—Teachers report to Managers all cases of defective health or development. Weak eyesight especially is noted. They also notify cases of infectious disease to the Medical Officer of Health.
94. OSSETT.—Nothing.
95. PENZANCE.—In times of epidemic Medical Officer of Health visits schools and inspects children.
96. PETERBOROUGH.—Medical Officer of Health examines suspicious cases of infectious disease.
97. PONTEFRACt.—Nothing.
98. POOLE.—Two Medical men appointed to examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
99. PUDSEY.—A system of inquiry into cases of infectious diseases is organised by Medical Officer of Health.
100. RAMSGATE.—Nothing.
101. RAWTENSTALL.—Nothing.
102. REIGATE.—It is under consideration to join in the Surrey scheme of medical inspection.
103. RICHMOND (SURREY).—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £50 a year); examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school and suspected cases of infectious disease. Visits each school once a term; make periodic examinations of the eyesight and hearing of the scholars; reports annually on the sanitary condition of the school premises and the general health of the scholars. Reports on new plans.
104. ROCHESTER.—Medical Officer of Health visits schools when requested to do so by Education Committee.
105. RYDE.—Nothing.
106. SALISBURY.—Nothing.
107. SCARBOROUGH.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £25 a year); no defined duties, but reports on special cases, sanitation of premises, and questions of possible infection. Teachers report to managers any cases of bad eyesight, hearing, or other physical defect, also suspected cases of infectious disease to the Medical Officer.
108. SHREWSBURY.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £10 10s. a year); examines defective cases and children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
109. SMETHWICK.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (paid by fees); examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.

- and generally gives advice when required. Teachers notify cases of suspected infectious disease.
10. SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £50 a year); no definite duties as yet assigned. An inspection of defective children is now being made. Visits schools in times of epidemic.
11. SOUTHPORT.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £20 a year), visits each school once a month; and inquires into the health of the scholars, especially as to hearing, eyesight, and spread of infectious disease; he also inquires into the sanitary condition of the premises.
12. STALYBRIDGE.—Nothing.
13. STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer to advise as to the health of the scholars; no scheme of inspection yet determined upon.
14. STOKE-UPON-TRENT.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary, £10 10s. a year) to examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Attendance Officers report cases of infectious disease.
15. SUTTON COLDFIELD.—Nothing.
16. SWINDON.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (paid by fee) to examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Memorandum issued to teachers as to the identification of infectious diseases. He notifies cases of infectious disease to the teachers.
17. TAUNTON.—Nothing.
18. TIVERTON.—Nothing.
19. TODMORDEN.—Nothing.
20. TORQUAY.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Adviser (salary £12 12s. a year); method of dealing with defective eyesight under consideration. An anthropometric survey is now being made by the teachers. Head teachers report cases of suspected infectious disease.
21. TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—Matter is under consideration. Medical Officer of
- Health visits schools, where cases of infectious disease have occurred.
22. WAKEFIELD.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £15); examines special cases when required. It is proposed to include systematic medical inspection of children in the duties of the Medical Officer of Health.
23. WALLSEND.—Nothing.
24. WEDNESBURY.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (paid by fee); examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school and special cases.
25. WINLOCK.—Nothing.
26. WEYMOUTH.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer; examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school; teachers report cases of suspected infectious disease. Medical Officer visits schools continually for detection and prevention of infectious disease. Inspects premises
27. WHITEHAVEN.—Nothing.
28. WIDNES.—Queen's Nurse (salary and expenses £95) visits schools weekly to look after health and cleanliness of the children, and treats minor ailments. Teachers notify cases of infectious disease. It is proposed to include extensive educational duties amongst those of the Medical Officer of Health. (See Memorandum by Secretary in Appendix V.)
29. WINCHESTER.—Medical Officer appointed to examine children suffering from infectious disease (paid 3s. 6d. a case).
30. WORKINGTON.—Head Teachers work so far as possible with Medical Officer of Health.
31. WORTHING.—Nothing.
32. YEOVIL.—Nothing.
33. NEATH.—Medical Officer of Health is consulted when necessity arises.
34. CARMARTHEN.—Nothing.
35. PEMBROKE.—Two Medical Officers appointed for school attendance purpose (salary £7 a year).
36. WREXHAM.—Nothing.

URBAN DISTRICTS.

1. ACTON.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £50 a year); visits schools every three months and inspects children with bad eyesight and hearing and physical defects. Lady health visitors assist in prevention of spread of infectious disease. Teachers notify suspected cases.
2. ALDERSHOT.—Medical Officer of Health examines cases of suspected infectious disease; sees to the sanitary condition of the premises.
3. BARKING TOWN.—Medical Officer of Health visits schools and inspects children for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. Teachers notify suspected cases.
4. BECKENHAM.—Nothing.
5. BILSTON.—Nothing.
6. CANNOCK.—Nothing.

7. CHADDERTON.—Nothing.
8. CRISWICK.—Medical Officer of Health visits schools and inspects children for prevention of the spread of infectious disease. Attendance Officers notify Sanitary Authority, and are notified by them of cases of suspected infectious diseases. Officers communicate with Teachers.
9. COSELEY.—Teachers carefully exclude children suffering from infectious disease or pediculi. Regulations given them on the subject.
10. EDMONTON.—Teachers test children's eyes every year.
11. ENFIELD.—Nothing.
12. ERITH.—Medical Officer appointed; visits schools three times a year and examines children with bad eyesight, hearing, and other physical defects, such as skin diseases. Examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school; also examines the sanitary condition of school premises. (See Dr. Baddeley's evidence and memorandum in Appendix V.)
13. FARNWORTH.—Teachers report number of children considered to be underfed; to have defective hearing and eyesight. Medical Inspection is dealt with in a general way by Medical Officer of Health.
14. FELLING.—Nothing.
15. FENTON.—Nothing.
16. FINCHLEY.—Medical man appointed to examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
17. GORTON.—Enquiry is being made to children having defective eyesight and hearing. Sanitary inspectors visit schools for prevention of infectious disease.
18. GOSPORT AND ALVERSTOKE.—Nothing.
19. HANDSWORTH.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school; visits schools once a year, and makes a sanitary inspection of the premises, and confers with head teachers as to children suffering from defective eyesight, hearing, mental capacity, etc. Prepares list of symptoms of infectious diseases, and periods of quarantine.
20. HEBBURN.—Nothing.
21. HENDON.—Medical Officer of Health visits schools when required and examines the children. Head teachers notify cases of infectious disease.
22. HESTON AND ISLEWORTH.—Nothing.
23. HINDLEY.—Teachers notify cases of infectious disease to the sanitary inspector.
24. ILFORD.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £50); examines children alleged to be physi-

ally unfit to attend school, visits schools once a month and reports on the sanitary condition of the premises and examines children brought before him by the head teacher; special attention is paid to defective eyesight. Teachers have been given a pamphlet containing information as to the symptoms of infectious disease; teachers and attendance officers notify and are notified of all cases.

25. INCE IN MAKERFIELD.—Teachers report cases of suspected infectious disease. Medical Officer of Health visits schools frequently during epidemics.
26. KETTERING.—Medical Officer (paid by fee) appointed to examine children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
27. KING'S NORTON AND NORTHFIELD.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £30 a year); visits schools once a year and reports on the sanitary condition of the premises; examines plans; instructs teacher how to examine children's eyesight, and himself examines doubtful cases; examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
28. LEYTON.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £50); examines cases of suspected infectious disease.
29. NUNEATON AND CHILVERS COTON.—Nothing.
30. ODEBURY.—Nothing.
31. PENGE.—Nothing.
32. RADCLIFFE.—Cases of infectious disease are notified by the teachers.
33. ROWLEY REGIS.—Teachers make weekly returns of all cases of infectious disease. Teachers notice physical defects, and arrangements are made for their treatment.
34. SHIPLEY.—Nothing.
35. STRETFORD.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £50), visits schools at least four times a year. He reports on the sanitary condition of premises and periodically inspects the eyes, ears, teeth, and heads of all children, besides specially selected cases submitted by teachers; examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school; teachers notify cases of suspected infectious disease. (See Dr. Heslop's Memorandum in Appendix V.)
36. SWINTON AND PENDLEBURY.—Nothing.
37. TIPTON.—Nothing.
38. TOTTENHAM.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £150 a year); visits every school about once a week, and examines cases brought before him by the teachers having diseases of eyes, ears, teeth and throat; he also pays special attention to the condition of heads and skin and their freedom from vermin;

- examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school; teachers notify suspected cases of infectious disease. Reports twice yearly on the sanitary condition of the premises. Two lady health visitors assist with looking after the health of the children. (See Education Committee's Memorandum in Appendix V.)
39. TUNSTALL.—Nothing.
 40. TWICKENHAM.—Medical Officer of Health examines suspected cases of infectious disease, reported by teachers.
 41. WALLASEY.—Nothing.
 42. WALTHAMSTOW.—Nothing.
 43. WATERLOO-WITH-SEAFORTH.—Nothing.
 44. WILLESDEN.—Medical Officer of Health has superintended arrangements for testing eyesight; has instituted a provisional system of weighing children in two schools. Cases of suspected infectious disease are notified by teachers, who also receive notification. Lady health visitors assist. (See Memorandum by Medical Officer of Health in Appendix V.)
 45. WIMBLEDON.—Medical Officer appointed (salary £52 10s. Od. a year); visits schools at regular intervals, and inspects children for eyesight, hearing and other physical defects. With the assistance of the Medical Officer of Health the prevention of the spread of infectious disease is thoroughly organised. The general sanitary condition of the premises is inspected periodically. Two nurses (salaries £75 and £14 a year) are also employed, who visit school weekly, chiefly for examining the cleanliness of heads. A large part of their time is devoted to
 46. WOLSTANSON.—Nothing.
 47. WOOD GREEN.—Teachers and Attendance Officer supply weekly lists of cases of infectious diseases.
 48. ABERDARE.—Nothing.
 49. ABERTILLERY.—Nothing.
 50. BARRY.—Teachers examine eyesight of all children once a year; medical man sees special cases. Nurse appointed; she visits the various schools once a week and treats all small ailments, dirty heads, &c. Teachers notify cases of infectious diseases.
 51. EBBW VALE.—Nothing.
 52. LLANELLY.—Nothing.
 53. MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer; visits each school at least once a year and reports on the sanitary condition of the premises, the general health of the scholars. Examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school. Examines plans for new buildings. Inspector of Nuisances visits once in every three months.
 54. MOUNTAIN ASH.—Nothing.
 55. PONTYPRIDD.—Medical Officer of Health appointed Medical Officer (salary £50 a year), examines children alleged to be physically unfit to attend school; visits each school (except the Voluntary School) once in three months; he reports on the sanitary condition of the premises and the general health of the scholars and examines any case of bad eyesight and hearing or other physical defect brought forward by the head teacher.
 56. RHONDDA.—Nothing.

APPENDIX II.
ANALYSIS OF RETURNS AS TO FEEDING OF CHILDREN ARRANGED UNDER LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
(The Returns given are not for any uniform period. They are for the last completed year, which is often 1903-4.)

I.—COUNTIES.

Local Education Authority.	Name of Agency.	Is Agency recognised or assisted by Local Education Authority.		Where are meals served?	What meals? <i>D.</i> = Breakfast. <i>B.</i> = Dinner.	For how many months in the year are meals given?	No. of times per week meals given.	Total number of meals fed at one time or older.	No. of meals per week given by a child.	Cost of meal.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Remarks.	
		Is Agency permanent (P.)?	Is Agency temporary (T.)?											
Bedfordshire	Kennington Rural Council School.	Premises Free	-	P. 1d. Any who desire it.	School.	D. Oct. to March.	5	4,000	£19 1s. 3d.	£19 1s. 3d.	£19 1s. 3d.	£19 1s. 3d.	+ Children's payments uncollected to £12 4s. 1d.	
Bucks	Slough Free Soup Kitchen	No	-	P. F. All are admitted	School.	D. Nov. to Feb.	2	4,000	20 0 0	20 0 0	14	14	From 100 to 150 children were fed at each meal—Adults also relieved.	
Cheshire	Altringham (Army.)	No	-	T. F. Army.	Salvation Army Barracks.	B. Winter months.	5	—	5	—	31	60 to 130 each morning.		
"	Harthill	No	-	N. 3d. & 2d. Any one living outside village.	School.	D. Nov. to Feb.	5	50	5	—	No record, but children's pence £5 1s. 6d. covered cost of food material.		This meal consisting of soup or cocoon only (without bread), was an experiment on the part of a lady.	
"	Mapple Soup Kitchen	No	-	I. F. Only honest children.	Sunday School.	D. Severe weather 3 weeks.	5	—	5	1,125	8 0 0	8 0 0	2	
"	Miss Thonycroft's School Dinners, (Sliddington)	No	-	P. 1d. Any who desire it.	School. (unused classroom)	D. Nov. to March.	5	—	5	3,608	25 7 10	25 7 10	2	A private undertaking. From 30 to 60 children attend. Their payments came to £21 10s. 1d.

County.	Name of School.	Is Agency permanent (P.)?		Where are meals served?	What meals? <i>D.</i> = Breakfast. <i>B.</i> = Dinner.	For how many months in the year are meals given?	No. of times per week meals given.	Total number of meals fed at one time or older.	No. of meals per week given by a child.	Cost of meal.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Remarks.	
		Is Agency permanent (P.)?	Is Agency temporary (T.)?											
Cumberland	Mrs. Blase Wiggonby National School.	No	-	I. 1d. All who desire it.	School.	D. Cold weather.	2	—	2	30 to 40 w.	Not record.	Not record.	£ A certain amount of material given free.	
" Devon	Rouston School	No	-	P. 1d. All live it nearby.	School.	D. Whole year.	5	56	5	12,567	62 7 3	62 7 3	£ Children's payments in all totalled £11 1s. 1d. There is a school dining room.	
Essex	Givys Needy Children Dinner Fund.	Premises, coal, offices Free	P.	F. Poorest children only.	School.	D. Nov. to March.	5	—	—	12,092	57 10 3	40 2 1	8	
"	Woodford, Churchfields Connel School (Boys' Department).	No	-	I. F. " a few pax.	Restaurant.	D. Winter months.	5	—	5	700	3 19 5	3 19 5	1 1 2	All the money is found by the letter class boys and their friends.
Gloucestershire	Upton St. Leonard's School	No	-	P. 1d. All who desire it.	School.	D. Oct. to April.	5	—	5	3,140	3 11 1	3 11 1	3	+ Entirely from children's payments. Half a pint of cocoon is provided.
"	Gorsley School	No	-	P. 1d. All who desire it.	School.	D. Oct. to April.	5	—	5	—	—	—	4	Cup of cocoon.
Herts	Harpenden National School	No	-	N. 1d. per Children week, from a distance.	School.	D. Oct. to March.	5	—	5	—	—	—	1	Cup of Cocou.
"	Hertfordshire Church School.	No	-	P. 1d. All who desire it.	School.	D. Winter months.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	Pint of Soup.
"	Norths. Minns. Girls' School.	No	-	I. 1d. except a few pax.	School.	D. Winter months.	5	about 40 or 50	4 or 5	3,456	16 5 2	16 18 1	—	Of this children's payments made £12 5s. 2d. There were also gifts in kind.
"	Thundridge National School.	No	-	P. F. T.M. Village Reading Room.	D. Jan. to March.	2	—	2	—	832	—	13 0 0	3 2	Children from a distance only eligible.
"	Tring National School.	No	-	P. 1d. except a few pax.	D. St. Vincent's Convent.	D. Jan. to April.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	No accounts furnished.
"	Watford Holy Rood R. C. School.	No	-	I. F. According to needs.	Schools.	D. Nov. to March.	5	22,207	5	—	2 0 0	2 0 0	1	
Kent	Factory Club and Employers Relief Committee for Northfleet and Swancombe.	No	-	I. F. District Visitors.	Schools.	D. Nov. to March.	5	—	5	50,226	—	235 3 6	235 3 6	+ The cost is defrayed out of a general Relief Fund.

COUNTIES—continued.

Local Education Authority.	Name of Agency.	What meals are served?										Cost of Meal.	Remarks.	
		What Meals?		B=Breakfast		D=Dinner		B+D=Breakfast & Dinner		Total number of meals.		Receipts.	Expenditure.	
Lancashire - Dleton Children's Aid Society.	Premises Free -	I.	F.	T.	School.	D.	Nov. to March.	5	—	6	1,2,056	£ 4 s. 7 d.	£ 4 s. 4 d.	1
" Horwich Poor Children's Free Dinner Fund.	No -	I.	F.	T. Committee.	Co-operative Hall.	D.	Dec. to March.	2	—	2	4,039	18 13 1	18 13 1	1
" Levenshulme U. D. C. Relief Committee.	No -	I.	F.	T.S. Relief Committee.	School and Centre.	D.	Dec. to March.	6	120 or 5	4	9,000	—	57 12 11	13
Norfolk - Fornet St. Mary's School.	No -	I.	—	Children from a distance.	School	D.	Nov. to March	2	30	2	—	—	2 8 9	1
Nottingham- Woole Presbyterian School.	No -	I.	—	—	School	D.	Oct. to March	5	—	—	—	The charge covers the cost	—	—
Nottingham- Beeston Free Breakfast Committee.	No -	I.	—	N. F. T. S. M.	Schools	B.	Dec. to March	5	—	5	9,200	88 11 6	32 9 1	1 4
Oxfordshire - Citoring National School	No -	I.	—	F. Children from a distance, Committee & T.	School	D.	4 Winter Months	1	—	1	510	15 0 0	15 0 0	6
Shropshire - Keeley Children's Free Breakfasts Committee.	Premises and Coal Free -	I.	F.	School	B.	Sept. to Nov.	5	67	5	1,971	15 0 9	10 0 3	1 1	
Whitchurch Winter Relief Committee.	No -	I.	T. F.	M.	Temperance Hotel	B.	Severe weather	4	—	—	1,530	No separate accounts	1 1	—

Somerset - Frome Milk Street British School.	Premises and coal free	P.	A. F. 1d.	T.	School.	D.	Nov. to March.	5	—	3 to 5	6,360	25 7 4	26 7 6	1
Staffordshire Bucknall Schools Special Committee.	No -	I.	F.	Committee.	Centre.	D.	Winter.	3	—	2	3,762	10 3 7	10 3 7	—
" Willenhall Relief Committee:	-	I.	—	I.	Centre.	D.	Jun. to Feb.	3	—	—	2,132	9 2 0	9 2 0	4
" (1) Frysell Street Centre	No -	I.	—	F. 1d.	School.	D.	Nov. to March.	3	—	—	8,485	£10 about	£10 about	—
" (2) Portobello Centre	Premises and gas -	I.	—	F. 1d.	School. (Meals taken home).	D.	Severe Months.	3	—	3	3,200	10 15 0	10 15 0	4
" (3) St. Anne's Centre	Premises and coal -	I.	—	F.	Centre.	D.	Jun. to Feb.	3	400 or 3	2	5,688	17 5 9	17 5 9	10
" (4) Little London Centre	No -	I.	—	F. excep. a few 1d.	School.	D.	Jun. to March.	3	—	3	6,000	—	—	—
" (5) Walsall Road Centre	Promises and gas -	No -	—	I. F.	Private House.	D.	Six winter months.	5	—	—	No separate records or accounts kept.	—	—	—
Survey - Ashton	—	P.	—	P. F. excep. a few 1d.	Tennant-Tavern.	D.	Mainly Winter.	5	—	—	No records kept or accounts sent.	3	—	—
" Caversham, St. Mary's R.C. School.	No -	I.	—	P. F.	School.	D.	Winter.	2	—	—	Sometimes as many as 5 children, whose parents are out of employment, receive meals.	—	—	—
" Merton National Schools (Boys' Department)	No -	I.	—	P. F.	Centre.	D.	Dec. to March.	3	—	—	All who desired it.	11 13 0	11 13 0	1 1
" Mitcham, Christ Church Free Dinners,	No -	I.	—	P. F.	Parish Room.	D.	Winter months.	6	—	—	Parents paid.	120 daily	—	—
East Sussex Ringmer, Council School	No -	I.	—	I.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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 Total number of individual children fed at one time or other.
 No. of meals per week meals given.
 Total number of meals given.
 No. of meals served by a child.
 Total number of meals in the year.
 For how many months in the year.
 What meals? B=Breakfast
 D=Dinner
 M=Meals chosen. T=School
 Y=Whom chosen. Z=Teacher.
 Where are meals served?
 Are meals free (F)? If not what
 Intermediate Payment (I), New (N),
 Is Agency Permanent (P)?
 Local Education Authority.

There were also gifts in kind.
 An effort to meet a special need in winter of 1904-5.
 The cost was defrayed out of a general Relief Fund.
 The soup dinner is the gift of a lady.
 There were also gifts in kind.
 A purely private enter-prise.
 An effort to meet a temporary need.
 Also gifts in kind.
 This Agency, which was a private one, has for some time been discontinued.

COUNTIES—continued.

Local Education Authority	Name of Agency	Is Agency recognised or assisted by Local Education Authority.	Meals												Cost of Meal.	Remarks.
			Receipts.			Expenditure.			Total			number of meals.				
Yorkshire (E.R.)	Filey, Church School.	Promises, gas, offices, and clerical assistance free	P.	E.	T. and District Visitors.	School.	B.	Nov. to March.	6	—	—	4,932	£ 24 8 1	£ 23 3 8	11	104
Yorkshire (N.R.)	Kirby-on-the-Moor, C. E. School.	No - - - - -	P.	1d.	All who desire it.	School.	D.	Oct. to March.	5	—	5	3,388	4 0 9	4 0 9	4	
"	Whitby, Charity Organisation Society.	No - - - - -	P.	F.	T. S. Society.	Schools.	D.	Winter.	2	490	2	7,644	77 18 11	66 18 9	2	
"	Grangetown Relief Committee (Bolellow Vang-hann & Co.)	Premises and Offices free	P.	T.	School	D. and B.	When necessary, sometimes.	7 or 14	—	7 or 14	32,030 about	—	—	—		
Yorkshire (W.R.)	Cowick Church School.	No - - - - -	P.	Any who like.	School	B. 1d.	Jan. to March.	5	32	10	2,314	5 6 0	5 8 6	11		
"	Ripon Benevolent Association.	No - - - - -	P.	1d. except in a few cases.	T.	Mechanics' Institute	D.	Jan. to March.	3	—	2 or 3	2,960	42 18 4	42 18 4	21	
WALES.	CARDIGAN - Llandygwydd N. S. Free Dinners.	No - - - - -	P.	Any who like.	School	D.	November to April.	5	101	5	8,114	21 10 0	21 10 0	4		

Local Education Authority	Name of Agency	Is Agency recognised or assisted by Local Education Authority.	Meals												Cost of Meal.	Remarks.
			Receipts.			Expenditure.			Total			number of meals.				
Carmarthen - Conway Mid-day Meal Committee.	Promises and clerical assistance free.	P.	Committee.	School; Restaurant; and afterwards Market Hall.	D.	December to March.	3	—	3	6,832	9 14 0	5 8 1 10	2			
"	Llandudno Charity Association.	No - - - - -	P.	T. Committee.	Cocoa House.	D.	Dec. to March.	2	120	2	3,210	24 7 0	23 13 1	21	Many gifts in kind.	
"	Llanystumdwy School	No - - - - -	P.	All who like.	School	D.	Winter months.	5	30	5	—	—	—	—	Cocoa only, materials given.	
Denbighshire	Brymbo and Broughton - Gresford -	No - - - - -	P.	T.	3 Public Houses.	D.	During strikes.	6	1,200	—	—	—	—	—	Agency is only revived during strikes and stand outs in the Coal Trade.	
Merioneth -	Betheloir Council School -	Promises and coal free	P.	1d. per week.	Any who like.	Cocoa Room	D.	Jan. to March.	6	—	—	30 to 50 daily.	No accounts kept.	—	—	
Pembroke -	Nevern Council School -	No - - - - -	P.	1d.	All who like.	School	D.	Oct. to March.	5	—	—	—	0 15 0	0 13 8	—	

No. of meals per week generally received by a child.

Total No. of individual children fed at one time or other.

No. of times per week meals given.

For how many months in the year.

* There were also gifts in kind.

† Children's payments amounted to £8 14s. 7d.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

Where are meals served?

M. = Manager, S. = Teacher.

By whom chosen.

Attendee Officers.

T. = Teacher.

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Is Agency Permanent? (P)

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Are meals free? (F) If not, what charge is made.

Are meals free? (F) If not, what charge is made.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

For how many months in the year.

For how many months in the year.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

Where are meals served?

M. = Manager, S. = Teacher.

Attendee Officers.

T. = Teacher.

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Is Agency Permanent? (P)

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Are meals free? (F) If not, what charge is made.

Are meals free? (F) If not, what charge is made.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

For how many months in the year.

For how many months in the year.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

Where are meals served?

M. = Manager, S. = Teacher.

Attendee Officers.

T. = Teacher.

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Is Agency Permanent? (P)

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Are meals free? (F) If not, what charge is made.

Are meals free? (F) If not, what charge is made.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

For how many months in the year.

For how many months in the year.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

Where are meals served?

M. = Manager, S. = Teacher.

Attendee Officers.

T. = Teacher.

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Is Agency Permanent? (P)

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Are meals free? (F) If not, what charge is made.

Are meals free? (F) If not, what charge is made.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

For how many months in the year.

For how many months in the year.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

Where are meals served?

M. = Manager, S. = Teacher.

Attendee Officers.

T. = Teacher.

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Is Agency Permanent? (P)

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Are meals free? (F) If not, what charge is made.

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For how many months in the year.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

Where are meals served?

M. = Manager, S. = Teacher.

Attendee Officers.

T. = Teacher.

Intermittent (I) New (N)

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For how many months in the year.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

Where are meals served?

M. = Manager, S. = Teacher.

Attendee Officers.

T. = Teacher.

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Is Agency Permanent? (P)

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Are meals free? (F) If not, what charge is made.

Are meals free? (F) If not, what charge is made.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

For how many months in the year.

For how many months in the year.

What meals? B = Dinner, D = Breakfast.

Where are meals served?

M. = Manager, S. = Teacher.

Attendee Officers.

T. = Teacher.

Intermittent (I) New (N)

Is Agency Permanent? (P)

II.—LONDON.

Name of Agency.		Are meals free (F)? If not, what charge is made?	By whom chosen?	J=Manager, S=School Teachers, T=School Officers.	Where are meals served?	What Meals? D=Breakfast, D=Breakfast, D=Dinner.	During what period of the year?	Total number of individual children fed at one time or other.	No. of meals per week given.	Total number of meals given.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Cost of meal.	Remarks.
II.—PRINCIPAL LONDON AGENCIES	Joint Committee on Underfed Children.													
Refugee Children's Free Breakfast and Dinner Fund	-	-	Supplies money only, provides no meals itself.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,043 7 10	-	-	See Mrs. Burrow's evidence.
London Schools Dinner Association (For details see III. below.)	-	-	Raises money and sees that funds and organisation are supplied in schools which apply for help.	-	-	789,559	1,946 12 2	1,902 10 0	14	See Sir Charles Elliott's evidence.				
Destitute Children's Dinners Society	-	-	Supplies funds to centres complying with its rules.	-	-	195,924	1,058 10 1	1,050 7 6	-	See Mr. Diggle's evidence.				
London Vegetarian Association	-	-	Provides meals free or below cost price for schools and centres which apply.	-	-	90,000	608 4 2	615 3 3	21	Of this £261 2s. 10d. came from sales of dinners, the money for which was generally obtained from one or more of the other Feeding Agencies.				
Salvation Army	-	-	Most buy Army	Hulls	B	Nov. to March	5	-	-	390 0 0	390 0 0	1	See Mr. Rowes evidence.	

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411.

East Lambeth Teachers' Association (For details see I.V. below.)	T	T S M	Centres	B and J	Nov. to April	4	7,680	2	76,110	402 10 1	389 14 5	1 13	See Mr. Libby's evidence before Physical Betterment Com- mittee.
North Lambeth Poor Children's Dinner Fund	P	T	School and Dining house	B	Nov. to Easter	5	752	5	41,712	129 19 6	118 3 2	1 13	See Mr. Meek's evidence.
Free Dinners and Breakfasts for Poor School Children of Southwark	P	T S	Centres	B	Nov. to April	4	-	-	D103,447 B 31,607	688 17 11 *	751 17 7	1 13	See Mr. Meek's evidence.
Holborn Schools Dinner and Aid Committee.	P	T S M	Schools and Centre	D	Nov. to April	3 or 4	-	-	19,421	122 8 3	110 3 0	1 1	See Mrs. Dibdin's evidence.
Cripps Children's Training and Dinner Society	2d. 1d. some p	Com- mittee.	School, Kitchen and Class-rooms.	D	All the year.	5	-	5	102,646	780 11 41	731 12 5	21	See Mrs. Wilton Phillips' Evidence. Of this £615 2s. 7d. came from children's movements and £10 from Refere Fund.
Jewish Penny Dinner Society	P, a few pay	T S M	Schools and Centre	D	Dec. to March a few whole year	4	-	-	71,718	519 0 9 *	492 7 2	-	See Mrs. Adler's evidence as to this and four agencies which follow. *Of this Refere Fund gave £70. Children's payments £33 11s. 2d.

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P

LONDON—continued.

Name of Agency.	Where are meals served?	What meals? ^{D.} = Breakfast, ^{B.} = Dinner.	During what period of the year?	No. of times per week meals given	No. of meals per week generally fed at one time or other.	Total No. of individual children fed.	Total No. of meals given	Total number of meals.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Cost of meal.	Remarks.
<i>Principal London Agencies—(cont.)</i>												
Westminster Jews Free School	-	-	children pay part	most pay a few p.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
“Family Alter” Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deptford Free Breakfast Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Albion Street Centre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Christian Men’s Union Gospel Mission (Samers Town)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Field Lane Rugged Schools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earlfield, St. Andrews	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Modest Institute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Christian Men’s Union Gospel Mission (Samers Town)	P	T	£ ⁵ s ¹⁰ d ⁰	T	Institute.	D	Due to Mirell.	-	-	-	-	-
Field Lane Rugged Schools	P	Committee.	Clarendon Hall.	D, B	Oct. to April.	D ² , B ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earlfield, St. Andrews	P	T	Mission Hall.	Institution.	D	Winter months.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Albion Street Centre	-	-	-	Centre.	D	Nov. to March.	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Fallows Centre	-	-	-	School.	D	Dec. to March.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Albion Street Centre	-	-	-	Centre.	D	Jan. to March.	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Saints, Lambeth	-	-	-	Mission Room.	D	Jan to April.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alton Street	-	-	-	School.	D	Nov. to March.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ashley Mission	P	T and Mission.	Clergy.	T	School.	D	Nov. to March.	-	-	-	-	-

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Principals' payments give

£27 1s. 9d. Figures are for

Jun. 30 to June 11 only.

Of this Referee Fund gave £7, and
children's payments £31 9s. 5d.

**Of this Referee Fund gave £8, and
children's payments £16 6s. 2d.

**Of this Referee Fund gave £8, and
Stepney Jewish Schools.

See Rev. J. Gregory Mantle's

evidence.

The Agency only worked in winter

of 1904-5.

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The returns from individual
schools and centres entered in this
part of the Appendix show grants
from the London Schools Diner
Association amounting to £1,659
10s. 1d., voluntary contributions from
other sources amounting to £809
9s. 11d., and children's payments
amounting to £73 16s. 3d. The last
two items are to some extent out
of any rate made up out of payments
received from the Referee
Fund, and we have
been able to trace £55 9s. 6d.
directly to the Referee Fund.

411.	Modest Institute	£ ⁵ s ¹⁰ d ⁰	T and Visitors.	Centre.	D	Nov. to March.	-	-	16,382	161 6 8 ⁹	163 15 3	13
	Christian Men’s Union Gospel Mission (Samers Town)	P	Workers.	Clarendon Hall.	D, B	Oct. to April.	D ² , B ¹	-	45,000	-	165 14 4	-
	Field Lane Rugged Schools	P	Committee.	Institution.	D	Winter months.	-	-	4,351	No separate record.]	-	-
	Earlfield, St. Andrews	P	T	Mission Hall.	D	Nov. to April.	-	-	10,466	90 3 9	94 1 5	1
	All Fallows Centre	P	T	School.	D	Dec. to March.	-	-	6,749	8 17 9	8 12 0	1
	Albion Street Centre	P	Committee.	Centre.	D	Jan. to March.	-	-	1,009	6 13 4	6 13 4	1
	All Saints, Lambeth	P	T and Mission.	Mission Room.	D	Jan to April.	-	-	5,250	26 1 1	26 1 1	1
	Alton Street	P	T	School.	D	Nov. to March.	-	-	2,062	13 5 5	13 5 5	1
	Ashley Mission	P	T and Mission.	Mission	D	Winter	-	-	6,400	25 1 11	25 1 11	1

LONDON—continued.

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What are the moral obligations?
Attendance (D) meters.
School = S
Teacher = T
JL = Janitors.
By whom chosen. Σ = Σ metres.

Are medals free (F) ? If not, what charge is made ?

During what period of the year.
What meals? B = Breakfast, D = Dinner.

No. of meals per week generally received by a child.	No. of individual children fed at one time or other.
11	11

Date	Number of Receipts.	Expenditure.	Cost of Meal.	Remarks.
1860	1	100	100	Meal.
1860	1	100	100	Meal.
1860	1	100	100	Meal.
1860	1	100	100	Meal.
1860	1	100	100	Meal.

Atley Road Centre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bath Street School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Battersea Park Centre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bon Jounson Centre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blundell Street	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bolingbroke Road	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonner Street	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blow Creek	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Broad Street	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buckingham Street	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Nov. to March	2	—	—	—	9,230	55	0	55	0	9	1
Nov. to April	4	399	3	7,477	39	0	0	31	4	9	1
Oct. to April	3	300	3	9,372	57	13	7½	58	0	8½	1 or ½
Nov. to April	4	160	4	7,188	32	0	0	32	11	7	D 1 B 4 D 1 B 4
Dec. to April	D 2 B 5	700	D 2 B 5	48,730	61	5	0	59	19	6	D 1 B 4
Nov. to April	4	300	4	4,320	18	7	0	19	2	1	1
Dec. to April	D 3 B 5	406	2	7,540	27	10	0	26	12	6	D 1 B 4
—	—	—	—	2,880	14	14	8	14	14	8	14
Nov. to March	4	130	2	3,610	18	15	0	18	15	0	14
Jan. to April	5	—	2	945	14	0	0	14	0	0	5

Jan. to March	—	—	—	552	2 1 5	2 1	5	1
Winter	4	—	—	459	1 0 0	19 11	6	6
Dec. to March	B 4, D 3	420	—	20,816	89 0 4	88 14 6	B 1 D 1 F 6	
Nov. to April	3	139	3	3,240	13 10 0	13 10 0	1	1½
Jan. to March	4	600	2	1,920	13 0 0	13 0 0		
Nov. to April	4	176	3	2,412 D 1,000 B	13 6 8	10 6 8	1	
Dec. to March	2	290	2	2,400	10 0 0	10 0 0	1	
Nov. to March	5	120	5	5,200	37 19 5	37 19 5	13	
Nov. to Easter	5	—	5	3,046	11 18 2	11 18 2	1	
Jan. to April	3	—	3	4,950	40 16 8	35 12 9	2	
Nov. to March	4	—	3	8,400	35 0 0	35 0 0	1	
1 year D cold weather	5	26	3	L 5,500 D 1,346	—	21 15 6	D 1½	
Nov. to March	5	22	—	403	1 10 0	1 10 0	3	
Dec. to April	2 or 3	—	1 or 2	400	4 8 0	4 8 0	2	
Dec. to April	4	—	4	2,660	8 0 0	8 0 0	3	
Nov. to April	1	—	—	3,631	21 19 11	21 19 11	14	
Jan. to Feb.	1	67	2	750	1 4 6	1 4 6	1½	

LONGNON - *Continued.*

Schools and Centres.

LONDON—continued.

Situations and Centres.

LONDON—continued.	<p>Are meals free (f.)? If not, what charge is made?</p> <p>By whom chosen? T = Teacher.</p> <p>M = Managers, S = School Attendance Officers.</p> <p>Where are meals served?</p> <p>What Meals? B = Breakfast, D = Dinner.</p> <p>During what period of the year?</p> <p>No. of times per week meals given.</p> <p>Total number of individual children fed at one time or other.</p>
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LONDON—continued.

Situations and Centres.

LONDON—continued.	<p>Are meals free (f.)? If not, what charge is made?</p> <p>By whom chosen? T=Teacher.</p> <p>M=Magazines, S=School Attendance Officers.</p> <p>Where are meals served?</p> <p>What Meals? B=Breakfast, D=Dinner.</p> <p>During what period of the year?</p> <p>No. of times per week meals given.</p> <p>Total number of individual children fed at one time or other.</p>
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LONDON—continued.

Situations and Centres.

LONDON—continued.	<p>Are meals free (f.)? If not, what charge is made?</p> <p>By whom chosen? T = Teacher.</p> <p>M = Managers, S = School Attendance Officers.</p> <p>Where are meals served?</p> <p>What Meals? B = Breakfast, D = Dinner.</p> <p>During what period of the year?</p> <p>No. of times per week meals given.</p> <p>Total number of individual children fed at one time or other.</p>
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LONDN—continued

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LONDON—continued.

§. See Mr. Meek's evidence.

Rev. Mrs. Williams' Influence,

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Wilmington Sphere, Clerkenwell	-	Church workers	Mission	D	Nov. to March	2			7,806	68	0	10	68	0	10	
St. Thomas's, Bethnal Green	-	Id., very few	Visitors	School	D	Dec. to April	2	—	3,715	33	7	1	33	1	8	
Lambland Flax Mission	-	Id., very few	Id., Missionary	School	D	Nov. to April	2	—	11,660	61	0	0	81	7	0	
Hope Mission, Bunner Street	-	Id., very few	Id., Missionary	Mission	D	Oct. to March	2	—	3,000	31	13	7	
St. Philip's Institute, King's Cross Road	-	Id. or P.	...	Institute	D	Nov. to March	2	—	4,068	31	13	7	31	13	7	
Shop Street Council School	-	Id. when possible	T	Parish room.	D	Winter months	3	—	3,778	28	8	1	29	8	11	
St. Stephen's, Haggerston	-	Id. or Id.	T	Parish room.	D	Nov. to March	2	—	4,020	37	2	4	36	11	9	
Mission Hall, Nile Street, Hoxton	-	P, Id.	T	Mission Hall.	D	Dec. to April.	2	—	3,909	40	3	5	40	3	5	
Vincent Street Mission	-	P, most pay Id	T, M.	Mission Hall.	D	Dec. to March.	2	—	5,800	40	18	1	36	11	8	
Clover's Walk Free School	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	0	10	38	0	10	
St. Saviour's Lodge, Haggerston	-	Id.	Visitors.	Mission.	D	Winter months.	2	—	1	4,271	34	15	11	—	25	
St. Paul's, Shadwell	-	Id.	—	School.	D	Nov. to March.	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	
St. Mary's, Charterhouse	-	—	Payments made.	Mission.	D	Nov. to April.	2	—	—	3,410	35	14	6	35	2	3
Shaftesbury Welcome, Battersby	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No return furnished	—	—	—	—	
St. Stephen's Mission Room, East India Road.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No return furnished	—	—	—	—	

LONDON—continued.

Schools and Centres.		What meals? ^B = Breakfast, ^D = Dinner.		Where are meals served?		Are meals free (F)? If not, what charge is made?		By whom chosen? ^M = Managers, ^S = School Officers, ^T = Teacher.		D=What period of the year.		No. of times per week meals given.		Total No. of individual children fed at one time or other.		No. of meals per week fed generally.		Cost of meal.		Expenditure, of meals.		Receipts.		Total number of meals.		Remarks.	
Distitute Children's Dinners Society —(cont.)	Rev. C. B. Carter, City Road.	—	Shop.	D	Nov. to March.	2	2	4,500	£22 0 0	22	0 0	2	2	4,500	£22 0 0	22	0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
St. Catherine's Rotherhithe.	P, ^{1/2} d.	T	Mission.	D	Dec. to March.	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,634	45 13 4	47	15 9	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	
Camberwell Mission and Ragged School	P, ^{1/2} d.	T and Missionary.	Mission.	D	Nov. to March.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,578	26 7 7	27	0 0	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	
Ogle News Ragged School	1d.	All who desire it.	School.	D	Nov. to March.	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,171	98 11 10	116 11 10	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26		
Borough Market Mission	1d, ^{1/2} d.	None required.	Mission.	D	Dec. to March.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,183	31 1 1	27 17 6	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14		
Christ Church, Peoge	1d, ^{1/2} d, a few ^{1/2} d.	—	Mission Hall.	D	Dec. to March.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17 6 2	19 4 1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
St. Stephen's, Southwark	Some pay.	T, and Visitors.	School.	D	Nov. to May.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,997	102 7 1	102 7 1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
St. Mary's, Haggerston	Half ^{1/2} d.	Com. Committee.	Parochial Rooms.	D	Nov. to April.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,200	59 4 9	67 7 10	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13		
St. John's Mission, St. George's in the East	1d.	Half ^{1/2} d.	Mission House.	D	Nov. to March.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,542	44 4 9	48 14 11	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		

St. Mary's Mission, Plumstead	1d, ^{1/2} d, a few ^{1/2} d.	Mission Hall, workers.	Mission Hall.	D	Nov. to April.	2 or 3	—	—	2	21,500	119 11 6	119 11 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. John the Evangelist, Westminster	F, ^{1/2} d.	Mission woman.	Mission.	D	Jan. to April.	3	160	3	1	1,694	15 9 4	15 1 3	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Working Men's Hall, Lansdowne Place	Some ^{1/2} d.	T, workers.	Working Men's Hall.	D	Nov. to April.	1	—	—	1	12,380	81 15 1	76 14 0	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Saints', Haggerston	1d, ^{1/2} d, a few ^{1/2} d.	T	School.	D	Jan. to March.	2	400	2	2	6,438	43 13 5	43 13 5	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tidley Street School, Bow Common	Pay when possible.	T	Soup Kitchen.	D	Winter months.	4	194	3 or 4	1	12,371	9 5 11	9 5 11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
IV.—SCHOOLS AND CENTRES ASSISTED BY EAST LAMBETH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.																									
Arthur Street Children's Breakfast Fund	F, ^{1/2} d.	Committee.	B	Nov. to March.	2 or 3	—	—	2 or 3	—	4,391	27 16 10	23 18 0	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waterloo Street Children's Penny Dinners	—	—	Waterloo Hall.	D	Jan. to March.	2	—	—	—	5,706	26 19 11	27 3 10	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Edmund Street Mission	T	Visitors.	Edmund Street Hall.	B	Feb. to March.	1	—	1	1	305	1 16 10	1 16 10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Children's Mission, Dalwood Street	F	—	Mission Hall, B, Tea Supper.	D	Dec. to May.	3	—	—	—	10,160	16 9 3	18 4 10	B 1 T 2 Sup. 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Primitive Methodist South-East London Mission	F	T	Centre.	B	Nov. to March.	3	—	1	1	26,506	220 0 0	220 0 0	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The returns from these five centres show grants amounting to £1,738 from the East Lambeth Teachers' Association, other voluntary contributions, and children's payments £4 2s. 7d.

III.—COUNTY BOROUGH.

Local Education Authority.	Name of Agency.	During what period of the year?										Cost of Meal.	Remarks.
		What meals?	D. ^l —Dinner.	B. ^l —Breakfast.	Where are meals served?	Total, No. of meals per week given to children fed at one time or another.	Number of meals received by a child fed at one time or another.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.	
Bath	Children's Meals Committee.	N. P., but a few pay $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	P.	P.	Schools	1. Winter months	3	30,000	189 14 10 ¹	187 11 11 1 ¹	6	6	*In one mixed school of 300 every child is fed. Children's payments were £15 10s. 8d. ¹²²
"	Christ Church School	No	P.	M. T.	School	1. Nov. to April	2	—	—	—	—	—	See Mr. Foster's evidence. Expenses guaranteed by Distress Fund.
Birkenhead	Children's Relief Committee.	Members of L. E. A. on Committee, gas, clerical assistance free.	N. P.	P. S.	Centres	1. Dec. to March	4 1,800	4	48,196	198 13 1	198 13 1 38	6	See Dr. Ainsley's evidence (Physical Examination Report).
"	Ladies' Penny Dinner Society.	No	P.	P. S.	Soup Kitchen	1. Due to March	6	—	5 1,251 3	56 3 4	51 16 0 1	1	See Mr. Hookham's evidence. He pays whole cost.
Birmingham	Cheap Dinner Society	Premises free, members of L. E. A. on Committee.	P.	P.	Schools	1. Nov. to Easter	5	4 on average.	249,898	272 9 2	345 3 6 1	1	See Mr. Hookham's evidence. He pays whole cost.
"	Mr. Hookham's Charity	Premises for meals	P.	P.	Schools	1. Whole year	5	—	320,000	1,380 0 0	1,380 0 0 1	1	See Mr. Hookham's evidence. He pays whole cost.
Blackburn	All Saints' Rugged School	No	P.	P.	School	1. Winter 3 or 4 months	4	—	3,861	—	—	—	No separate accounts.
"	Bent Street Rugged School	No	P.	P.	Open.	1. Nov. to March	2	—	17,000	—	—	—	No separate accounts.
"	St. Peter's Poor Children Fund.	No	P.	P.	Schools	1. Oct. to Feb.	2 on 3	—	2 or No record ²	£1 to £5	£1 to £5	1	*About 60 children per day receive him only.

411.	Bolton	During what period of the year?										Cost of Meal.	Remarks.	
		What meals?	D. ^l —Dinner.	B. ^l —Breakfast.	Where are meals served?	Total, No. of meals per week given to children fed at one time or another.	Number of meals received by a child fed at one time or another.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.		
Bottle	Queen Street Mission	Premises, gas, offices and clerical assistance free.	P.	P.	T. S.	Schools and Mission Centres	4	—	4 132,000	619 18 4	619 18 4	1	See Mr. Wilkinson's Evidence.	
"	Hungry Children's Fund - St. Winifred's R.C. School	Premises free	I. P.	I. P.	T. & M. T.S. Guild, C.O.S.	Schools and Centres	5	—	13,803	33 12 6	33 12 6	—	A few pay Ad. providing about £4.	
Bradford	Joint Committee of the Education Committee, Cinderella Club, and the City Guild of Help.	Members of L.E.A. on Committee; premises, gas, offices and clerical assistance free	N. P.	N. P.	T.M.	Parechial Hall	5	—	5,138	16 0 0	16 0 0	—	See Mr. Priestman's Evidence. Figures are for period Jan. 1st, to June 3rd, 1905.	
Brighton	Free Meal Society	Premises and gas free	N. P.	N. P.	T. Sani- tary officers, Ladies of C.O.S., Police, T.M.	Centres	6	—	222,581	3,200 0 0 (Mayor's Fund for food and clothing)	1,378 0 0	1	See Mr. Lindsey's Evidence.	
"	St. Martin's School	No	P.	P.	Vicarage	B. Oct. to May	5	—	47,186	294 8 8	294 8 8	1	14 *There were also gifts of food. Children's payments were £5 8s. 2d.	
Bristol	Children's Help Society	Premises and gas free in a "Special" Schools only. Members of L.E.A. on Committee	P.	P.	B free workers' Mission Halls and other rooms	B & D B. Jun. to March D. Whole year	5	—	B 4 B 29,514 D 5 D 29,126	310 5 4	406 13 10 B 12	1	See Miss Norris' Evidence. Children are practically in special schools only. Children's payments for them were £50 13s. 1d.	
Bristol	St. Jude's - Education Committee	No	P.	N. P.	Society	B Nov. to March	4	160	4	5,497	28 19 3	28 19 3	2	14 *See Mr. Lindsey's Evidence.
Burton-on-Trent	Industrial and Rugged School Society	Members of L.E.A. on Committee, and gas free. Members of L.E.A. on Committee, gas free	I. P.	P.	Schools	B Dec. to Feb.	5	2,700	5	13,520	78 2 5	78 2 5 13	1	Men are confined to children attending Bishop Gratiot's Memorial School. Broken food is given free.
Croydon	Mayor's Fund for Underfed Children	Members of L.E.A. on Committee; premises, gas, offices, etc., free	P.	P.	T.S. Reviewing officer and C.O.S. officer, T.	Schools and Centres	5	about 80	—	16,800	—	20 0 0	1	14 *See Mr. Lindsey's Evidence.
Derby	Children's Relief Committee	Members of L.E.A. on Committee; premises, gas, offices, etc., free	I. P.	I. P.	Schools and Centres	D. Nov. to Feb.	5	—	54,212	272 12 4	284 15 0	1	14 *Children's payments were £3 10s. 5d.	

COUNTY BOROUGHS—continued.

Leicester	Citizen's Aid Society	Premises and gas free	-	N.	F.	P. and Society.	Schools	B	Dec. to March	6	—	6	200,431	525 10 4*	525 10 4	3	
Lincoln	School Attendance Committee, (Unofficially)	Recognised	-	-	N.	F.	P.M.S.	Schools	B	Oct. to March	5	216	5	5,119	25 15 0	18 8 7	5
Liverpool	Food and Betterment Association.	No	-	-	P.	F., some paid.	T.	Central Cookery Centre and Schools	D	Whole year	5	—	—	200,000	No return given	1,200 0 0	4
Manchester	Education Committee (Unofficially)	Members of I.E.A. on Committee, premises, gas, offices, etc., free.	No	-	P.	F., some id.	T.S.	Schools	D	Nov. to March	5	2,300	5	123,736	575 12 4	573 15 10 11	*Children's payments were £67 ss. 2d. See Mr. Wyatt's and Miss Dendy's evidence.
Middlesbrough	Head Teachers' Association	No	-	-	I.	F.	T.S.	Restaurant nearest school	D	Winter months	5	—	—	10,390	43 5 10	43 5 10	1
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Children's Benevolent Fund.	Members of I.E.A. on Committee, premises, gas, offices, clerical assistance free.	"	-	P.	F.	T.	Schools, shops, etc.	D	Nov. to March	5	—	—	25,318	600 15 3	440 12 7	1 See Mr. Goddard's evidence.
"	Walker Relief Committee	Premises free	-	-	I.	F.	T.	Schools	D	Winter months if necessary	7	—	7	31,135	428 6 10*	171 4 2	1 *Relief is given adults as well as children.
"	West End Relief Committee	Recognised	-	-	P.	F.	P. Committee.	Central Premises	D	Winter (Sunday, Bank Holiday, & Saturday)	6	150 1 or 2	14,651	82 3 5*	91 16 4	1½ *In addition to gifts in kind.	
"	Newcastle and Gateshead Reserve Agency and Holiday Association	Premises and gas free	-	P.	F.	T.	School and Centre	D	Periods of distress	6	—	—	—	16,014	No separate accounts	1 See also Gateshead.	
"	St. Mary's R.C. School	No	-	-	I.	F.	T.	Room at school	D	Nov. to June	5	150	3	5,900	10 0 0	10 0 0	In addition to gifts in kind.
Northampton	Salvation Army	No	-	-	I.	F.	Army Barracks	B	Nov. to March	6	—	6	67,487	430 0 0	420 0 0	1	
Norwich	Free Dinners for Necessary Children.	Premises, gas, oilless free	I.	F.	T.	Schools and Cookery Kitchens	D	Winter 5 months or 3 others	500	3	40,000	220 0 0	220 0 0	1 See Mrs. Pillows evidence.			

"There are some schools in Liverpool where meals are supplied from other sources than the Road and Betterment Association.

COUNTY BOROUGHHS—continued.

Local Education Authority.	Name of Agency.	Is Agency recognised or assisted by Local Education Authority.										Where are meals served?	What meals?	D.	Dee. to Feb.	Total number of meals.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Cost of Meal.	Remarks.			
		I.	F.	T.S.	Schools	D.	5 in some, 3 or 4 in others.	204 11 5	£. s. d.	204 11 5	1.14												
Nottingham	General Purposes Sub-Committee of Education Committee	Members of L.E.A. on committees, premises, gas, offices, clerical assistance free.	N.	F.	T.S.	Schools	D.	—	—	42,708	42,708	—	No. of meals per week fed at one time or mother.	No. of meals fed by a child.	No. of meals per week fed by a child.	5 in some, 3 or 4 in others.	204 11 5	£. s. d.	204 11 5	1.14	A few voluntary agencies provide breakfasts in connection with the poorest schools.		
Oldham	Free Meal Section of Education Committee	Members of L.E.A. on premises, gas, offices, clerical assistance free.	N.	F.	T.S.	Schools	D.	Whole year.	5	—	38,000	379 10 3	280 16 11	1.14	School caretakers provide breakfasts for children in want.	Figures are for period from January to April only. Children's payments amounted to £48 6 2.	5 in some, 3 or 4 in others.	204 11 5	£. s. d.	204 11 5	1.14		
"	Special Schools Dinner Fund.	Premises and gas free	N.	nearby T. and Committee	F.	T.	Soup kitchen	B. a few D.	Winter	7	—	5,740	—	67 16 2	—	During what period of the year?	—	5 in some, 3 or 4 in others.	204 11 5	£. s. d.	204 11 5	1.14	
Plymouth	Children's Dinner Fund.	No	—	—	P.	F., some pay'd. for D.	Five Central Halls, D.	Winter	6	—	23,000 13. 2,300 12.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	107 7 8 1 1 1 1	All supplied who asked; none refused.			
"	Salvation Army	No	—	—	I.	F., free, but a few pay'd. for D.	Five Central Halls, D.	Winter	6	—	23,000 13. 2,300 12.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	107 7 8 1 1 1 1	All supplied who asked; none refused.			
Preston	St. Ignatius Schools.	No	—	—	I.	F.	School.	D.	Times of distress.	6	—	1,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	107 7 8 1 1 1 1	All supplied who asked; none refused.			
Reading	Mayor's Fund.	No	—	—	I.	F.	Coffee houses	B.	Jan. to March	6	—	6	16,408	141 7 11	141 7 11	24	—	—	—	—	—	A few people subscribed chiefly in kind.	

St. Helen's	Gerald School	Is Agency recognised or assisted by Local Education Authority.										Where are meals served?	What meals?	D.	Dee. to Jun.	Total number of meals.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Cost of Meal.	Remarks.	
		I.	F.	T.S.	Schools	D.	5 in some, 3 or 4 in others.	204 11 5	£. s. d.	204 11 5	1.14										
Salford	Education Committee's School Meals Fund.	Members of L.E.A. on premises, gas, offices, clerical assistance free.	P.	F., a few paid for D.	S. T. S. D. Ad. for B. F.	Schools and Queen Street Institute.	Supper.	Nov. to March.	—	5	75 12. 77,291	294 16 11 1	280 8 8	9	—	5	75 12. 77,291	294 16 11 1	1.14	+ Children's payments were £5 9s. 1d.	
,	Chronicle Cinderella Club	No	—	—	P.	F.	S. T. S. T. Mission oiliens. L.	Schools and Mission Rooms, St. Clement's Mission.	Supper.	3	—	100,000	467 11 3	422 15 11	—	—	—	—	—	—	
"	Cinderella Fund	No	—	—	P.	F.	Hous- to-house visita- tions.	S. and Ward Com- mittee.	Nov. to March.	—	—	14,000	105 4 11	82 17 1	1	There were also gifts of food.	—	—	—	—	
"	Dock Mission, Taylorin Street.	No	—	—	P.	F.	S. and Ward Com- mittee.	Schools.	Feb. to April.	3	—	20,248	85 7 10	80 13 6	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Sheffield	Children's Breakfast Committee.	Members of L.E.A. on premises, gas, offices, clerical assistance free.	N.	F.	P.	F.	S. and Ward Com- mittee.	Schools.	Nov. to March.	5	—	177,390	1,187 7 5	843 3 9	1.14	See Mr. Moss's evidence.	—	—	—	—	
"	Grofit's School	No	—	—	P.	F.	S. and Ward Com- mittee.	School.	Sept. to May.	5	—	3	20,200	90 0 0	93 2 0	1.14	—	—	—	—	
"	R.C. Schools	No	—	—	I.	F.	S. and Ward Com- mittee.	School.	D&B. Winter	5	150 3 or 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	About 100 meals a week.	
South Shields	Children's Free Meals Fund.	Recognised	—	—	I.	F.	S. and Ward Com- mittee.	Schools.	Dec. to March.	5	—	5	43,505	—	4	171 9 8	1	—	—	Balance from previous account.	
Stockport	St. Peter's Poor Children Dinner Fund.	No	—	—	P.	F.	S. and Ward Com- mittee.	Mission Room.	Oct. to April	2	—	2	3,144	9 6 0	9 6 0	1.14	—	—	—	—	*There were also gifts of food.
Sunderland	Ayres Quay and Dentford Free Breakfast Fund.	Premises and gas free	P.	F.	P.	F.	S. and Ward Com- mittee.	Schools.	Jan. to April	4	—	4	19,663	141 16 1	120 5 10	1.14	—	—	—	—	
"	Central Free Breakfast Fund.	No	—	—	P.	F.	S. and Ward Com- mittee.	Coffee houses.	Dec. to March.	6	—	6	12,000	65 0 0	65 0 0	1.14	—	—	—	—	
"	St. John's Children's Breakfast Fund.	No	—	—	P.	F.	S. and Ward Com- mittee.	Parish Room.	Dec. to March.	4	450	3	10,753	67 19 3	49 17 8	1	—	—	—	—	
"	Monkwearmouth Bairns' Fund.	No	—	—	P.	F.	S. and Ward Com- mittee.	Salvation Army Barracks.	Jan. to April or both.	5	950	7	26,244	210 14 1 1	141 15 0	1.14	—	—	—	—	
Tynemouth	North Shields Distress Fund.	No	—	—	N.	F.	S. and Ward Com- mittee.	Centres.	Winter D. 1/2 (weekdays).	685	3	16,500	200 0 0	150 0 0	D 1 B 2	—	—	—	—	—	

COUNTY BOROUGHS—*continued.*

Local Education Authority.	Name of Agency.	Is Agency recognised or assisted by Local Education Authority.	Where are meals served?		What meals? ^D =Breakfast, ^D =Dinner.	What times?	During what period of the year.	No. of times per week meals given.	Total number of meals.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Cost of Meal.	Remarks		
			By whom chosen.	Attendance Officer.											
West Hartlepool	Yarmouth	No - - - - -	P. F.	T.	Cafes.	D.	Winter	3	15,000	120 0 0	100 0 0	d. 1	†Children's payments were £7 11s. *There were also gifts of food.		
Wolverhampton	Whitall	- - - - -	P. F., a few pay'd.	T.	Schools	D. & D.	Winter vari- ies 3-5	3	100,000	207 19 0†	209 10 0*	d. 2	*Sufficient balance re-mained from a previous fund.		
West Bromwich	Mayor's Relief Fund	- - - - -	I.	T. and Ward Com- mittees	Schools	B.	Dec. onwards	5	--	7,000	--	* 30 0 0	1	†Children's payments were £1 12s. 6d.	
West Bromwich	Poor Children's Dinner and Clothing Fund.	- - - - -	P.	P., some pay'd. for I.	Schools	B. & D.	Nov. to March	5	-	110,962 D. 55,430 1s.	1,151 1 0†	526 5 4	D 8 B 7	†Of this sum £113 was paid by children and parents.	
Wales.	Salway Place School	- - - - -	N.	P., very few pay'd, or I.	T.	Soup Kitchen.	D.	5	85	3,654	46 0 3†	46 0 3	1½	†Children's payments were £1 12s. 6d.	
West Hartlepool	Charity Organisation Society; Children's Relief Fund	- - - - -	P.	T. S.	Schools.	B.	During distress.	6	-	44,000	311 10 5	311 10 5	17	Clothing is also pro- vided.	
Wolverhampton	School Board Breakfast and Dinner Committee	- - - - -	P.	F.	Coffee houses.	B.	Winter	5	--	38,650	433 12 11	235 15 10	1½		
Worcester	Education Committee	- - - - -	P.	-	Coffee Tavern.	B. & D.	Nov. to April	5	30	-	370	--	3 7 3 2½		
York	Poor Children's Dinner Fund	- - - - -	P.	F.	Schools	D.	Jan. to March.	3	--	-	29,126	175 8 7	175 8 7	1½	
Cardiff	Poor Children's Breakfast Committee	- - - - -	P.	F.	Taverns and Mis- sion Halls.	D. & few B.	Nov. to April	5	--	-	21,790	93 12 7	83 8 11	1	
Swansea	Poor Children's Breakfast Committee	- - - - -	P.	F.	Ragged Schools	B.	Dec. to March	2	--	22,000	128 3 1	128 3 1	1½		

IV. BOROUGHS.

Local Education Authority.	Name of Agency.	Is Agency recognised or assisted by Local Education Authority.		Where are meals served?		What Meals? ^{D.} =Dinner, ^{B.} =Breakfast.		No. of times per week meals given.		Total number of meals.		Receipts.		Expenditure.		Cost of Meal.		Remarks.		
		N.	P.	T.	Schools	B.	Winter months	5	—	4,200	£ 38 0 0	£ 18 0 0	s. d.	£ 18 0 0	s. d.	£ 18 0 0	s. d.	£ 18 0 0	s. d.	
Bridlington	Hungry School Children's Fund.	Premises, gas, offices and clerical assistance free	N.	P.	S. Committee.	Salvation Army Hall.	Dec. to March.	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Brighouse	Education Committee (Unofficially)	Offices and clerical assistance free	N.	P.	T.	Schools	D.	108	5	2,712	20 1 7	20 1 7	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Burslem	District Committee	Premises and offices free	P.	P.	T.	Winter months	3	—	—	*No record	No record	No record	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Bury St. Edmunds	Cookery Centre	Premises free	N.	P.	T.	Centre	D.	Winter months	4	—	—	100 per wk.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Carlisle	Children's Aid Society	Premises free	N.	P.	T.	Centres	D.	Dec. to March	5	—	5	18,690	48 13 6*	57 6 6	4	4	4	4	*Also gifts of food.	
Cheltenham	Milson Street Council School.	Premises, Coal free	P.	P.	T. and Committee.	School	D.	Nov. to March	6	—	—	6,403	23 13 0	23 13 0	3	3	3	3	30 children chosen in turn receive free dinner, the rest pay £1 9s. 4½d.	
Chesterfield	Poor Children's Food Fund	No	—	—	—	N.	P.	Eating Houses	D. & few B.	Winter months	6	—	—	9,333	11 2 12 8	80 13 9	2	2	2	The fund is managed by the chief constable of the borough.
Congleton	Relief Association	No	—	—	—	P.	P.	Committee.	School or Centres	D. & B.	Six winter months.	6	—	6	7,317	—	45 14 7	1 6	1 6	1 6
Long Eaton	Waggs Street Wesleyan School.	No	—	—	—	I.	F.	T.	School	B.	Nov. to Dec.	5	12 to 5	5	336	—	1 8 0	1	1	1

BOROUGHS—continued.

Local Education Authority.	Name of Agency.	Is Agency recognised or assisted by Local Education Authority.	Where are meals served?			No. of times per week meals given.	Total Number of Meals.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Cost of meal.	Remarks.
			During what period of the year?	What meals?	When meals served?						
Chewo -	Mayor and Mayoress' Children's Fund.	No - - -	I. P. Committee.	Schools & Centres.	B. Dec. to March	5	62,610	615 8 3	457 14 3	1 1/4	Books and clothing were also given.
Dover -	Unemployed Relief Fund.	Promises and gas free -	I. P. T.	Centres D., B. to a few	2 to 5	36,724	943 0 0	205 0 0	13	1/3	† The fund is used for other purposes besides children's meals.
Dukinfield -	Town Council's Committee	Members of L.E.A. on Committee, offices and clerical assistance free.	I. P. T. and Committee.	Schools & D. & B. Pub.	5 -	10	6,460	-	†	35 11 6	3 † Town Council put £50 at the Committee's disposal. There were also subscriptions.
Eccles -	Breakfastless Children's Fund.	Members of L.E.A. on Committee; premises, gas and offices free.	I. P. T.	Schools & Coffee Tavern	B. Dec. to Feb.	5	500	5	15,116	56 8 5	52 15 2
Folkestone -	Children's Dinners -	No - - -	P. generally.	Distress Committee.	D. Jan. to March	4	-	12,408	-	†	61 14 8 11 † Amount of children's payments not stated.
"	North Council Schools -	Premises and gas free -	P. generally.	M. School	D. Jan. to March.	3	-	4,619	18 17 7	18 17 7	1 Children's payments were £5 4s. 7d. There were also gifts of food.
"	Mr. Wimpole's Fund -	No - - -	I. P.	Centre & Schools	D. Dec. to April	6	-	12,000 to 14,000	-	27 0 0	-
"	St. Eanswythe's Mission -	No - - -	P. T. id.	Mission Room.	D. Jun. to March	4	-	3,438	20 4 7	20 4 7	-

Gravesend -	Hugged School	No - - -	P. P. T.	School	B. & D. Nov. to April	5	76 17 2	55 19 7	-	-	-
Harrow	Unemployed Committee	-	P. P. T.	Schools	B. & D. Winter months	301	-	-	1/3 12,540 1/3 9,400	7,092	9 5 7
Jarrow -	Children's Breakfast Fund	-	P. P. T. & S.	Central Hall	B. Nov. to April	6	-	6	85,637	317 17 6	317 17 6 9
"	Relief Committee -	-	P. P. T. & S.	Schools & Hull	D. Nov. to May	5	-	5	104,705	510 1 2	490 10 2 11
Koighley -	Cinderella Club -	No - - -	P. P. T. S.	Centre or College Houses	D. and Tens	400	-	11,623 D. 646 Tens	120 9 7	87 18 11	1/3 1/2
Lancaster -	The Mayor's Free Breakfast Fund -	No - - -	I. P. T.	Emptv. Factory	D. Feb. to March	6	-	17,559	320 0 0	320 0 0	3 or 1/2
Macclesfield	Relief Committee -	No - - -	I. P. T.	School	D. Winter months	5	-	7,000	119 3 11	90 18 2	1/2
Margate -	Penny Dinners and Clothing Club.	Members of L.E.A. on Committee, premises and fitting free.	P. T. a few id.	Schools	D. Winter months	5	-	14,013	80 0 0	77 15 6	1/2
Middleton -	Poor Scholars Free Dinner Committee.	Members of L.E.A. on Committee, premises, fitting offices and clerical assistance free.	P. T.	Municipal Buildings	D. Jan. to March	5	-	5	9,342	58 14 5	58 14 5 1/2
Newcastle-under-Lyme	Christians' Dinner Committee.	No - - -	P. F. Committee	Six weeks in Winter	B. Centre	3	-	3	4,000	45 0 0	45 0 0 2/3
Penzance -	Charity Organization Society.	No - - -	P. F. Society	Cocoon and Eating Houses	D. Nov. to April	5	-	3	1,762	21 0 0	21 0 0 2/3
Scarborough	Amicable Society -	Premises and fitting free -	P. T.	School	B. Winter	5	-	5	40 or 50 a day	-	-
Shrewsbury	All Saints' School -	No - - -	I. P. District Visitors	B. D. Winter a few	7	† 5 to 7	-	-	-	1/2	† About 20 children were fed.
"	St. Mary's R.C. School	No - - -	P. F. T. M.	School	Milk and bread	-	-	-	32 13 7	2 3 0	-
Southend -	Winter Committee of Education Committee -	Members of L.E.A., on Committee	P. F. T.	Schools	-	-	-	-	-	-	The bulk of the money collected was spent on locusts.

BOROUGHS--continued.

Local Education Authority.	Name of Agency.	Is Agency recognised or assisted by Local Education Authority.									
		Where are meals served. By whom chosen. M. = Managers. S. = School Attendance Officers. T. = Teachers. D. = Breakfast. B. = Dinner. What meals? D. = Dinner. B. = Breakfast. During what period of the year? No. of times per week meals given. Total number of individual children fed at one time or another. Total number of meals per week generally received by a child. Number of meals per week generally received by a child. Cost of meal. Receipts. Expendi- ture. Cost of meal. Remarks.									
Stafford	Penny Dinner Fund	No	-	-	P.	F. a few paid.	T.	Centre	D.	Dec. to March	5
Studybridge	Mayor's Relief Fund	-	-	-	I.	F.	T.	School	B. and Tea	March to August	5
Tiverton	Chevithorne School	-	-	-	P.	Any who desire it	School	D.	Winter	5	10
Tunbridge Wells	Viney Street School	-	-	-	P.	All who desire it	School	B.	Winter	3	40
"	St. John's District	-	-	-	P.	F.	T.	Soup Kitchen	D.	Winter	2
Wedgesbury	Poor Children Breakfast Fund.	P.	F.	T.	Schools	B.	Winter	6	-	6	7,000

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WELSHES:	Wales:	Moxley and Darlaston Free Meals Fund.									
		E.	T. Com- mittee	Centre	B. & D.	Dec. to March	B.6 D.2	6	5,026	54 4 9	54 4 9
Wedgesbury	Weymouth	No	-	-	I.	P. some paid 4d.	Army Bu- racks	2	-	3,000	17 0 7
"	Weymouth	No	-	-	I.	P. some paid 4d.	Army Bu- racks	10 to 12 weeks in winter	3,207 paid 6,656 P.	31 19 10	30 17 5
Wrexham	National Schools	No	-	-	I.	F. some 1d. or 2d.	School	5	-	-	4

411.

WELSHES:	Wales:	Weekly Journal and Salva- tion Army.									
		E.	T. Com- mittee	Centre	B. & D.	Dec. to March	B.6 D.2	2	3,000	17 0 7	15 15 6
Wedgesbury	Wales:	No	-	-	I.	P. some paid 4d.	Army Bu- racks	-	-	-	—

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V.—URBAN DISTRICTS.

Local Education Authority.	Name of Agency.	Is Agency recognised or assisted by Local Education Authority?	Where are meals served?		What meals? B.=Breakfast. D.=Dinner.	No. of meals per week given to children fed at one time or other.	Total No. of individual children received per week.	No. of meals given to a child.	Total No. of meals given per week generally received by a child.	No. of meals per week given to children fed at one time or other.	Cost of Meal.	Remarks.
			Total	Expenditure.		Receipts.	Total number of meals.					
Aldershot	Relief Committee	-	Members of L.E.A. on Committee, premises and firing free.	C. F. Committee	Schools	B.	Winter during distress.	5	—	£ 32 13 10	£ 34 16 10	d. 2
Hilston	Distress Fund	-	Office free	I. F. T.	Drill Hall & School.	B.	Jan. to March.	4	—	4 About 500 a day.	84 12 1	1 + Boots and clothing were also given.
Edmonton	Scholars' Free Breakfast and Dinner Fund.	-	Members of L.E.A. on Committee, premises free.	P. F. Committee	B. & D. Centres	B. & D.	Winter months.	5	—	12,000 B. D. 4 19,000 D.	103 10 0	B. D. * The London "Refugee" Fund gave £40.
Enfield	Chase Side Council School	-	Premises free	I. F. T.	Cookley School.	B.	Dec. to March.	4	47	4 1,942	4 10 8	4 0 11 1
"	Children's Free Breakfast Fund, St. Marks, Bush Hill Park.	-	Members of L.E.A. on Committee, premises and clerical assistance free.	I. F. Committee	Mission Hall.	B.	Winter months.	2	—	1,200	7 1 9½	4 2 0 9
Felling	Relief Committee	-	Members of L.E.A. on Committee, premises and clerical assistance free.	I. F. T.	Centres	B. & few D.	Winter months.	6	—	6 15,384	116 8 0	100 14 10 —
Tenton	Education Committee's Poor Children's Fund.	-	Members of L.E.A. on Committee, clerical assistance free.	I. F. T.S.	Schools	D.	Nov. to Feb.	3	—	13,000	84 10 2½	61 7 8 1
Finchley	Christ Church School	-	Firing free.	N. F. a few Id.	School	D.	Winter months.	3	—	3 601	4 13 6½	1 15 11 3

Gorton	-	Temporary Relief Fund	-	I. F.	T.S.	Halls	D.	7	—	60,000 (6 or 7)	248 15 2½	135 8 4 1	
"	National School	-	No -	I. F.	—	School	B.	Dec. to Feb. then	6	—	4,163	25 0 0	25 0 0 1½
Ince-in-Makerfield	National School	-	No -	P. F.	T.	School	D.	Dec. and Jan.	3	—	7,505	16 0 0	16 0 0 —
Kettering	General Relief Committee	-	Premises free	P. F. T. & Committee	Centres	B. and T.	Nov. to Feb.	6	—	2 19,065	—	86 7 11 1½	
King's Norton & Northfield.	Selly Oak and Bournebrook Relief Society.	No -	-	P. F. T.	Institute	B.	Nov. to March	5	—	4,000	—	23 3 6 1½	
Oldbury	Free Breakfast Fund	-	L.E.A. represented on Committee, premises and firing free.	N. F.	Schools	B.	Dec. to Jun.	6	—	8,675	103 11 8	63 13 10 1½	
Penge	London City Mission	-	No -	N. F.	—	Centre	B.	Dec. to March.	4	—	7,175	39 13 2	39 13 2 —
Swinton and Pendlebury	Blue Ribbon Temperance	No -	-	I. F. Committee	Hall	D.	Winter	6	—	6 13,000	—	— 1	
Tipton	Committee of Members and Officers of Council.	-	Members of L.E.A. on Committee, premises, gas, and offices free.	I. F.	Schools	B.	Winter months.	5	—	—	—	All expenses were defrayed by 2 gentlemen.	
Tottenham	Stamford Hill Council School	-	Premises and gas free	P. F.	T. and visitors	D.	Nov. to March	5	—	5 37,765	49 4 3	48 11 3 2	
Walthamstow	Schools Free Breakfast Fund.	-	Members of L.E.A. on the Committee; premises, coal, offices, and clerical assistance free.	I. F.	T.S. Schools & Centres	B.	Dec. to April	2	—	2 21,666	124 9 5	105 17 7 1	
Willesden	United Committee for Feeding Necessities Children.	No -	-	N. F. Committee	Centres	D.	Nov. to March	5	—	5 44,950	181 10 0	181 10 0 1	
Wood Green	Soup Kitchen Fund.	-	Members of L.E.A. on Committee.	P. F. T. and Clergy	Centres	D.	Nov. to April	4	—	4 43,000	100 0 0	110 0 0 ½	
WALES:	Parry	Salvation Army	-	No -	I. F. Army Barracks	B.	Jan. to April	6	—	9,002	37 11 4½	37 11 4 1	

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* The London "Refugee" Fund gave £40.
Meals were prepared at the ordinary cookery lessons.

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† There were also gifts in kind. Children's payments were 15s. 3d.

† There were also gifts in kind. Children's payments were given.

† There were also gifts in kind. Children's payments were given.

† There were also gifts in kind. Children's payments were given.

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APPENDIX III.

(1) EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON PHYSICAL TRAINING (SCOTLAND).

VI. MEDICAL INSPECTION.

150. The defects to which we have alluded in connection with the medical data now available point to a very serious defect in our school organisation to which we desire to call special attention. This consists in the absence of any general or adequate system of medical inspection. Such a system is urgently demanded mainly for remedial objects, but also in order to make available information of the highest value both for ascertaining the facts of national physique and the means that may be adopted for its improvement, or for retarding such degeneration as may be in progress.

151. It is impossible to get beyond mere guesswork except by a steady and continuous collection of facts, and the only feasible way of getting at such facts is by weighing and measuring and carefully estimating the conditions as to health or disease, and the development and growth or decay of school children. It is only at this age that a complete examination of the population can be obtained; and for the pupils themselves, as well as for the nation, as a whole, it is of vital importance, as is shown in Part V., page 21, of our Report, that this opportunity should not be lost.

152. But there are other objects to be gained by such medical inspection. No uniform rules appear to prevail as to the granting of medical certificates of illness; as to the detection of infectious diseases and the adoption of the most efficacious means for arresting the spread of such diseases as affected by school arrangements. It is only by skilled medical inspection that defects in the organs of sight and hearing, or in mental development, or such physical weakness or state of nutrition as may demand special treatment in connection with school work can be detected. We feel convinced that some of the prevailing defects in health and physique might be very materially mitigated, if not removed, by a little timely attention, and by the careful inculcation of some simple rules of health and of the proper means of conserving physical strength and of developing physical faculties, which are now too often completely neglected or ignored. These must be taught early, if they are to become matters of habitual practice.

153. We think that sanitary inspection of a thorough and careful kind beyond what exists at present is called for. This is urgently necessary in regard to a matter to which we think it right to call special attention, viz., the too frequent neglect of the proper ventilation of schoolrooms. It is often found that, even in large and well-constructed rooms, the atmosphere is allowed to get into a condition that must be detrimental to health, and this is much more marked where the schoolrooms are inadequate to the attendance, and where they are not provided with proper means of ventilation. The question of ventilation is a difficult one, and sometimes it is found that the most modern and carefully constructed systems are not satisfactory in operation, owing to the want of expert skill on the part of those in charge of them. But it is at least certain that, while ventilation of a fairly satisfactory kind may be provided for in any properly constructed school at a comparatively moderate expense, this must be combined with proper methods of heating. Where a schoolroom is not sufficiently heated, it is plain that on a cold day, windows, and indeed every aperture by which air is normally admitted, are kept almost hermetically closed, so that good ventilation is practically impossible.

154. Defects of this kind are, we understand, carefully observed by the Inspectors on their visits to schools, and form the subject of very frequent comment and criticism. Such criticisms produce a certain effect; but it must be remembered that these visits are only occasional, and that the matter is one which requires constant care and watchfulness. The fact is indisputable, however, that even in schools constructed at great expense, and with what are considered to be highly efficient systems of ventilation, the atmosphere in which teachers and scholars spend so many hours each day is not such as can be considered consistent with healthy conditions. This can only be remedied by the exercise of constant vigilance on the part of school managers, upon whom the primary responsibility rests. We are also of opinion that much will always depend on the watchfulness of the headmaster, and it may be reasonably expected that, as questions of school hygiene come to be more generally regarded as forming an important part of a schoolmaster's training, such matters will be more and more studied, and the teacher will realise more fully than the average master or mistress of a country school does at present, that by neglecting the proper ventilation of a classroom he is endangering his pupils' health, and that attention to such a matter is as essential a part of his functions as the imparting of knowledge or the enforcing of school discipline.

155. We also desire to call serious attention to the too frequent neglect to keep the latrines and offices of the school in proper order, and to have them regularly cleaned. 'Too many teachers,' we are told, 'seem to regard extra-mural decency as beyond their province.'

156. We are informed that managers in the rural districts leave the matter, as a rule, in the hands of a local tradesman, who may have no qualification for measuring the proper standard of cleanliness and propriety. This is a matter in which very great improvement is urgently demanded, and its influence upon the general tone, as well as the health, of the pupils is obvious.

157. We think, therefore, that school authorities should have better means of obtaining adequate medical assistance in connection with their work.

158. We suggest that the medical officers of burghs and counties should, where their services can be obtained, act as referees and consulting officers to whom the School Boards within the area should be able to resort for advice in regard to special difficulties; and that, where this is not the case, special officers should be appointed for the purpose. They should receive reports from local medical officers, and, if necessary, call the attention of the school authorities to any striking features in these reports. Their remuneration might take the form of a retaining fee proportionate to area and population, perhaps not exceeding £100 a year; and in our opinion it ought to be borne by Imperial funds.

159. Next, it should be the duty of the district medical officers to visit and report upon all the schools in their district, being remunerated by a certain fee for each school proportioned to the number of scholars. They should certify as to the school being closed or re-opened on account of infectious illness: should decide on the questions

that emerge in cases of infectious disease in particular children: should furnish the certificates required in the case of children withdrawn from school: and should prepare statistical reports upon the physical condition of the pupils of the schools. They should be in touch with the school authorities, and should be paid by these authorities, although we think that a certain grant in aid of such remuneration should be paid out of the Parliamentary Vote. They should also report on special points, as occasion may require, to the county medical officer.

160. Lastly, we think that great assistance might be given to the school authorities by the appointment, to serve under the Education Department, and as supplementary to the present inspecting staff, of a certain number of Sub-Inspectors, to make occasional visits to the schools for the purpose of examining their sanitary conditions, and the health and cleanliness of the scholars. The assistance of women might often be useful in this work, so far as it regards the girls and infants, and the effect of physical training in their case.

VII. FEEDING.

161. We consider that the question of the proper and sufficient feeding of children is one which has the closest possible connection with any scheme which may be adopted for their physical, and equally for their mental, work. It is evident that among the causes which tell against the physical welfare of the population, the lack of proper nourishment is one of the most serious. The subject demands special notice, not only as regards the existing state of affairs, but still more in view of any increase of physical training throughout the State-aided schools which may commend itself.

162. A large number of important witnesses, members of the medical profession, Inspectors of schools, representatives of School Boards, teachers, and others, were questioned on this subject. They were unanimously of opinion that it was most desirable that increased attention should be paid to the feeding of children attending the State-aided schools. We entirely endorse that opinion, but, before indicating the course which we recommend, we think it right to point out some of the difficulties surrounding the general question.

163. We are aware that School Boards, as a general rule, have no power at present to deal with this question. They have no power to spend money from the school fund upon food, clothing, or lodging. Even if they make themselves the agents for supplying these, they act as a voluntary body, and not strictly under their statutory powers. There are, however, certain exceptions. School Boards may pay for board and lodging for blind, or deaf and dumb, children. Under the Act of 1872 (35 & 36 Vict. c. 62) they may establish Certified Industrial Schools, but they have never done so. Under the Act of 1893 (56 & 57 Vict. c. 12) they may establish Day Industrial Schools, and we have seen such a school in Edinburgh doing admirable work. Under the latter Act they can also contribute to a Certified or Day Industrial School and to the maintenance of any inmate of such school.

164. Put we have had here to consider a serious difficulty. The lack of power in the hands of School Boards might easily be supplied by the extension of such agencies as the Juvenile Delinquency Board in Glasgow, which acts under a special private statute, and whose good work we saw at the Mossbank Industrial School for boys. These institutions certainly give to boys or girls who come under their influence advantages as regards physical conditions which are not open to the children of independent and respectable, though very poor, parents. The contrast between the condition of such children as seen in the poorest day schools and the condition of the children of parents who have altogether failed in their duty as seen in the 'Empress' Training-Ship, at Mossbank, and in similar institutions where sufficient feeding and physical training is given, is both marked and painful.

165. The powers of School Boards might, no doubt, be increased in the direction of establishing a system of better feeding, but this raises serious questions. It is matter for grave consideration whether the valuable asset to the nation in the improved moral and physical state of a large number of future citizens counterbalances the evils of impaired parental responsibility, or whether voluntary agency may be trusted to do this work with more discrimination and consequently less danger than a statutory system.

166. Another remedy has been proposed, namely, that some simple fare—adequate to health—should be provided, and that parents should be compelled, in the absence of evidence that their children do otherwise obtain necessary sustenance, to pay something in the nature of a fee for that food, with the alternative of applying to the Poor Law authority (as they formerly did in respect of school fees) when they could not pay. Such a system would, of course, require legislation.

167. We are aware of the danger of further encroaching upon the independence of parents, and of entering upon the wide question of how far the State should go in relieving them of their primary responsibility. But we are not on that account deterred from calling attention to the necessity for better feeding, which, in our opinion, has been fully demonstrated, nor from considering a practical remedy. We have no desire to give encouragement to any inclination of the parent to abandon any of his duties and responsibilities in regard to the feeding and clothing of his children; but it must be remembered that, with every desire to act up to their parental responsibility, and while quite ready to contribute in proportion to their power, there are often impediments in the way of the home provision of suitable food by the parents. The proper selection, cooking, and preparation may often be matter of serious difficulty to many parents. It would be in many cases an inestimable advantage could regular and sufficient meals—such as broth, porridge and milk, or bread and milk—be provided at a minimum cost. The preparation and cooking of these meals, where it is found necessary to provide them, ought to be regarded as one of the charges incident to school management.

168. In like manner we think that an obligation for the proper supervision of the feeding of those who come for instruction should be regarded as one of the duties of school authorities, and that teachers should be instructed to take note of all children apparently ill-fed. Unless children receive sufficient nourishment, they cannot be expected to profit by the mental or physical training provided for them.

169. We were informed by some of the School Board representatives, notably from Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen, that in these towns the Boards co-operated in this matter with philanthropic agencies, and caused enquiry to be made, so that practically most of the necessitous cases were relieved.

170. In another case, that of country district, where the children of the ploughmen and farm labourers were the worst, a system of providing broth and bread at the school during the five winter months was carried out, with the approval of the parents. A small charge was made to cover the cost. We believe that similar attempts have been made elsewhere with much success, and we do not see why they should not generally prevail.

171. We also had the advantage of hearing the evidence of a member of the London School Board, who informed us that they recognised it as their duty to see that the children were fed, but not at the expense of the rates. For this purpose the Board appointed a special Under-Fed Children Sub-Committee, which was in touch with the various voluntary agencies, with the result that, as we were even assured by the same witness, there are now practically no cases of under-fed children attending the London Board Schools. But we are entirely of the opinion, frequently expressed

by many of the witnesses, that any scheme for the provision of meals, either for necessitous cases or as a matter of convenience, should be voluntary or self-supporting, and not fall upon the rates.

172. Accommodation and means for enabling children to be properly fed should, we think, be provided either in each school or in a centre; but, except a limited sum to provide the necessary equipment, no part of the cost should be allowed to fall on the rates. There are few or no districts where concerts or other entertainments by the school children could not be successfully organised to raise funds to meet any deficiency.

173. In this connection we are fully sensible of and thoroughly appreciate the good work which has been accomplished by individual enterprise and voluntary effort; and we strongly recommend that there should be hearty co-operation between the voluntary agencies and School Boards.

174. If the steps we have indicated, as in our opinion at present advisable, fail to effect a substantial improvement, we consider that some compulsory powers, if necessary, should be obtained for the purpose of dealing with parents on the ground of neglect, whilst, if the cause be poverty, recourse should be had to the parochial agencies of poor relief.

2. EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL DETERIORATION.

Medical Inspection of School Children.

320. It is obvious that underlying all these schemes there is need of a much more complete system of Medical Inspection in schools than has yet been attempted, and it is not therefore surprising to find that all the medical witnesses and others laid great stress upon its introduction on some recognised basis.

Eichholz,
456-464, 550-
1, 615-9.

321. Dr. Eichholz thought it was the greatest need in school organisation. On the ground of expense he would confine a general examination to the poorest schools, and considered that in London the work could be done by ten young men at £250 each. The School Board had nothing like a big enough staff, and confined their attention to cases of defective eyesight, feeble-minded children, and the medical examination of pupil and assistant teachers. Dr. Eichholz explained to the Committee the conditions observable in the children attending these poorer schools, and described the means by which medical inspection might be utilised to note and check degenerative tendencies. Children who were thought to need medical examination in better class schools would be examined on special notification by the teacher, but in the schools classified as poor the inspection would cover all new admissions and the re-examination of old cases where necessary. What follows on such a system is thus described:—

Eichholz,
463.

"The business of the school doctor is to examine children at admission when necessary, and periodically later; to make recommendations to the school authority which shall reach the parent without delay. It is for the school authority to determine how to make those recommendations effective. It is impossible that the doctor can enforce anything that he says. The way I suggest this should be done is as it is done in Frankfort and in German schools generally. They issue a slip of paper, which I suggest should be in duplicate, which says, 'Your child is suffering from so-and-so, kindly exclude him until he is fit to attend.' In England this would not suffice, as it would give the parent an excuse for not sending the child to school. We want the certificate in duplicate, so that the school attendance officer may keep its contents before the parent. The authority would issue one to the officer and the other to the parent, and the parent in this way might be dealt with according to the measure of his culpability or his powerlessness, if he did not or could not act upon it. Many cases would still need charitable aid and whatever help managers could procure. I do not anticipate that the need for punitive expedients would often arise. A few wholesome examples would effect a very rapid cure of culpable neglect."

Among the further duties of the medical inspector would be:

Eichholz,
464.

"recommendations to the local authority on general and special points of school curriculum, length of lessons, apportionment of intervals for recreation, organisation of recreation, ventilation, lighting, artificial and natural, the use and abuse of needlework, desking for children of various ages, use of slates, towels, local variations in curriculum to meet special needs."

Kerr, 853-9.
Collie, 3989-
4006, 4120-6.

322. Dr. Kerr thought that with the assistance of intelligent teachers trained in hygiene, there need not be a very great augmentation of the existing medical staff. Dr. Collie went into the matter in some detail and thought that in the first instance it would be sufficient to entrust to the teacher the duty of reporting to the medical inspector the case of any child who on admission appeared to him to be suffering from any physical or mental defect; and the medical inspector would attend occasionally to receive such reports from the teacher and examine any child who required it. He advocated the employment of doctors of experience rather than young ones, and said the late School Board staff was quite inadequate, but well qualified general practitioners might be entrusted with the inspection of eyes and teeth (and presumably ears), without having recourse to specialists. No very large staff would, in his opinion, be required. Dr. Chalmers quoted the Report of the Royal Commission on Physical Training (Scotland), and declared a medical inspection the necessary accompaniment to any system of general physical training in schools. He thought medical inspectors might be useful in matters of ventilation and health conditions generally. Dr. Niven, like Dr. Collie, would utilize the teachers in the first instance and would require them to have special training. This last indeed appears a necessary corollary to the introduction of any system of the sort. Dr. Mackenzie considered "the systematic medical inspection of schools as one of the things that is most called for at the present time," and explained with some fulness the methods he advocated. He thought the superintendence of the system might be entrusted to the Medical Officer of Health, and the inspection made on admission and periodically afterwards. The assistance of specialists on certain points would probably be required, but he agreed with other witnesses that properly trained teachers could render most useful assistance. Mr. Loch would not neglect the medical inspection of the home, "the fulfilment of an already recognised public sanitary duty," and he would have the two go together. Mr. Murphy was also among those who emphasized the need of a general medical inspection of schools.

Chalmers,
6183-6.
Niven,
6346-8.
Mackenzie,
6787-6813,
6858-69.

Loch, 10328-
33.
Murphy,
10403

323. For the reasons, then, that appear in the discussion that has occupied the preceding paragraphs of this section, the Committee consider that a systematized Medical Inspection of School Children should be imposed as a public duty on every school authority, and they agree with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Physical Training (Scotland) that a contribution towards the cost should be made out of the Parliamentary Vote. The value of such an inspection is well illustrated by the particulars given in a recent report by Mr. George Andrew, of the Scotch Education Department, on the *Gemeindeschulen* of Berlin and Charlottenburg. From that report it appears that of 2,547 children examined on admission to the schools of Charlottenburg, 321 or 12.3 per cent. were rejected as being unfit for the work of ordinary schools, and of all the children examined, 63 per cent. were described as not completely normal (*nicht völlig normal*).

324. The Committee believe that, with teachers properly trained in the various branches of hygiene, the system could be so far based on their observation and record, that no large and expensive medical staff would be necessary.

The general inspection may safely be limited to that class of school which from its character and surroundings affords clear evidence of the type of which its scholars are composed, and it should be repeated as often as the medical officer thinks necessary. In other cases it will be enough for him to examine such children as may be submitted to him by the teachers, and it would be for him to determine whether circumstances called for expert assistance. In no instance should the inspector do more than state the facts that require the attention of the parent, cases of poverty or neglect being left to the proper authorities to deal with.

325. The Committee further think that the services of the medical inspector should be at the disposal of the school authority in respect of all matters where the advice of a person skilled in the hygiene of child life may be wanted, and they look in the result to a much more intelligent handling of many of the problems with which that authority is charged.

326. Owing to the healthier conditions commonly prevailing in regard to the nurture and growth of the country population, the Committee do not think that these recommendations will have any appreciable effect in augmenting the charge for education that now devolves upon the rural ratepayers: on the contrary they are of opinion that bringing the sanitary administration of the county into touch with the schools may lead to the anticipation and prevention of many of those epidemics which are now such a fertile source of local expense.

Feeding of School Children.

327. The Committee have reserved to the end of this subsection the discussion of the question of feeding elementary school children (1) because it lies outside any direct obligation that has hitherto been recognised and (2) because some of the matter that precedes has a bearing upon its considerations.

328. Besides seeking to elicit the opinion of a large number of general witnesses on the point, the Committee sought to equip themselves for the task of formulating some conclusion by the examination of certain persons who were either called or tendered themselves to give special evidence thereon. These included Mr. W. H. Libby, Secretary to the East Lambeth Teachers' Schools Dinner Association, Sir John Gorst and Dr. Macnamara, Members of Parliament, and Dr. Osmond Airy, one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools, who for many years was chairman of the organisation for providing dinners to poor children in Birmingham.

329. Before, however, proceeding to examine the evidence on the point, it may be as well to state that the general trend of opinion was to the effect that the ultimate means of dealing with the difficulty lay in the development of those forces of social education which have been described above, and in the operation of the great body of ameliorative tendencies which would raise the general condition of the poor, and foster a sense of parental responsibility, spreading knowledge and enlightenment in their train.

330. It was nevertheless acknowledged that the evils arising from underfeeding were so widespread, and in certain localities so pressing, that some authoritative intervention is called for at the earliest possible moment to secure that the education of the children who are obliged to attend school shall not be hampered and retarded by the physical conditions thereby engendered.

331. The evidence on the specific question of the feeding of children compelled by law to attend a Public Elementary School can conveniently be treated under the following heads:—

- (a) The extent to which underfeeding prevails at present.
- (b) Existing voluntary methods of providing food.
- (c) Proposals in regard to the more systematic feeding of school children.

(a) The Extent of Underfeeding.

332. On this point Dr. Eichholz, one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools, gave very interesting evidence. In pursuance of his view, already noted, that the whole question of bad physique practically centres round feeding, he made a special investigation into the conditions of the Johanna Street Board School, Lambeth, as a type of school in a very bad district, and he considers that 90 per cent. of the children are unable, by reason of their physical condition, to attend to their work in a proper way, while 33 per cent. during six months of the year, from October to March, require feeding. He gave the Committee an estimate, based on the figures of the voluntary feeding agencies, of the number of underfed children in London. Some time ago he furnished the Board of Education with a similar estimate, in which he set down the number as 60,000; but he has since gone into the question in more detail and now estimates the number as approximately 122,000, or 16 per cent. of the elementary school population of London.

333. The London School Board expressed the opinion that there were not more than 10,000 children suffering from malnutrition; but, in Dr. Eichholz's view, this estimate is belied by the actual figures given in the Report of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children, which gives the average number of children fed per week during the weeks the feeding centres were open in 1902-3 as 22,206. His argument is that in the first place this figure only refers to children attending Board Schools; and, secondly, it is very fallacious as an index of the total number of children who are underfed, because the same children are not being fed all through the season; the result of investigation shows that on an average the centres feed three times as many children during the season as they feed on any one day, and that the number furnished as the weekly average of children fed may be taken as an index of the daily average of meals provided; and, therefore, we get 66,000 as the rough total of underfed children attending the London Board Schools. Besides this there are the children attending voluntary schools. And, as the amount spent per annum in London by voluntary feeding agencies is £6,100, and £100 spent is said to represent 2,000 necessitous children fed per season, the total estimate of underfed children in London is, roughly speaking, 122,000, or 16 per cent. of the whole.

334. This calculation obviously proceeds on the assumption that all the children fed at schools and centres would otherwise be underfed, but such observations as those of Miss M. Horn, manager under the late London School Board, in a paper recently read to the International Home Relief Congress, throw considerable doubt on the validity of the assumption.

335. Dr. Eichholz also made inquiries about Manchester, and was assured that 15 per cent. of the Manchester children are underfed. As to this, Dr. James Niven, the Medical Officer of Health for Manchester, did not give any figures, but expressed the opinion that there was a very large number of underfed children, that the child must be fed at any cost, and that no voluntary agencies could possibly cope successfully with the evil. On the other hand, Mr. Edwards, 1, 6372-8, Rees, Vicar of Pendleton, Salford, and a member of the Salford Education Committee, stated distinctly that not more than 2 per cent. of the children in Salford and Manchester come to school underfed; and in his opinion the question of

4384-9.

Ashby, 8740- malnutrition is not nearly so urgent as that of lack of proper physical training and pure air. Dr. Henry Ashby, of 1, 8748-9. Manchester, nominated by the Royal College of Physicians to give evidence on the subject of nutrition, was inclined to think that most children go to school having had sufficient breakfast; so that there is some apparent conflict of evidence as to the conditions in Manchester.

Kerr, 912-5. 336. To revert to London, Dr. James Kerr, Medical Officer to the London School Board, "does not feel as strongly on the point of nutrition, or rather want of nutrition, as most people"; but he admitted not having considered the matter as fully as Dr. Eichholz. Dr. R. J. Collie, also a Medical Inspector to the late London School Board, stated that there is "not a very large proportion of children who are actually half-starved; it is only in some districts"; but he did not give any statistics.

Close, 2636-42. 337. Of other witnesses who spoke on the extent of underfeeding, Mrs. Close, a lady who considers herself familiar with rural England, said that children are constantly half-starved when they get to school owing to the laziness and neglect of the parents. Dr. Chalmers, Medical Officer of Health for Glasgow, is now making enquiry into the proportion of underfed children in Glasgow, but had no figures at the date of giving evidence.

Mackenzie, 6977-80. 338. Dr. W. L. Mackenzie, Medical Officer to the Local Government Board for Scotland, said that in the slums of Edinburgh a large proportion of children were half-starved, and he agreed that to subject a half-starved child to the routine of school would be the height of cruelty, and the educational result would be poor. Mrs. Mackenzie, the wife of Dr. Mackenzie, gave the same sort of opinion: "the child must be fed." Mr. W. H. Libby said that a feeding agency in Lambeth coped with from 12 to 15 per cent. of the elementary school population, and in the poorest districts with from 25 to 30 per cent., which, so far as that locality is concerned, bears out Dr. Eichholz's figures. Miss Garnett, the head of the Diocesan Women's Settlement in the extremely bad district of the Potteries, attributed the faulty nourishment of the children to the neglect of the mother who goes to work in the factories; the teachers in the various schools notice that children from such homes are less able to do their morning's work; but they do not admit that the proportion of such cases is very large. Mr. C. S. Loch, Secretary to the Charity Organisation Society, did not think a large number of children were sent to school half-starved, but gave no figures. Mr. Shirley Murphy, Medical Officer of Health of the Administrative County of London, regarded the question as by far the most important before the Committee, and said "the child has got to be fed." Finally, Dr. Kelly, Roman Catholic Bishop of Ross, said that in the South of Ireland it was commonly the case that children came to school underfed.

(b) Existing Voluntary Methods of Providing Food.

Eichholz, 473, 475, 476. 339. There has not been a great amount of definite evidence on the voluntary agencies in existence. As regards London, Dr. Eichholz mentioned the following agencies which spend about £6,100 per annum collectively:—

- London Schools Dinner Association.
- Mr. G. R. Sims Referee Fund.
- Destitute Children's Dinner Society.
- East Lambeth Teachers' Schools Dinner Association.
- Southwark Children's Free Meals Fund.

The work of these agencies has been co-ordinated, so far as the Board Schools are concerned, by the Joint Committee on Underfed Children, which was worked under the aegis of the School Board and existed to prevent overlapping.

Eichholz, 482. 340. In regard to the sum contributed by the parents, Dr. Eichholz said that it amounted to 5 per cent. in the case of the London Schools Dinner Association, and 25 per cent. in the case of the Destitute Children's Dinner Society.

Libby, *passim*. 341. Mr. Libby, who is Secretary to the East Lambeth Teachers' Schools Dinner Association, gave a description of the working of the Free Meal Fund in connection with the Association. The fund has been running about twelve years, and is conducted on business lines: it is worked by the teachers through the attendance officers, and careful enquiries are made as to the circumstances of each family before a child is given a meal. There are breakfast centres and dinner centres. A child can be given a pint of vegetable soup and a piece of brown bread and a piece of cake at the cost of 1d. About 2 per cent. of the children pay the full 1d., some pay part of the cost, and the rest nothing: not more than 7 or 8 per cent. pay anything at all, but Mr. Libby thought this small percentage was due to the thing not being sufficiently worked. In spite of the fund there are still many underfed children, because there is not sufficient organisation; it is difficult to get sufficient organisation by voluntary methods.

Atkins, 2907-74, 2981. 342. Mr. J. B. Atkins, the London Editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, gave a description of the Free Feeding System in Manchester. There the funds are derived entirely from voluntary sources, but the School Board recognised the charity and the teachers helped in distributing the food, &c. The movement has grown steadily, and in 1902, 139,000 free dinners were given, at the cost of a little over £400. In this case also the circumstances of the family are fully investigated by the attendance officers, but no attempt is made to recover payment from the parents.

Chalmers, 6173-7. 343. In Glasgow Dr. Chalmers said there is an institution called the "Poor Children's Dinner Table," by means of which the condition of every child is enquired into, and meals are given to the underfed; the system is very comprehensive apparently, so that "no child in Glasgow ought ever to go to school starving," but no detailed account was given to the Committee. Sir Frederick Maurice, however, referred to the Glasgow system and stated that the difficulty as to parental responsibility had there been solved by means of a very thorough system of investigation, and that the applications for gratuitous food have diminished rather than increased.

Mackenzie, 6977. 344. Free meals are given in Edinburgh to about 2,000 children, but the evidence given by Dr. and Mrs. Mackenzie makes it doubtful whether this number by any means exhausts the number of children who are underfed.

Mrs. Mackenzie, 7005-13. 345. The most complete scheme described was started by the late Mr. George Dixon, and has now been in operation for twenty years in Birmingham with Dr. Airy, H.M.I., as chairman of the organisation. In considering the principles on which they would act it was decided in the first place that only those should be helped who could expect practically nothing if it was not given to them, and secondly that only such a meal should be given as would not compete in any way with the meal which could be provided even in a very poor home. It was next decided that cases for help should be selected with the greatest care. This is done by three different people—by the head teacher of the school, by the class teacher in whose class the boy or girl is, and by the visiting officer. The co-operation of these three, Dr. Airy states, has been so successful that he does not believe there has been 5 per cent. or anything like it of abuse. The number of children fed in normal times is 2,500 and the plan pursued is thus described:—

Airy, 13253. "We began with ten centres. We had large coppers for soup at ten centres, to which the children came from all outlying schools. The School Board allowed us in each of those centres to canvas off some twenty or thirty yards of playground, perhaps five yards wide, and the cooking was done at one end. There the soup, a good lentil soup with some animal stock, and the bread and jam, were prepared. The process was simply this: we had to do

everything to simplify matters. It had to be a rough business, but it was an effective one. The children come, and form file, and then they walk up, and as they walk up they take a spoon out of a basket and go up to where the voluntary helpers are distributing the soup. They take their bowl of soup and go on to benches on the other side of the canvassed shed and sit down and eat their soup. The moment they have done they put their basin and spoon into another basket, and as they go out they take a large slab of bread and jam, and eat that in the street. The School Board allowed us to do this without any rent, and they gave us the gas. Then the cooking of those meals is done by paid labour, but the distribution is done by the voluntary help of ladies at each centre. There is a rota at each centre and there are two ladies who attend each day. Our manager I will refer to directly—he is a most capable, suggestive man. We were very much distressed at the fact that the children would come a mile or a mile-and-a-half to eat this poor dinner, and they would come through slush and snow and wet, and we wanted to prevent that. A system of baskets was invented. There is a system of baskets at present in use by which the soup can be kept absolutely hot for more than an hour. I have tried it at both ends, and I find it is almost as hot as when it comes out of the copper. We reduced the number of centres to four or five, and now all the outlying schools send their baskets with a paper saying how many dinners they want. Those dinners are put into the baskets at a quarter to twelve or twelve o'clock, and then the staff of the school help in distributing the meals at that school."

346. The Committee have thought it worth while to print this part of Dr. Airy's evidence in the body of the report because of the remarkable economic fact with which he concludes:—

"We give that dinner, a large bowl of soup—in fact, they have two or three bowls if they like—and a large slab of bread and jam, for less than a half-penny, and in that expense is included £150 or £100 a year to the Airy, 13258. manager."

347. He attributed this result (1) to the concentration of the population that has to be helped, (2) to the good will and assistance of the local authority, and (3) to the organizing skill of "a heaven-born manager," a retired naval officer, and to the co-operation of volunteers. In addition to those dinners which provide for some $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the children of school age, breakfasts, consisting of cocoa, milk and bread, are supplied by the bounty of a private individual to the necessitous children in about twenty schools in Birmingham, as Dr. Airy believed, under similar conditions. The testimony of the teachers is unanimous, that the system pursued enables the children to do the ordinary school work, Airy, 13272, and they report that the difference is perfectly extraordinary.

(c) Proposals in regard to the more Systematic Feeding of School Children.

348. With scarcely an exception, there was a general consensus of opinion that the time has come when the State should realize the necessity of ensuring adequate nourishment to children in attendance at school; it was said to be the height of cruelty to subject half-starved children to the processes of education, besides being a short-sighted policy, in that the progress of such children is inadequate and disappointing; and it was, further, the subject of general agreement that, as a rule, no purely voluntary association could successfully cope with the full extent of the evil. Even those witnesses who were inclined to think that its magnitude had been much exaggerated, did not question the advisability of feeding, by some means or other, those children who are underfed, provided it could be done quietly and without impairing parental responsibility. The only witness who appeared absolutely to dissent from that view was the Bishop of Ross, who, while admitting an enormous number of underfed children in Ireland, deprecated any steps being taken to remedy the evil, on the ground that it would weaken the sense of self-respect and self-reliance Kelly, 1138-88. both of parent and child.

349. The purely medical view was well put forward by Dr. Robert Hutchison, a well-known authority on nutrition, nominated to give evidence by the Royal College of Physicians. He said, "looking at it purely scientifically, it would be an extremely important thing to ensure to every child at school a sufficient and proper sort of meal"; and again, Hutchison, 9973-8, "I feel certain that the provision of meals would do a great deal to improve the health and growth and development 10004-15, of the children of the poorer classes." It is worth noting, also, that he considers the ages of ten to fifteen as the most 10067-8. critical period, rather in opposition to the view expressed by some witnesses that the period of infant life is the most important. This witness further gave the Committee to understand, that a child ought to have a certain amount of nourishment during the twenty-four hours, but that it does not very much matter how you divide it up; except that it is more important to have a meal before physical exercise than before mental; and, therefore, mid-day dinner is more important than breakfast. This view is interesting, as differing from a very general opinion that no child should be allowed to come to school without sufficient breakfast. Dr. Hutchison further thought that most children require a certain amount of animal food, and pure vegetarianism is not sufficient. He spoke entirely from the medical point of view, and refused to discuss the economic question.

350. The general trend of opinion is in favour of some sort of regularised feeding in school, or at centres, exacting payment from the parents where they are in a position to pay, but giving the meal free where they are not. Thus, Mr. Charles Booth is in favour of some sort of school restaurant in every school, or connected with every school, where Booth, 992-6, food could be obtained at a minimum cost, but with no intention of giving it away; though he admitted that "in some 1128-33, cases it might be a mere charitable assistance." He is also in favour of some special industrial schools, where children whose parents culpably neglect them, could be fed and boarded, the cost to be charged upon the parents.

351. Sir Lauder Brunton thought it might be necessary to provide food at schools, and "in cases where the parents are absolutely unable to pay, food might be provided out of the poor rates"; but "every effort must be made to force Brunton, 2428, 2450-2. the parents to pay properly for the food."

352. Mr. Atkins said,

"We have got to the point where we must face the question whether the logical culmination of free education Atkins, 3000; is not free meals in some form or other, it being cruelty to force a child to go and learn what it has not strength 3006-3018, to learn."

But he agreed that the parents should be made to pay, if possible.

353. Dr. Collie thought that underfed children should be fed by means of school kitchens, and that the parents should be prosecuted for neglect: a few prosecutions would have a salutary effect. Mr. Seebohm Rowntree advocated the Collie, 9957-9, judicious feeding of school children, so as not to pauperise the parents. Mrs. Mackenzie thought the child must be fed, Rowntree, 5039-41, but there ought to be power to "arrest the wages of the parents." Miss Garnett thought the children must be fed, Mrs. Mackenzie, 7030-4. and there were other opinions to the same effect.

354. The opinion of Mr. C. S. Loch is worthy of consideration, as being presumably the official view of the Charity Organisation Society. He found fault with the existing systems of voluntary feeding, as "purely a movement against Loch, 10192-6, destitution without regard to education"; he stated his belief that no child should ever be fed without thorough investigation into the circumstances of its family, and no free meal given except in special cases, and then only as secretly 10271-6.

Murphy,
10402-11.Niven,
6349-
78, 6505-10.Gorst,
11384.Macnamara,
12376.

is possible; but he admitted the necessity in special cases. The feeding should not be at the school, though it does not appear from his evidence where it ought to be. He instanced the difficulty in former days, before the Free Education Act of 1891, of getting educational fees out of parents, and argued there would be similar difficulty in getting feeding fees. Both Mr. Loch and Mr. Shirley Murphy thought that in cases of real destitution the Poor Law Administration should always be brought into play, and not kept out by any system of free feeding.

355. Dr. Niven propounded a definite scheme for ascertaining the fact of malnutrition, for feeding the child, and enforcing parental responsibility. The teacher would be taught to note all children obviously suffering or undersized, and to report them, if diseased, to a medical officer; if underfed, to the educational authority. The director would then instruct the attendance officer to ascertain the circumstances of the family; and the subsequent feeding of the child would depend upon the facts thereby elicited. It is worth noting that any such system would in the first instance be rendered easier by an organised medical inspection of schools, a proposal, as it has been seen, very widely and generally advocated.

356. The most uncompromising advocacy of public responsibility came from Sir John Gorst and Dr. Macnamara, and as the first-named appealed to the authority of the other, it is fair to treat his proposals as put forward in the name of the two. Dr. Macnamara has based his recommendations on the following proposals of a Committee of the London School Board in 1898, which, however, do not appear to have commended themselves to the School Board of the day:—

Children attending School unfit for School Work.

(i.) It should be deemed to be part of the duty of any authority by law responsible for the compulsory attendance of children at school to ascertain what children, if any, come to school in a state unfit to get normal profit by the school work—whether by reason of underfeeding, physical disability, or otherwise—and that there should be the necessary inspection for that purpose.

Provision for Children sent to School "Underfed."

(ii.) That where it is ascertained that children are sent to school "underfed" (in the sense defined above), it should be part of the duty of the authority to see that they are provided, under proper conditions, with the necessary food, subject to the provision contained in Clause (vi.).

Supervision of Voluntary Organisations by Authority.

(iii.) That existing or future voluntary efforts to that end should be supervised by the authority.

Voluntary Effort to be Supplemented if inadequate.

(iv.) That in so far as such voluntary efforts fail to cover the ground, the authority should have the power and the duty to supplement them.

School Dinners available for all Children, and Method of Payment.

(v.) That where dinners are provided it is desirable that they should be open to all children, and should be paid for by tickets previously obtained, which parents should pay for, unless they are reported by the Board's officers to be unable by misfortune to find the money; but in no case should any visible distinction be made between paying and non-paying children.

Prosecution of Parent for culpable Neglect.

(vi.) That where the Board's officers report that the underfed condition of any child is due to the culpable neglect of a parent (whether by reason of drunkenness or other gross misconduct) the Board should have the power and the duty to prosecute the parent for cruelty, and that, in case the offence is persisted in, there should be power to deal with the child under the Industrial Schools Act.

Macnamara,
12429, 12438.Macnamara,
12425.Macnamara,
12488.Macnamara,
12468.Gorst,
11915.Macnamara,
12384.

357. Dr. Macnamara was good enough to explain to the Committee how a scheme on these lines could be brought into practical application, and gave interesting evidence as to the success claimed for similar schemes in Brussels, Vienna and Paris. Upon the plan followed in the last-named city he estimated the outside cost of its application to London to amount to £120,000. He did not believe that any serious difficulty would arise in determining what to the actual state of facts, and he was prepared to press the case against the parents who neglected their children with all the force at the disposal of the law. He advocated dealing with them by an extension of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, or under the Education Acts by enabling the school authority to recover the cost of food in the same way as fines for non-attendance are recovered. The permission to parents to have their children fed at school, if they desired it, would, it was believed, greatly facilitate the operation of such a scheme, and Dr. Macnamara agreed that where parents made use of it as a convenience it would be fair to make them pay something in excess of cost price, which would, to some extent, diminish the charge that would in the last resort fall upon the community. The weak point in the system was admitted to be the difficulty of maintaining voluntary effort and providing public help at the same moment. Sir John Gorst, it is true, said the British public is very fond of doing some part of the work of the Government for them, instancing the lifeboat service, and thought private benevolence would still come in, though the school authority should be responsible for its efficient working; but Dr. Macnamara was obliged to acknowledge that in those towns abroad where the municipality had stepped in, the flow of charity had been arrested, and he was not prepared to think his scheme could be adopted without a substantial public charge. This he would allow, subject to increased powers of dealing with a parent who could and would not pay, which he regarded as an essential part of the scheme.

358. On a general survey of the evidence, and bearing in mind the considerations which form the subject of Paragraphs 329 and 330, the Committee think that a large number of children habitually attend school ill-fed, but this number varies locally with the time of year and with the conditions of employment, and is not likely to increase—indeed they look, as they have said, with confidence to the operation of many causes towards its diminution.

359. It seems, further, that in a large number of cases voluntary organisations, with the support and oversight of the Local Authority, are sufficient for the purpose, and as long as this is so the Committee would strongly deprecate recourse being had to direct municipal assistance.

360. Circumstances, however, do arise which call for more immediate aid, and in which the School Authority, taking into account the difficulty in the way of home provision of suitable food, and the number of children who attend school habitually underfed, are willing to provide regular and sufficient meals, and in such cases the Committee agree with the opinion of the Royal Commission on Physical Training (Scotland), that "the preparation and cooking of these meals, where it is found necessary to provide them, ought to be regarded as one of the charges incident to school management."

361. By a differentiation of function on these terms—the School Authority to supply and organise the machinery, the benevolent to furnish the material—a working adjustment between the privileges of charity and the obligations of the community might be reached.

362. In some districts it still may be the case that such an arrangement would prove inadequate, the extent or the concentration of poverty might be too great for the resources of local charity, and in these, subject to the consent of the Board of Education, it might be expedient to permit the application of municipal aid on a larger scale. As a corollary to the exercise of such powers—which should be by scheme sanctioned by the Board—the law would have to be altered so as to furnish means, as was suggested in evidence, to compel the neglectful parent to take his full share of responsibility, and the Committee are sanguine that a few prosecutions to this end would have a most salutary and stimulating effect.

363. It seems probable that the best way of dealing with many of these children, whose antecedents place them definitely in the category of "retarded," is by means of special schools of the Day Industrial Schools type, in which feeding would form an essential feature, and the choice between establishing such schools or merely treating children as underfed must be largely left to the Local Authority, after considering all the circumstances, to determine.

364. The Committee, moreover, do not think that children should be made the subject of either experiment without the concurrence of the Poor Law Authorities, and the funds should be found through the machinery of the Poor Law, with all due precaution against affixing any unnecessary stigma upon the deserving parent.

365. The Committee deem that by these means the community may be protected from the consequences of the somewhat dangerous doctrine that free meals are the necessary concomitant of free education. Education is a great social need, which individual citizens are, as a rule, not able to provide for their children on a sufficient scale, but food, like clothing and lodging, is a personal necessity, which in a well-ordered society it is not inherently impossible for parents to provide; and the effort to supplement their deficiencies, and to correct the effects of their neglect, should aim, in the first instance, at the restoration of self-respect and the enforcement of parental duty.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

(39) Special schools for "retarded" children.

The Committee think that special schools of the Day Industrial School type might with advantage be established Par. 317. for the temporary treatment of children who are not up to normal school standard and are yet not so defective as to warrant treatment as "mentally deficient."

(41) Medical Inspection of School Children.

The Committee are emphatic in recommending that a systematised medical inspection of children at school should Par. 320-6, 411, 414, 421. be imposed as a public duty on every school authority, and they agree with the Royal Commission on Physical Training (Scotland) that a contribution towards the cost should be made out of the Parliamentary Vote. With the assistance of teachers properly trained in the various branches of hygiene, the system could be so far based on their observations and records that no large and expensive medical staff would be necessary. The lines on which the inspection should be conducted are laid down in paragraphs 323-326 of the Report.

(42) Feeding of Elementary School Children.

The Committee recommend that definite provision should be made by the various Local Authorities for dealing Par. 358-65. with the question of underfed children in accordance with the methods indicated in paragraphs 358-365 of the Report. The Committee, it will be seen, do not contemplate any one uniform method of procedure, but think that regard should be had to the varying circumstances of different localities. They also suggest safeguards against economic abuse.

(52) Teeth, Eyes, and Ears.

The Committee are of opinion that the care of the teeth should receive special attention in the teaching of the Par. 411, 414, 421. elements of hygiene in schools, that daily cleansing of the teeth should be enforced by both parents and teacher, and that systematic inspection of the teeth, eyes, and ears of school children should be undertaken as part of that general medical inspection which has already been recommended.

NOTE.—The references to evidence given at the side of the extract from the report of the Committee on Physical Deterioration refer to the evidence given before that Committee. The most important evidence bearing on Medical Inspection and the Feeding of Children given before that Committee was that given by Dr. Eichholz and Dr. Airy, His Majesty's Inspectors, Sir John Gorst, M.P., Dr. Macnamara, M.P., Dr. Kerr, and Mr. W. H. Libby.

APPENDIX IV.

(1) THE RELIEF (SCHOOL CHILDREN) ORDER, 1905.

TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE POOR OF THE SEVERAL POOR LAW UNIONS, AND OF THE SEVERAL OUT-RELIEF UNIONS IN
ENGLAND AND WALES:—

And to all others whom it may concern.

Whereas by certain General Orders and other Orders made by the Poor Law Commissioners, and the Poor Law Board, and by Us, the Local Government Board, Regulations have been prescribed with respect to the Relief of the Poor.

And whereas by Section 56 of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1834, it is enacted that all relief given to or on account of the wife, or to or on account of any child or children under the age of sixteen, not being blind or deaf and dumb, shall be considered as given to the husband of such wife, or to the father of such child or children, as the case may be.

And whereas by Section 58 of the said Act, it is enacted that any relief, or the cost price thereof, which shall be given to or on account of any poor person above the age of twenty-one, or to his wife, or any part of his family under the age of sixteen, and which We by any Rule, Order, or Regulation declare or direct to be given or considered as given by way of loan, and whether any receipt for such relief, or engagement to repay the same or the cost price thereof, given or any part thereof, shall have been given or not by the person to or on account of whom the same shall have been so given, shall be considered and the same is by the said Section declared to be a loan to such poor person so given.

And whereas it is expedient that such provision as is herein-after set forth be made with respect to the relief ordered or given in certain cases.

Now therefore, in the exercise of Our Statutory powers in that behalf, and in relation to each Poor Law Union, and to each Out-Relief Union in England and Wales, We do hereby Order, Declare, and Direct as follows:—

Article I.—In this Order, unless the contrary intention appears—

The expression "the Guardians" means, as the case requires, the Guardians of the Poor of a Poor Law Union, or the Guardians of the Poor of an Out-Relief Union:

The expression "the Orders and Regulations" means and includes all Rules, Orders, or Regulations made by the Poor Law Commissioners, the Poor Law Board, or by Us, with respect to the relief of the poor, and applicable for the time being to a Poor Law Union or to an Out-Relief Union:

The expression "special application" means an application made to the Guardians, directly or otherwise, or to a Relieving Officer by the Managers, or by a teacher duly empowered by the Managers, of a Public Elementary School, or by an officer duly empowered by the Local Education Authority, and having for its object the allowance of relief to a child under the age of sixteen who is in course of attendance at a Public Elementary School.

Article II.—(1.) Where a special application is made to the Guardians, directly or otherwise, and the case is not one of sudden and urgent necessity, they shall take steps to ascertain whether the allowance of relief to the child to whom the special application relates, is or is not rendered necessary by the habitual neglect of the father to provide adequate food for the child.

(2) Any relief or the cost price of any relief given in any such case in accordance with this Order shall be given or considered as given by way of loan, if the guardians are satisfied that the case is one of such habitual neglect as the aforesaid, and, if the guardians are not so satisfied, may be given or considered as given by way of loan, where the guardians determine that the relief shall be so given or shall be considered as so given.

(3) Where the Guardians determine to give relief in accordance with this Order, and where, by virtue of any provision of this Order, or of any determination in pursuance of this Order, the relief will be given or considered as given by way of loan; the Guardians shall, after making their order upon the special application, and before relief is given in compliance with their order, cause all such steps as are practicable to be taken for the purpose of notifying to the father of the child to whom the special application relates, the fact that the relief will be given or will be considered as given by way of loan.

(4) Where the Guardians determine to give relief in accordance with this Order, but the relief will not be given by way of loan, the Guardians shall, after making their order upon the special application, and before relief is given in compliance with their order, cause all such steps as are practicable to be taken for the purpose of notifying to the father of the child to whom the special application relates, the fact that the relief given to or on account of the child will be considered as given to the father.

(5) The Guardians shall not, without a fresh application, allow any relief in pursuance of this Article for a longer period than one month.

Article III.—Where a special application is made to the Guardians, directly or otherwise, and the case is one of sudden and urgent necessity, any relief or the cost price of any relief given in any such case in accordance with this Order shall be given or considered as given by way of loan, and the Guardians, at the time of making their order upon the special application, or as soon as possible after the relief is given, shall cause all such steps as are practicable to be taken for the purpose of notifying to the father of the child to whom the special application relates, the fact that the relief is given or will be considered as given by way of loan.

Article IV.—Where a special application is made to a Relieving Officer, and the case is one of sudden or urgent necessity, any relief or the cost price of any relief given in any such case in accordance with this Order shall be given or considered as given by way of loan, and the Relieving Officer shall, at the time of giving the relief, or as soon as possible after the relief is given, take all such steps as are practicable for the purpose of notifying to the father of the

child to whom the special application relates the fact that the relief is given or will be considered as given by way of loan.

Article V.—Where by virtue of any provision of this Order, or of any determination in pursuance of this Order, any relief or the cost price of any relief given upon a special application will be given, is given or will be considered as given by way of loan, nothing in the Orders and Regulations shall apply or have effect so as to require that, as a condition of the giving of the relief, the able-bodied father of the child to whom the special application relates shall be relieved only in the Workhouse, or shall be set to work by the Guardians and be kept employed under their direction and superintendence so long as he continues to receive relief.

Article VI.—The Guardians shall take proceedings for the recovery of any relief or the cost price of any relief which, by virtue of any provision of this Order, or of any determination in pursuance of this Order, is given or is considered as given by way of loan, except in any case in which the Guardians report the circumstances to Us, and We approve of their abstaining from any such proceedings.

Article VII.—Nothing in this Order shall apply or have effect in relation to any case, other than that of a child who is not blind, or deaf and dumb, who resides with his father, and whose father is not in receipt of relief, other than relief given in accordance with this Order.

Article VIII.—This Order may be cited as "The Relief (School Children) Order, 1905." Given under the Seal of Office of the Local Government Board, this Twenty-sixth day of April, in the year One thousand nine hundred and five.

G. W. BALFOUR,
President.

L.S.

S. B. PROVIS,
Secretary.

(2) CIRCULAR ISSUED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD TO BOARDS OF GUARDIANS.

Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S.W.,
27th April, 1905.

Sir,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that attention has of late been drawn to the cases of children attending public elementary schools who are without adequate nourishment.

In connection with this matter the question has been raised as to the powers and duties of Boards of Guardians and their officers in relation to children in the circumstances referred to.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF GUARDIANS.

The Guardians and their officers are, of course, only concerned with the relief of destitution, but if a child in any Poor Law Union is in fact destitute of necessary food, and application for relief is made to the Guardians or the Relieving Officer by the child or by any responsible person on his behalf, it is the duty of the Guardians, and, in a case of sudden or urgent necessity, of the Relieving Officer, to afford such relief as may be requisite, subject to the Regulations issued by the Board or their predecessors with regard to the administration of relief which are in force in the Union. And this is so, even although the parent is able to provide the food required, if in fact he fails to provide it.

The Board realise, however, that where the child resides with a parent who is able to supply the requisite food, but neglects to do so, the cost of the relief given ought in general, and especially where the neglect is habitual, to be borne by the parent and not to fall on the ratepayers. The object would be secured if the relief was given on loan, and the cost was recovered from the parent. This could not be done in all cases, but in order to meet the object in view as far as possible, the Board have issued a new Order called "The Relief (School Children) Order, 1905," dealing with relief to children in public elementary schools. Copies of the Order are enclosed, and for convenience of reference it is also printed as an Appendix to this Circular.

EFFECT OF ORDER.

The Order deals with cases where an application is made to the Guardians directly or otherwise, or to a Relieving Officer, by the Managers, or by a teacher duly empowered by the Managers, of a public elementary school, or by an officer duly empowered by the Local Education Authority, having for its object the allowance of relief to a child under the age of sixteen who is in course of attendance at a public elementary school. Such an application is defined as a "special application" by Article I. of the Order, but as will be seen from Article VII. the Order only deals with a special application made where a child to whom it relates is not blind, or deaf and dumb, and resides with his father and his father is not in receipt of relief other than relief given in accordance with the Order.

Where a special application is made to the Guardians and the case is not one of sudden and urgent necessity Article II. of the Order requires them to take steps to ascertain whether relief to the child is or is not rendered necessary by the habitual neglect of the father to provide adequate food for the child. If the Guardians are satisfied that it is, then any relief or the cost price of it given in accordance with the Order must be given or considered as given by way of loan. If, however, the Guardians are not satisfied that the relief is rendered necessary by the habitual neglect of the father to provide adequate food, it will be in their discretion to determine whether or not the relief shall be given on loan. In any case in which the Guardians decide to give relief in accordance with the Order and the relief is given on loan, it will be incumbent on them after making their Order upon the application and before the relief is given, to cause all practicable steps to be taken to notify to the father the fact that the relief will be given or considered as given by way of loan. This will afford the father an opportunity of undertaking to provide without relief all that the circumstances of the case require. If he in fact makes this provision, it will obviously be unnecessary for the relief to be given.

The Article further provides that where the relief is given otherwise than on loan, a notification shall be made to the father before the relief is given, so that in this case also the father may have an opportunity of undertaking to make proper provision for giving food to the child.

Order No. 4371
Circular.

