

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

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE

ON

Medical Inspection and Feeding of Children Attending Public Elementary Schools.

VOLUME II.—LIST OF WITNESSES. MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,
APPENDICES. AND INDEX.

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



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AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

VOLUME II.

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COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL INSPECTION AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN.

SUGGESTED HEADS FOR EVIDENCE.

[N.B.—The following suggested heads for evidence were drawn up by the Committee in hope that they might be of service to witnesses, as giving some idea of different points upon which the Committee desired to obtain information. Evidence was not of course confined to these points. It will be found that the headings and numbers correspond to those given in the various *précis* of evidence, which are often printed at the commencement of a witness's evidence. This remark applies equally to the Memoranda on Medical Inspection printed in Appendix V.]

I.—MEDICAL INSPECTION.

A.—Staff.

1. Is there a School Medical Officer?
 - (a) Is he appointed solely for purposes connected with Public Elementary Education? or has he other duties under this or other Local Authorities?
 - (b) Does he also engage in private practice?
 - (c) What portion of his time does he give to educational duties connected with Schools?
2. Are nurses employed for supervision and care of health of children?
 - If so (a) Are they engaged for their whole time? or
 - (b) Only for a certain limited number of hours a week?
3. Are there any other persons, who undertake the supervision of the health of the children?

B.—Organisation.

1. Is there any system of medical inspection of school children? If so, to what points is it directed? *e.g.*—
 - (a) Prevention of the spread of infectious diseases.
 - (b) Inspection of children kept at home who are alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
 - (c) Nutrition and general personal condition.
 - (d) Inability, whether physical or mental, to profit by instruction given.
 - (e) Defective children—
 - (i) Mental.
 - (ii) Physical.
 - (f) Epileptic children.
 - (g) Eyes.
 - (h) Ears.
 - (i) Teeth.
 - (j) Heads—Cleanliness and freedom from vermin.
2. Are any records kept of—
 - (a) Weights and measurements of all or selected children?
 - (b) Infectious diseases which children have had?
3. Does organisation extend over the whole area, or is it confined to certain districts?
4. How often is each school visited by—
 - (a) The medical officer? or
 - (b) Nurses?
5. Is every child inspected, or only those especially selected? If the latter, how are such children chosen?
6. Are teachers encouraged to assist in the inspection by being instructed as to the early and easily recognised symptoms of diseases?
7. Are steps taken to notify the parents of any defect or infectious or contagious disease discovered?
8. Is there any voluntary organisation for providing spectacles, surgical appliances, &c.?
9. Do parents often object to the examination of their children?
10. With a view to the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases—
 - (a) Are teachers directed to notify any cases of infectious disease—whether “notifiable” or not? If so, to whom is such notification sent?
 - (b) Are instructions issued to teachers to enable them to detect symptoms of such illnesses?
 - (c) Are teachers informed of the outbreak of any epidemic in the neighbourhood?
 - (d) In County Council areas, are the Schools visited for this purpose by the Medical Officer of Health for the district?
11. In places where there is no regular organisation—
 - (a) Are teachers encouraged to do what they can to notice defects or infection, and to communicate with the parent or sanitary authority?
 - (b) Are managers given power to call in a doctor when required?

C.—Cost.

1. What sums are annually expended on the salaries of—
 - (a) Doctors?
 - (b) Nurses?
 - (c) Other persons?
2. Incidental expenses.
3. Total.
4. What rate in the £ is required to meet this expenditure?

D.—What Results are Obtained.

1. For how long has any system of medical inspection of children in Public Elementary Schools been in operation in the district? State the reasons which led to its adoption, modification, or discontinuance?
2. Does the present system work smoothly and satisfactorily? What are considered to be its advantages, difficulties, and defects?
3. What evidence is there of its beneficial results, temporary or permanent?

E.—Further Points (if any).

II.—FEEDING OF CHILDREN.

A.—Methods Employed.

1. Are agencies centralised, and is overlapping of effort prevented?
2. Do local authorities assist? *e.g.*, by—
 - (a) Taking part in administration.
 - (b) Allowing use of premises, coal, and gas for cooking and meals—
 - (i) Free,
 - (ii) For payment.
 - (c) Lending their machinery in such matters as—
 - (i) Use of Offices,
 - (ii) Time and services of clerks, nurses, caretakers, and other employees.
3. Are meals—
 - (a) Paid for by the parents themselves?
 - (b) Fully paid for by someone other than the parents?
 - (c) Given free or at a reduced price?
4. In the two latter cases what steps are taken to ensure that meals are given to children who would not otherwise have them? *e.g.*—
 - (a) Children whose parents are unable to make provision for them owing to the permanent insufficiency of their earnings.
 - (b) Children whose parents are for the time being unable to provide for them owing to temporary illness or loss of employment, or other unavoidable cause.
 - (c) Children whose parents do not provide for them though able to do so.
5. How are the children chosen? *e.g.*, by—
 - (a) Teachers.
 - (b) School attendance officers.
 - (c) School managers.
 - (d) Relieving officers and poor law guardians.
 - (e) District visitors and ministers of religion.
 - (f) Charity Organisation Committees.
 - (g) Special Relief Committees.
6. Where are meals served?
 - (a) At the schools?
 - (b) Elsewhere?
7. Comparative advantages of large and small units, whether in agencies or centres of distribution.
8. Are the agencies continued from year to year, or are they only brought into being to meet a special need?

B.—Sums Expended.

1. The total amount, so far as ascertainable.
2. How much is spent on—
 - (a) Food material?
 - (b) Preparation and distribution?
 - (c) Rent and apparatus?
 - (d) Office and general expenses?
3. Cost per head of a reasonable meal, inclusive of all expenses.
4. Sources of supply—
 - (a) Private subscriptions.
 - (b) Endowments.
 - (c) Payments by parents of children.
 - (d) Other sources (if any).
5. Has any difficulty been experienced in raising funds?

C.—Relief Given.

1. What is the nature of the meals supplied ?
 - (a) Breakfast or dinner, or food (e.g. milk) between meal times ?
 - (b) What kinds of food are given ?
 - (c) Is there reasonable variety, and is the food relished by the children ?
 - (d) Are the meals such, and given with such frequency and regularity, as to ensure adequate nutrition ? e.g.—
 - (i) On how many days in the week are meals provided ?
 - (ii) On how many of these days does each child receive a meal ?
 - (iii) What happens on Saturdays and Sundays, and during holidays ?
 - (iv) What is the period over which meals are provided ? Is it long enough ?
2. Are parents and children notified in good time beforehand whether and when meals will be provided ?
3. How many meals are given in the year ?
4. How many individual children were relieved in the year ?
5. Is a record kept showing what children were relieved and on what dates ?

D.—“ Retarded ” and Afflicted Children.

1. Is special provision made for—
 - (a) “ Retarded ” children, i.e., those who, though not defective, are from malnutrition below the normal standard ?
 - (b) Defective (i) physically (ii) mentally ?
 - (c) Blind children ?
 - (d) Deaf children ?
2. If there is no special provision, are these children provided for by the ordinary organisation ?

E.—Suggestions for Improved Organisation.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

ON

Medical Inspection and the Feeding of Children in Public Elementary Schools,

AT THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION, WHITEHALL.

FIRST DAY.

Friday, 19th May, 1905.

PRESENT.

Mr. H. W. SIMPSON, C.B. (in the Chair).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.

The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE.
Mr. R. WALROND.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (Secretary).

Mrs. WILTON PHIPPS, called in ; and Examined.

1. (Chairman.) You are a member of the London County Councils Joint Committee dealing with underfed children ?
—Yes, I am.

2. You are also chairman of the Cripple Children's Training and Dinner Society ?—Chairman of the dinner sub-committee, not of the whole society. I have nothing to do with the training.

3. For how long has that society been in existence ?—Three years, I think.

4. And how is it constituted ?—It was originally started by Miss Lawrence really as chairman of the special schools sub-committee of the London School Board. Mrs. Humphrey Ward had already had dinners for children at Tavistock Place School, and it was considered necessary that the same facilities should be granted to all the children attending the new centres which were being opened all over London, so that a small committee was formed consisting of myself as chairman, and Miss Collard, who is the assistant superintendent of the cripple schools as treasurer. I acted as chairman and secretary. Then there was a representative manager from each school where a dinner was being served.

5. Does the work of the society now cover all the physically defective schools under the London County Council ?
— All except the class at the Orthopædic Hospital. We have nothing to do with that, of course. Their meals are served in the hospital.

6. About how many are there of those schools ?—There are sixteen open at present.

7. What number of children, speaking generally, is there in each ?—Do you mean in attendance or do you mean on the roll of the school ?

8. Either. Roughly speaking, what do the numbers in the schools run to ?—I see that Mr. Blair states that there are about 1100 children. We have from sixty to seventy children at dinner in each school.

9. I wanted to get at the sort of number which is being provided for. What would be the average ?—That is the average.

10. In what way does the London County Council assist the society in its work ?—It allows us to use the halls, or the class rooms in schools where there is no hall, for serving the meals. It allows us generally a small kitchen, and it allows the plant necessary for cooking the meals—the stoves and the utensils. It also pays half the salaries of the cooks, roughly speaking.

11. Are the cooks officers of the London County Council ?—It depends on how large the school is. Where the school is small the cook is half the servant of the London County Council and half the servant of the dinner committee, but where the school is so large that they have to have two helpers one of them is paid by us and is entirely our servant. We engage her, and make all the arrangements with her.

12. The nurses are in all cases officers of the London County Council ?—Yes, entirely.

13. In what way do they help ?—They practically organise the whole dinner in the school. I understand that when they are engaged by the County Council they are told that that will be part of their work. That really is the weak spot in our organisation—that if they are not quite satisfactory we have no control. Unless they do something wrong we cannot change them. We have been very lucky in regard to the nurses.

Mrs. Wilton Phipps.
19 May 1905.

Mrs. Wilton
Phipps.

14. Are the teachers charged with the supervision of the meals?—No. The teachers are not encouraged to be in the school at all while the meals are going on. We very much deprecate their being there. So that their interval of rest may not be interfered with.

15. That is a very important point. Then as to the payment for the meals, speaking generally, by whom are the meals paid for?—The food material is paid for by the parents.

16. In what way are the parents' contributions collected?—The nurse collects them every morning when she collects the children in the ambulance. The parents give her twopence per day for the meals.

17. They are paid daily, not weekly?—They are paid daily.

18. And paid immediately in advance?—Paid on the morning of the day. There are cases where the payment is allowed to run over for a week, but it is not advisable.

19. In cases where meals are not fully paid for how are the children selected?—In every case now the child's name and the position of the family have to be brought before the dinner sub-committee. The manager of the school consults with the nurse and reports to the monthly meeting of the dinner sub-committee, who go through the report very carefully. The child is meanwhile fed until the circumstances of the case are well entered into. I have here one of our forms, because I thought that you might want to see one.

20. Thank you. Is there a local committee in each school charged to some extent with the duty of discovering those entitled to special help?—There is a manager attached to each school to whom the nurse refers the case, and that manager is supposed to visit the home of the child and to make all the necessary enquiries such as you find on that form.

21. Speaking generally these crippled children will come from very poor homes, I take it?—Generally. The poorest, I think, taking it all round.

22. The fact, therefore, that the parents of these specially poor children are able to pay twopence daily indicates that the parents in other cases could pay for their meals?—Yes, I think it does. I think that the parents are a little more willing to pay for the delicate cripple child than for others. I think they make a special effort to do so.

23. Are there some children who do not attend the meals?—Yes, a small proportion of the children go home if they live within easy reach, but we have found that some of these children are not receiving proper meals at home, and we rather encourage them to remain although they could walk home, because we feel that they would benefit by the food.

24. The work of the society has increased very greatly year by year during the last three years, has it not?—Yes, very much.

25. I see that the total sum expended increased from £168 in 1902 to £356 in 1904?—Yes.

26. Are the accounts made up by the calendar year?—No, they have not been. That has been altered during the last month, at the last meeting. They have been made up from year to year from the 1st July to the 30th June.

27. The figures before us here are to the 30th June 1904?—No, they really are not; that is a mistake. They come to the last day of December. The figures cover a calendar year, but in the Report you will find that it differs.

28. Are these specially made up to help us?—No. The Report will come out in that way, but I have suggested that we report always from the beginning to the end of the year to make it simpler. We originally began our work in the middle of the year.

29. (Miss Lawrence.) They all cover twelve months?—Yes.

30. (Chairman.) Roughly speaking, the cost of food material is about four-fifths of your whole expenses?—Yes, about four-fifths.

31. The other fifth being spent upon wages and the expenses incidental to the preparation and distribution

of food?—Yes, chiefly wages and cooking. That is all we have to pay for.

32. You have no office expenses whatever?—None at all; it is all voluntary.

33. All worked from home?—All worked from home.

34. To whom are the fees paid by the parents handed? They are handed once a month to the treasurer by the nurse.

35. The cost per head of the meal which you supply is about what?—For food material only it was 1.9d. last year. If we include all the wages of the helpers and cooks we bring it out to about 2½d. That covers the entire cost.

36. That would cover the entire cost of supplying the meal?—Yes.

37. Apart from rent and plant?—Apart from rent and plant. It would not cover rent and plant.

38. The cost is met, so far as not covered by the parents' payments, by subscriptions?—Yes, by subscriptions.

39. You have no endowments?—No, none at all.

40. Have you had difficulty in making both ends meet?—We have had no difficulty at all, owing to the "Referee" Fund. If it were not for the "Referee" Fund we should have had to apply for many more subscriptions. I think that we should easily have obtained the money.

41. Have you any large system of applying for help? No, we have not, because we have never required it.

42. The meal given at the cripple schools is more elaborate than that usually supplied to school children?—Yes, much more elaborate.

43. Would you tell us of what it consists?—We have a bill of fare book at every school, which is carefully examined by the managers at their meeting. Taking them at random, here is one in a school which is of rather a better class. The children are much better off. They have on Monday roast beef, greens, potatoes, boiled rice and sugar; on Tuesday, potato pie, custard and rhubarb; on Wednesday they have soup, haricot beans, potatoes and suet or sultana pudding; on Thursday they have Irish stew, potatoes, and bread pudding baked. On Friday they have meat pies and potatoes, or fish and baked cornflower with treacle.

44. Would that be a fair specimen?—That would be a fair specimen. I have others.

45. The dinner varies from day to day?—Always.

46. And is supplied on school days for five days a week?—Yes.

47. Besides the dinner do you give other food?—Besides the dinner we give milk.

48. At what time—before school?—In the winter, it is generally given when the children arrive in the ambulance, which is at about ten o'clock, but at this time of the year I think they get it more in the play interval, at eleven o'clock or a quarter to eleven.

49. Do you attach much importance to the milk?—We give it all through the year to the more delicate children because we find that they need it, but to the children who are stronger and who really are only suffering from perhaps a short leg, or something of the sort, and are otherwise physically fairly well we do not give it in the summer at all unless they pay for it.

50. Do you find that the children from the first enjoy the food supplied, or is it necessary to train them to like it?—In many instances we have to train them. They will not eat this, or they will not eat that, but they soon do.

51. What information is given to the parents as to the arrangements for meals at the school?—When the child is admitted by the doctor at the medical examination the parents are told that dinners are served in the school and that they will be expected to pay 2d.

52. At that point do you get many objections?—We get them very seldom, to begin with.

53. There is no object in keeping a special record of meals at your schools, as it is seen that all the children are fed?—No. Every child is practically fed.

54. What we are speaking of relates only to the schools for cripples, that is physically defective children?—Yes.

55. Has the same system been tried as regards the mentally defective children?—In one or two instances it has been. It has been tried at Millbank, where they are very successful with their dinners, and I believe that they propose trying it with the Deaf and Blind on the same principle. They are trying to organise it exactly as we do.

56. Do you see any reason why it should not be equally applicable in those cases as to the cases of the cripples?—No, not at all, except that in many cases where the children can go home I think it is better that they should.

57. The point is that the cripples cannot go home?—They cannot go home.

58. And in most cases the others can?—In many cases they can.

59. Have you any suggestions for improving the present organisation as regards the cripple schools?—No, I do not think so; I think it works very satisfactorily. Of course if the county council, as I believe they probably will do, pay the entire salaries of the helpers in the school, our fund will become practically self-supporting.

60. There is, I understand, a kitchen attached to every one of these schools for cripples in London?—Yes. Some of the kitchens are bad, merely a closet made use of. These are in temporary buildings.

61. Is there always a room in which meals can be served without disturbing the school order?—Not in some of the older schools. In Deptford, for instance, the meals are served in the class room after the lessons.

62. (Miss Lawrence.) It is the case I believe that in some cases where the London County Council pay part of the wages the same women act partly as cleaners?—Yes, or they go round with the second ambulance. They do not pay them only for their services as cooks. Do you mean where there is one or where there are two?—

63. Where there are two?—Sometimes there happens to be a woman who takes charge of the second ambulance. Where there are two helpers she is entirely in our service and does nothing but the cooking. They have now started a third in those schools which require an extra helper. The County Council employ her morning and evening for the ambulance.

64. She does nothing with the cooking?—No.

65. I was not sure how they shared the duties?—Where the schools are small and there is only one helper we pay 5s. and the County Council pay 5s. a week. She cooks and goes with the ambulance.

66. That is what I wanted to know.—In large schools where we have two, and we pay 10s. and the County Council pay 10s., the woman to whom we pay 10s. does nothing except our work. She has nothing to do with the ambulance at all.

67. There are one or two cases where they do the two things. Then, with regard to the menu for dinner, do they have the same dinner every Monday, every Tuesday, every Wednesday, and so on?—No, certainly not.

68. Have you any rotation?—No, it is arranged just as the nurse sees fit to arrange it.

69. I did not know from the menu whether they always expect a particular kind of dinner on a particular day?—No; they never know what they are going to have.

70. Have you any suggestion to make as to the difficulty that might arise supposing the nurses were not able to undertake this? Would you think from the point of view of organisation that it would be well for the committee to have their own individual servants to provide and cater for the dinner if such a thing arose?—I think it would change the whole position.

71. I was thinking of it from the point of view of the deaf and other defective children whom the chairman asked about where there is no nurse?—If there is no nurse it would be quite simple, but if there is a nurse in the school it would change the whole organisation if you had to have someone else to cater and arrange for

the dinners. As long as the nurse is not in the school you can easily make arrangements.

72. With regard to the others it would necessarily be more expensive, because they would not have the assistance of the nurse. Another society would not be able to run it quite so cheaply as this one, on account of having to provide the service of somebody who could cater?—If they had a very good cook, as we have in many of the schools, she could probably cook and do the catering herself at 10s. a week without anybody extra.

73. So that it would not necessarily mean more expense?—Not necessarily.

74. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You said, I think, that the County Council paid for the gas. I see among the items here the cost of gas for cooking purposes. Do you pay anything for gas at all?—No.

75. It is included in the cost simply to shew what it comes to, but really they pay for it all?—They pay for it all. We simply got from the gas company the approximate cost of so much gas. I thought it interesting to know it when we first started dinners. We found that it worked out from their accounts at about half a crown a week for gas that we burn in cooking.

76. With regard to the people who make the enquiries, who actually decides whether the child shall go on the free list?—The whole of the dinner sub-committee now. We meet once a month.

77. You have a list of people before you on the forms?—We have a list of children requiring free dinners on the forms.

78. Here is a case of a painter, always out of work, I suppose, in the winter. Are there many cases like that that occur in the winter?—We have really very few free cases. It works out at three in one hundred roughly.

79. I see that the number of free meals has very greatly increased according to these figures?—It increased so much in the autumn of last year that I instituted these forms.

80. The forms have only just been started?—Yes—last December. I felt that there must be some reason for the great increase. Since we have had these forms the figures have decreased.

81. You instituted them because of attempts to get the dinners free?—Yes. It is very difficult for the nurse to refuse.

82. Yes, quite so. Did the numbers go down after you adopted the form?—Yes, very much.

83. Do you often find that these forms, when they come before the committee show that the dinners ought not to be free?—Not since we have had the forms.

84. Before you sometimes had cases which wanted further investigation?—Yes, and cases where really it was difficult to know the cause of the inability to pay. It might be through drink for instance. We cannot leave the children unfed in the Cripple Schools, because they are there all day. We have to be very particular about it.

85. When you found cases that you thought ought not to be free, how did you manage to get the parents to pay?—In one or two cases we referred them to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and in one or two cases we had to refer the whole matter to the guardians, but we have had comparatively few such cases to deal with.

86. Generally you got them to pay?—Yes. Sometimes they can only pay a penny. At this present time we are giving weekly 296 penny dinners, not to 296 children but 296 penny dinners weekly.

87. That is half-price really?—It is half price.

88. (Chairman.) That means five pence a week from each parent?—Yes. If the parent cannot pay, if there has been illness or anything of that sort and they ask if they can pay a penny for a week or two, we always allow it.

89. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Is the milk or cocoa in the morning always given free?—This year some of the children in the Essendine Road School, which is a better-class school, pay for their milk as they did last year, but in most cases it is given free.

Mrs. Wilton Phipps. 90. It is only in the better-class school that they do that?—Yes.

19 May 1905. 91. That comes out of the balance?—Last year we paid for it absolutely; this year we shall not.

92. The 2d. a head is made up by adding in the gas and so on. It is not really the expenditure?—Our expenditure last year was only 1.9 for the food material not for the wages of the women whom we paid.

93. Then I see "Part payment for pudding." They bring something in themselves. How often does that happen?—It very often happens on Monday morning that the children bring cold meat left from Sunday's dinner, and bread, and we always try to get them to bring a halfpenny on that day so that they may have something hot. If they bring a suitable dinner we cannot force them to pay the two pence.

94. Does the pudding cost only a halfpenny?—Only a halfpenny.

95. Is that the case all over London?—Yes, in our schools.

96. Are there many of such cases?—No, I should not think many. I believe that in Old Kent Road about twenty children out of eighty bring their own dinners every day and have only pudding from us.

97. All the days of the week?—Yes. It varies of course from week to week.

98. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Can you tell me under what powers the County Council provide nurses for these schools?—No, I am afraid that I cannot.

99. (*Chairman.*) It is under "Necessary Officers" Section 35 of the Elementary Education Act of 1870.

100. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Would the cooks also be provided under the same Act?—I suppose that they would be, because they are required for helping to lift these invalid children in and out of the ambulances. The nurse could not possibly do it alone. Some of the children are completely paralysed; they are brought to school flat on their backs in a box.

101. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Are the special schools under a special act?

102. (*Chairman.*) Yes; they are under the Defective and Epileptic Children Act.

103. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Would the hours of attendance be the same as at ordinary schools?—No, they are not required to be there until a quarter to ten. That is the time for the last child. They leave at half-past three. Their hours I think are about an hour and a half shorter.

104. So that that might affect the time at which meals are to be given?—The playtime is the same as in all the other schools. The playtime is at twelve o'clock, and the children have their dinner at twelve o'clock.

105. (*Miss Lawrence.*) They go back into school at half-past one?—Yes.

106. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Is it under this special Act that the County Council have power to send round ambulances to fetch the children?—Yes.

107. What happens if, when the nurse goes round with the ambulance, the parent refuses to pay the 2d.?—We have a little difficulty sometimes. The nurse is now authorised to tell the parent that if she does not give the 2d. the following day the child must either bring her or his own dinner, or the child shall simply be given enough to prevent its going hungry. We are obliged to harden our hearts. We have had to do it only once or twice, and in each case the payment has come.

108. The child would get the dinner the first day?—Yes.

109. But a reduced dinner the second day?—Yes.

110. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Unless application is made for a free dinner?—Yes, or unless the nurse thought that something had happened and that there was really need of it. She would then be authorised to give the child dinner for a day or two, pending inquiries.

111. (*Dr. Parsons.*) By whom is the form of application signed?—It is signed by the manager who represents each school.

112. The parents do not make any application?—No. It is done by the manager entirely.

113. (*Mr. Walrond.*) When do you give this milk that you spoke of?—When they arrive in the ambulance in the morning about ten. At this time of the year they generally get it during the play-hour. From the 1st May we only give it to the more delicate children.

114. Is the play-hour at the same time as the dinner-hour?—They always go out for about a quarter of an hour during the morning.

115. You mean the short interval?—I mean the short interval.

116. Do you give anything in the afternoon before they go home?—No.

117. There is nothing to eat with the milk?—No, nothing, merely hot milk. In some cases when they arrive, if they will not take the milk they are given hot cocoa.

118. Can you say roughly what is the proportion of voluntary subscriptions to the amount received from the *Referee* fund?—Last year the *Referee* fund gave us £130, and we paid £195; so there would be about £50 or £60 to make up.

119. Do you make up the deficiency?—We make up the deficiency.

120. How many subscribers have you?—I have not brought the Report, but I should think practically, for the dinners alone, about six or seven.

121. It is quite a small thing?—It is quite a small thing, because we have never required the money. Lord Stanley of Alderley, and one or two other people who subscribed £5, have told us that if we want more they will give us another £5; but we have never had to ask for it.

122. (*Chairman.*) Would you hand us in a copy of the last Report?—I will send it to you.

123. Before passing on to the general question, is there any reason to suppose that these children, in consequence of being fed at school for five days in the week, are given rather less food than usual on Saturdays and Sundays; that is to say, is advantage taken by the parents of the fact of their having been fed?—We have never noticed anything of the sort, and we have never heard of anything of the sort; but we have noticed that the children look less well after a holiday. I do not mean to say after one day, but after the Christmas holiday, for instance. In the summer holiday they go away. When for a week or two weeks they are away from school, we find that they come back looking rather more miserable. Of course they are most of them very delicate.

124. (*Miss Lawrence.*) Would that be the result of deficient or improper feeding?—I should think in some cases it is deficient feeding. In one or two cases I do not think it is entirely the food. I think that a great deal of it is the home surroundings—they are not nearly so carefully looked after, as the mothers are out all day.

125. (*Chairman.*) May we take it that, generally speaking, a child in one of these schools would get a good dinner on Sunday?—Yes, we generally find that.

126. Have you cases in which the feeding appears to be so successful that the children get over their ailments?—We do not know.

127. Some ailments cannot be got over; but there are, I suppose, cases in which good feeding may so far, palliate the ailment as to allow the child to go to an ordinary school?—We have many children who go back to an ordinary school, and there is no doubt, I think, that in cases of rickets and that kind of thing, good feeding does materially help. I should not like to say it was an absolute cure, but it does help.

128. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Would not the children be rather past the age of rickets. Rickets is a disease more especially of quite young children. I suppose that the children would not be much under five years of age, would they?—We never take them under seven, but we have terribly bad cases of rickets.

129. The deformity would already have arisen?—Yes. For instance, there is one little girl I have in my mind at this moment, in my own school, who when she came had to be lifted everywhere; her feet were bound up. She came from a very miserable poor home. She had been very much neglected. That child is now running

about everywhere, and looks, I was going to say, almost the picture of health. She will very shortly go to an ordinary school. I am quite sure that in that case the recovery has largely been on account of the food, because she has had no hospital treatment at all. She has not been away. She has had her ordinary summer holidays, but nothing more than that.

130. (*Chairman.*) Have you anything to add as regards the cripple schools, before we pass to the more general question?—No, I do not think so, except I think that if the work grows much, it will be more difficult for a small Committee to do it thoroughly, as it has been done up till now.

131. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) It ought then to be taken up by some public body, you think?—Yes, or be decentralised. We have already divided the north and the south. Now we have the Southern and Northern Committees, and we have representatives who attend regularly every day at the dinner hour to help the nurse.

132. (*Chairman.*) Is there likely to be a large increase in the number of schools for cripples in London?—I do not think there will be very many more immediately, but the numbers are increasing in some of the smaller schools. In several of the schools there are eighty or ninety in regular attendance.

133. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Are there more cripple children than formerly?—They have found them out. The doctors have taken to admitting, I am sorry to say, not only cripple children, but children suffering from very acute heart disease, and they are very difficult indeed to feed and look after generally. They are being admitted in large numbers to the cripple schools.

134. (*Chairman.*) Have you any difficulty in getting the necessary voluntary helpers?—Yes, in certain districts, Poplar and Hackney and those places, we have difficulty.

135. I should like to ask you what is your opinion as to giving school meals, so far as possible, consecutively—that is to say, on every day of the week, or three days of the week, to a few children, rather than on, say, one or two days a week to a larger number?—I would rather give them five days a week to one child. I do not think one or two meals a week are of any use at all, from my experience.

136. Generally speaking, the meals are, as I understand, not more than two a week?—We find that on the joint Committee. We get returns from all over London, but I am glad to say that this year they are given on more days of the week. Many schools that only gave one or two are now giving three and four.

137. Are you able to say, from your experience on the Joint Committee, how often a particular child gets a meal. Do you know that a particular child gets a meal on two days a week where on two days a week a meal is given in the school?—No; it is very difficult to ascertain that.

138. The returns do not necessarily show that?—No.

139. Do you feel that there is much importance in varying the food given at school meals?—I do not believe it is so necessary for the ordinary normal child as it is for the delicate child. We find, in Chelsea, in the school to which I belong, that if the child has Irish stew every week it still is quite willing to eat two or three helpings of it, but at the same time it cannot be very good never to change the food. We have been feeding a little this winter.

140. Do you think that the teachers should be as far as possible set free from supervising and attending at the meals?—Yes; I feel very strongly about that. I do not think that the teacher who has been in the class room all the morning and who has to be there all the afternoon, should be occupied in any way with the children during the hour and a half in the middle of the day.

141. You are very particular on that point in your administration?—In our cripple schools we do not have the teachers at all, simply to save them.

142. How far is it possible for the teachers really to know the home circumstances of the children?—It is very difficult. They know very little about the home circumstances of the children.

143. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Would the nurses know more

about the home circumstances?—Yes, I think they do. *Mrs. Wilton Phipps.* They have to carry the cripple children to and from the ambulance. With regard to the ordinary children, the teachers do not know much about them, I think.

144. (*Chairman.*) I referred to ordinary children?—I thought so.

145. Are you of opinion that cookery centres could be utilised in any way towards meeting the need of school meals?—They could be utilised absolutely, I think, in schools where there are not a large number of children to be fed. We do utilise them now, in fact. We have no right to, I believe, but we do.

146. Can you give a specific case?—I cannot give you the exact names of the schools, but there are several of them under Sir Charles Elliott's jurisdiction. I do not know what district he represented on the School Board. We have given as many as thirty dinners a week to thirty children, and in a school at Chelsea the children are served from the cookery centre regularly and have been all the winter.

147. Would those be the children attending the school or the children of a neighbouring school?—The children attending that particular school.

148. Not the children who have cooked the food?—No, the ordinary child who requires a dinner. Instead of sending to an eating house, we have made arrangements with the cookery centre to provide meals at three half-pence a day.

149. Is the meal paid for by the child or by one of the Associations?—Not by the child, in the ordinary schools.

150. Have you any experience of the working of cookery centres?—Experience of how the dinners are served, do you mean?

151. I mean with regard to the teaching of cooking in London?—No.

152. You have no personal acquaintance?—No, nothing except from being a manager and going in and out; I do not know more about it.

153. (*Miss Lawrence.*) Do you think from your experience, that the teachers commonly accept the statement of the children themselves as to their requirements of a dinner. In the cases of many dinner tickets being given away, do you think that, as a rule, they make inquiries at the homes, or do they give them according to the appearance of the children?—I think they take the statements of the children. The better teachers try to see the parents by asking them to come to see them, but it is very seldom that the parents do come, and the teachers are often taken in. They all tell you so if you ask them. The children tell them one story, and tell the manager who comes in to ask them a different story. You cannot rely at all on the children.

154. Do you think that virtually speaking the teachers do not see that the same child has four or five dinners, even if it is possible, in the week. Do you think they are inclined to give the tickets out more like prizes?—Possibly; I could not answer that question. In the schools I have to deal with, the teachers have orders to give each child requiring food a dinner every day. I do not know what is done in other schools.

155. Do you think any possible system of relief could be organised in connection with the managers and teachers, that would properly deal with this question?—I am sure that if the County Council would insist on relief committees or visiting committees, or whatever you like to call them, being formed in every school, consisting of managers and teachers and possibly one or two people from outside, such as a Country Holiday Fund visitor, and would really insist on it being part of the duty of a manager, the whole thing could be perfectly worked.

156. (*Chairman.*) There is nominally a committee in connection with each school?—There was under the old School Board, under No. 127 of the rules; but in the seventeen or eighteen years that I have been a manager, that relief committee has been an absolutely dead letter in most schools.

157. (*Miss Lawrence.*) Do you still think that if it were made practical it could deal with the great problem of the children who need food?—I am sure it could. I do not think that the help given to the children should stop

Mrs. Wilton Phipps. at the food; unless you can follow the case right through, I do not think you can do much good.

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158. I gather that you take it that the relief committee would not only take the case of a hungry child into consideration, but the question of its clothes and whether its home surroundings were desirable or not?—Yes.

159. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) With regard to the cookery centres that supply food, how many could they supply. What is the outside limit, do you think?—I think about thirty.

160. That would be the outside?—I think so. I am only giving my own idea; I have no actual proof.

161. (*Chairman.*) Is that because they can only cook for thirty, or because you only seat thirty?—I think they could not cook for more than thirty. The cooking lesson is given in the morning. How they manage to provide for the children, I understand, is largely by increasing the amount of food which they prepare for the teachers.

162. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) In their course of lessons they have to learn to make Irish stew one day and something else another. They do not provide a whole dinner each day?—No. The children only get, say, Irish stew and potatoes and then a pudding from the cookery centre. They get meat and pudding from the cookery centre; they do not get a great variety.

163. We were talking about the teachers getting information. Do you find that the parents come up to see the male teachers as much as they do to see the women teachers. Do the men teachers get as good information about the homes as the women?—Yes, I should say they do, and sometimes better.

164. Is it often the case that the teacher has a chance of visiting the home?—I know of one or two very good teachers who visit their children on Saturday, when they think they are in difficulties; but it is entirely a personal matter.

165. It is too much to expect of them, of course?—Yes. Otherwise they never visit the homes. They generally live in a different district and know nothing about the surroundings of the children.

166. In the poorer districts they live in a different district?—Always; and the moment the school is over they go right away to catch their trains.

167. They could not in fact investigate the homes?—I think they could not.

168. Last winter in Chelsea you fed some of the children. Was that an exceptional winter?—We started the relief committee last autumn because we thought it would be interesting to see how the thing could be worked in a district where there was likely to be only a limited number of children requiring feeding.

169. It was not because it was exceptional, but because it was the first time you had thought of making the experiment?—Yes, we were told that it was going to be a bad winter, and we thought we would try it.

170. Did you get payments from the children?—We never fed any child who could afford to pay.

171. How did you investigate that?—By very carefully visiting the homes.

172. Personal visiting?—Personal visiting and by inquiry from the guardians, and in fact from everyone we could. We made very searching inquiry.

173. What number did you feed in this school?—A small number—ten or twelve a week.

174. (*Chairman.*) A school of what size?—One is a very large school, but not a poor one. In that school we fed about ten or twelve. In the very poor school we fed about fifteen or twenty out of a school with an average of about 1,200.

175. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Was that the whole number that needed it?—Yes, as far as the teachers thought and as far as we could find out. There may have been many who were not fed.

176. Did you inquire into many cases which you found did not need it?—Yes, a good many—a large proportion of the number inquired into. We have had about 170 or 180 cases inquired into with regard to that school; and a large number were really neglected by the parents, who could have fed the children. The moment they were inquired into they began to feed them.

177. So those did not get food from you except during inquiry during the first few days?—Yes.

178. The net result was that only a small number really required it?—Very small. Food seems to be the last thing they really want; it is clothing and boots and so on that they want more.

179. (*Miss Lawrence.*) Did many cases of unsuitable feeding come under your notice?—I did not notice that.

180. (*Chairman.*) Did you find many cases in which the parents wished the children to have a meal and were prepared to pay for it?—No; they never asked whether there was any means of their having a meal at school.

181. It was either a free dinner or nothing?—Yes, in our case.

182. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) You did something in regard to Johanna Street?—Yes.

183. But you did not visit the children at all there?—I did not visit them in their homes. I was merely sent down, on a reference from the Joint Committee on Underfed Children, by Sir Charles Elliott, to see what was being done this year. I had no idea that there would ever be any question about it, when I saw the school. When we received the numbers there were so many more boys being fed than girls that we could not understand it.

184. (*Chairman.*) Was that at the end of December last?—Yes; I went down to see them the week before Christmas.

185. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Did you satisfy yourself whether there was any reason why more boys should be fed than girls?—No, I do not think I did. The impression left on my mind was that the head-mistress did not believe in feeding the children and did not think that the children required it. I went through every class with her. She called out from the class the children who were delicate or whom she considered delicate, and I certainly think they looked so, but there were very small numbers compared with the boys.

186. Did you find out from her whether, for instance, she had had difficulty with the children as to cleanliness, and that sort of thing?—No. They tap an enormous number of sources of supply at Johanna Street.

187. They do?—They get help from every sort of association. That day there were banked up in the hall a large number of most beautiful dolls; everything was on those lines. There is a boarding-school at Clapham which keeps them supplied with every variety of thing. The *Echo* was giving them a tea-party that day. The *Echo* had also given them the dolls. The teacher had applied to the Ragged School Union for clothes, and had a large supply sent to her. She did not seem to mind giving the clothes away. She had done it, and the children were wearing them. She showed me the things. I went down really to ask the question about the number of children being fed.

188. The boys also tap these sources of supply?—Yes, even more so; because added to that they had the Children's League of Kindness, and Miss Victoria Bigge had just finished an enormous Christmas-tree, which was standing in the playground. I was really perfectly astounded; I had never seen anything like it before.

189. (*Chairman.*) Is there a relief committee in connection with that school?—Mr. Wilkins, the head teacher, told me that there was a small committee consisting of himself and the secretary, whose name is Wilcox, as far as I can remember. He said that very few attended it.

190. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) You did not see any difference in the treatment of the two schools?—No. I could not possibly judge in an hour or three quarters of an hour.

191. You had no reason to suspect it?—No, I had no reason at all. I talked to some of the boys; I took the addresses of one who Mr. Wilkins asked me if I could get a place for, as it was difficult in that neighbourhood. They did not seem to me to be very inferior to the ordinary class of poor school-children.

192. I wondered whether you, looking at them, felt as I did, that they were obviously of the same class, only that perhaps a little more pains had been taken to clean the girls than to clean the boys, which is the case in a girl's school generally, as the mistress takes more interest in that?—I do not think the children were so very dirty—

certainly not more so than some of our children at Chelsea, or not so bad. I never imagined that so many sources of supply could be tapped. That is what struck me. I came away very much surprised.

193. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Could any assistance be obtained from the school attendance officer as to the children who should get free meals?—That is a question upon which I am afraid I do not quite agree with most of the Joint Committee. I do not think that the attendance officer is quite the right person to ask. I think that he is very useful and that he knows a great deal about the homes, but the better class home where the child may be very poor he knows nothing about, because that child attends school regularly; therefore he never has cause to visit the home except on the day when he schedules it.

194. (*Chairman.*) His knowledge as a rule, would be confined to the homes of irregular children?—It would generally be confined to the homes of irregular children. The officers are very willing to give one any help or assistance that they can. It is useful sometimes to corroborate one's own knowledge by asking them.

195. (*Dr. Parsons.*) The employment of the school attendance officer would tend, therefore, to favour the negligent parents who sent their children irregularly to school rather than those who sent them regularly?—They would know more about them.

196. How far are the edibles that are prepared in the cookery classes suitable for the feeding of school children. Do they not often prepare what we may call delicacies rather than the things which would be suitable for the daily meal?—I am afraid I think they do, I think they prepare very unsuitable food.

197. (*Chairman.*) But that could be corrected?—Yes, easily. I do not mean to say that they give unsuitable food, but I think that the syllabus is unsuitable, if I may say so.

198. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Would there not be a little incompatibility between the interests of the school children who had to be fed and the interests of the scholars who wished to learn how to cook a variety of viands?—I think there would be now, but I think that if the cookery centres taught the sort of cooking which is required for those poor children from those poor homes, there would be no such incompatibility as there is now.

199. All cookery schools would not want to make suet puddings every day?—No, I suppose they would vary their syllabus, if they undertook to prepare meals. Special arrangements would have to be made. I rather think that we are doing it now without asking permission from the county council to do it. I do not know that we have absolute permission.

200. (*Miss Lawrence.*) As long as the dishes prepared come within certain forms of the syllabus, I do not think they could find fault?—The only suggestion I should like to make about it is, that if the cookery centres are to be used, special instructions shall be given to the mistresses; because naturally many of them might resent being asked to cook for the children. It would have to be an absolutely clearly understood thing that it was part of their duty to provide dinners. If you get a nice, kindly woman, she is very glad to help these children; but sometimes they might refuse, and you cannot force them.

201. Do you think that there would be any great objection on the part of the parents of the children, if the cooking schools were employed to cook the dinners for the other children. Do you think such a thing might arise as that they would say that they were being sent there to learn, but not to provide meals for others. Is that a difficulty that we should have to face?—We seldom have parents taking enough interest, so far. I do not know what they might do. They object to their children being taught cooking just as much as they object to their children being taught laundry work, because they think it is rather *infra dig.*; but I do not think they object on any other ground.

202. (*Mr. Walrod.*) Allusion was made to the possibility of providing meals for the children of parents who were willing to pay for them. Would you advise that as at all a general system, as a sort of extension of your cripple school system to all the elementary schools?—No, I do not think I should advise that.

203. What are your objections, generally speaking, to feeding in schools?—I think that the children had all better go home, to begin with.

204. The mere going home is a good thing, you think?—I think it is better for them to go home.

205. It is a relief?—I think it would be a very large undertaking to feed them as we do in the cripple schools, I do not know how it could be worked as things are at present. It would mean undoubtedly that you would have to establish cookery centres on a very large scale.

206. There is a good deal of talk about children getting improper feeding. I was thinking of the object of avoiding that, more than of efficient feeding. Do you see strong objection to starting anything of the kind?—I see a strong objection, personally, to any child being fed in school who can be fed at home.

207. That is what I wanted to know. You have a very strong objection to the teachers being employed?—Yes, I have, for their sakes. In one particular school, and in many others, there is a rota. One teacher comes on duty perhaps every six weeks, so it is not very hard. They take it week by week. Our head master, when I spoke to him about it, said he did not think it came very hardly upon them. None of them objected; it was only one week in the quarter. Otherwise I should object very much, because I think the teachers really require a rest in the middle of the day from the strain of teaching.

208. It is difficult to get the premises properly aired?—It is quite impossible in the ordinary school. It is perfectly horrible in the country.

209. (*Chairman.*) Even if meals were served in the central hall, it would be apt to interfere with proper ventilation?—In the winter, certainly.

210. (*Miss Lawrence.*) You would confine feeding in schools to the necessitous cases?—Certainly I should.

211. (*Chairman.*) If a penny or a twopenny dinner were started, do you think there would be many applicants?—I do not believe there would. When you ask the ordinary parent about paying twopenny, he always answers "We can feed our child for less at home." But whether they feed them properly or not is another question.

212. If the meal were given at school, do you attach importance to its being served in what I may call a comely fashion?—I attach great importance to the way in which it is served.

213. You do?—Yes, very great.

214. You regard it as an educative lesson?—I look upon it as part of the education of the children. I think we have done a great deal in cripple schools in that way. I think it educates and refines the children.

215. So that even in cases where a meal has to be supplied to starving children, you would rather see it, if possible, of a sit-down nature than see the children pass through a shed in the playground with a basin and a spoon?—Yes. When it is done in the playground with a basin and spoon, it is simply a question of food and nothing else.

216. (*Miss Lawrence.*) I should like to have your opinion about what could be done or what would be advisable to be done in the country. We are face to face with a different problem there from that in the big towns. Children have to come a considerable distance. Do you think that there is great need for private effort, especially in winter?—I think there is much more need in one sense than there is in the town, judging by what I see in my own school, where eighty children stop every day in a school room and do their lessons and play, all through the winter.

217. (*Chairman.*) You are acquainted with the conditions of a country school?—Yes, I am manager of one country school.

218. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Do they bring their dinners to school?—They bring their own meals entirely; and we have this year succeeded in getting a cupboard put up where they can be kept. Previously they were kept almost anywhere.

219. They eat them in the school room?—Yes. After prayers at the end of the school time, table cloths are put on all the desks and the children sit there. I think there are 120 children who sit in the same room for lessons. Just after Easter I was there and saw the whole thing. Eighty children could not go home.

Mrs. Wilton Phipps.

19 May 1905.

Mrs. Wilton Phipps.
19 May 1905. 220. Because it was too far ?—Because it was too far.
221. Was the table cloth an introduction of yours ?—No, it was an introduction of the Vicar's, I think, before I became a Manager.

222. (Chairman.) What part of the country is this ?—Hertfordshire.

223. (Miss Lawrence.) You say that they bring their own food ?—They bring their own food in baskets. There is none supplied. It is entirely cold food.

224. (Chairman.) Is anything done towards warming it ?—Nothing.

225. There is no apparatus ?—There are no means of warming food; and yet it is a good country school.

226. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) They cannot get hot water ?—No, I do not think so. I am not sure whether in the very cold weather the head master may not provide it; his house is next to the school. There is no regular provision for it.

227. (Miss Lawrence.) It would be more difficult to organise it in the country ?—It is quite impossible to organise it in a small village.

228. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) If the management provided a meal and charged for it, as you do for the cripples, is there any room where it could be given in, except the long room ?—No; they must use the class room; there is nothing else. The head master complains very much. After the dinner is cleared away, you cannot ventilate the room much in winter. The children cannot go out; it is much too cold. They stay in the stuffy atmosphere and begin their lessons. The consequence is that they

are nearly all half asleep by about 3 o'clock; it is very difficult to work.

229. Is there not a parish room where it can be organised ?—Not in our particular village, or in any of the parishes round about that I am aware of. It is a question which might be considered with very great advantage; because, after all, those children need proper treatment as much as the town children do.

230. What sort of meal do they bring with them ?—I have generally seen meat and bread—bacon and bread.

231. (Chairman.) They generally are or would appear to be sufficiently fed ?—Yes, they are all quite sufficiently fed. It is not a poor place.

232. This is a matter of comfort more than anything else ?—It is a matter of comfort and cleanliness and ventilation, to my mind, more than anything.

233. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) It is not that the children themselves are not all right, but you are only thinking of the inconvenience to the school ?—I think the children are quite sufficiently fed, although they never get a hot dinner all through the year in school-days. They have cold meals every day.

234. Except on Saturdays and Sundays. Most likely if they went home they would not get a hot meal in the middle of the day ?—That I do not know.

235. There is not a hot meal until the evening when the father comes home ?—Probably not.

236. (Chairman.) Have you anything else that you would like to add ?—No, I do not think so.

237. (Chairman.) We are much obliged to you for so kindly coming here.

SECOND DAY.

Tuesday, 23rd May, 1905.

PRESENT.

Mr. H. W. SIMPKINSON, C.B. (in the Chair).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.

The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE.
Mr. R. WALROND.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (Secretary).

Mrs. E. M. BURGWIN, called in; and Examined.

Mrs. E. M. Burgwin.
2 May 1905. 238. (Chairman.) You are the honorary secretary and honorary treasurer of what is generally known as the Referee Fund ?—Yes.

239. Would you give us the full title of that fund ?—The Referee Children's Free Breakfast and Dinner Fund.

240. You are also a member of the London County Council's Joint Committee on Underfed Children ?—Yes.

241. You have had very varied experience, which enables you to give an opinion on the general question of the provision of meals in schools in London ?—Yes, I think I may say that.

242. Would you briefly indicate what your experience has been ?—In 1874 I was head-mistress of Orange Street Board School, a school situated in that district which Charles Booth described as the poorest area of all London. There I found children who were hungry, and unfit to benefit by education.

243. You are now superintendent of the schools for the Mentally and Physically Defective ?—Yes.

244. Can you tell us for how long this Referee Fund has been in existence ?—For 25 years.

245. The fund is the largest of the kind in London, is it not ?—I believe so.

246. I have before me the statement of accounts for the season 1903-04. I see that in that period the donations amounted to £2,835 ?—Yes.

247. And grants during that period were made to the extent of £2,705 ?—Yes.

248. Can you tell us to what date the accounts are made up ?—To the 8th May.

249. Is the account closed for the present year ?—Yes. The balance sheet will date from the end of May.

250. Can you tell us what the receipts have been for the past year, ending this month ?—Yes; £4,042 5s. 4d.

251. Is that exclusive or inclusive of the balance of £296 which I see here ?—That is including the balance.

252. It would appear that the fund is able to get almost anything that it asks for in reason ?—This year we asked for more and we got it. The need seemed greater, and so we asked for £4,000. We have about exhausted it.

253. Did the need this year prove to be greater ?—Yes, according to the applications from the schools, decidedly.

254. You have disbursed the greater amount of receipts up to date ?—Yes, we have.

255. Can you tell us at all what kind of persons contribute towards the fund. Is it made up of very numerous small contributions mainly ?—Yes, it is.

256. What is the proportion of small contributions ?—I think about half.

257. Have you any help from endowments ?—No.

258. Have you any from the city companies ?—No.

259. Will you explain to us how the fund is administered. You have a committee ?—Yes.

260. Which consists of some very distinguished persons. Does this committee actually itself meet, or is there a small executive committee ?—That committee meets.

261. How often does it meet ?—About four times.

262. I might read out the names of the members of the committee: Sir Henry Irving, Mr. Leopold Rothschild, Mr. Herbert Beerbohm Tree, Mr. R. K. Causton, M.P., The Rev. J. Stephen Barrass, The Very Rev. Canon Langton Vere, The Rev. Bernard J. Snell, The Rev. W. A. Morgan, Mr. Richard Butler, Editor of the *Referee*, Mr. George R. Sims and Mrs. E. M. Burgwin. That committee actually meets ?—Yes.

263. Does it meet periodically ?—No, it meets according to the applications. If the applications are sufficiently numerous I call a meeting and then the applications are considered and grants are allotted.

264. Would you kindly explain to us on what principle grants are allotted to applicants ?—I might say that I really know the schools of London. That is what it comes to. I know every school which has had a grant.

265. As a rule, are the grants made to schools and not to individuals ?—Of course, we make the grant to an individual representing the school.

266. Is there always a committee looking after the provision of meals at the school ?—Not always, because we have a good many Roman Catholic, and a good many Church of England schools, where the vicar entirely works his own parish.

267. At what period of the year are the applications mainly received ?—From November to December, and then supplementary grants are asked for afterwards.

268. Are you able, when the application is made, to tell the applicant what you will give at once and what you hope to be able to give in future ?—No. They send in and tell me what they are likely to want during the season. Then we send them proportionately what we have in hand.

269. Is the grant made in proportion to what will be spent. Is that the principle. Do you expect local effort to supplement the grant that you make ?—Yes, we do expect something where it can be done. In many schools you cannot get any help from local effort.

270. You have no rule that so much grant must be supplemented by so much local subscription ?—No.

271. Grants are made, I see, not only to schools, but also to large agencies, including the East Lambeth Scholars' Free Meal Fund, which receives £110 ?—Yes.

272. This account is for the year before the present one ?—Yes.

273. Not for the year last closed ?—No.

274. You make grants to these well-known associations as well as to the schools ?—Yes.

275. That is my point. We want to find out what money is actually raised and spent in London. We find when we look at the accounts of some of these associations that, among other subscriptions, they bring in money which is received from the *Referee* Fund, and it is therefore important to us to know how much of their resources come from you ?—Those figures are most misleading. There is overlapping.

276. The Southwark School Children's Free Meal Fund for instance received £400 ?—Yes.

277. And the London Schools Dinner Association received £110 ?—Yes.

278. The London County Council Schools for Cripple Children received £100 ?—Yes.

279. I think it was £110, according to what Mrs. Phipps said the other day ?—The cripples have had £200 this year.

280. Do you lay down any special conditions when you make a grant ?—No.

281. Do you require a statement of account at the end of the year ?—Yes.

282. Then you have in your possession an account of all the Associations and Schools which are aided ?—Of most of them. They are sent in to the chartered accountant for the balance sheet.

283. Are those accounts available. Could you allow

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us to see them. It would help us very much in ascertaining the facts ?—I do not think I have had them back.

284. They would help us immensely in ascertaining the amount of money that has been spent in London ?—I could let you have this book and from it you can gather every item that every School has had and every Association.

285. Could we gather what their own resources were as well as what you give them ?—No, that I could not give.

286. That is what we want to find. You have not in your possession a series of reports which would enable us to find that ?—No.

287. Could you give us an exhaustive list of all the schools in London in which there are agencies for providing meals ?—I do not think I could. I could only give you those that we are helping. I can give you every one of those.

288. Do you believe that the only way to obtain that would be by personal application to every school ?—I do, and it would be well worth while doing.

289. Your grants are given quite irrespective of Denomination ?—Quite.

290. Equally to Council schools and to Denominational schools ?—Yes.

291. Of all kinds ?—Yes, of all kinds. You notice that on our Committee we have representatives of the Church of England, Nonconformists, and Roman Catholics, so that there shall be fair play.

292. I see that there are no expenses whatever ?—No.

293. That is to say, that the whole cost of the administration, collection, and so on, is borne by the *Referee* ?—If I might explain, I should not have undertaken it except that the *Referee* Paper makes the appeal, and every item received is acknowledged in that paper. They guarantee that they will put the balance sheet in. All working expenses for cheques, postage, and all that sort of thing, and the labour, I have always found, because I very strongly object to the enormous percentage that there is sometimes of working expenses in connection with charitable funds. I have been willing to do it, and I have done it. That has been my part.

294. With so large an agency as this the expenses must be considerable. I will not go further than that. Do the subscriptions, as a rule, come in early in the year ?—Yes.

295. Is there an appeal made at a fixed time of the year ?—Yes, about November Mr. Sims generally begins it.

296. Does he write a special form of appeal ?—Yes. I should like to leave this book behind me, only it is very valuable. There you will see the way in which he makes his appeal. This shows the money received each week. Every week it is done in the same way.

297. The money comes in mostly between the beginning of November and what date ?—And the end of January.

298. What area do you purport to cover with your grants ?—London.

299. Greater London ?—Last year Willesden was hard up, and we gave them a little grant. This year we have helped Willesden, and one or two other places like that.

300. East Ham ?—East Ham.

301. But generally speaking your area is London.

302. That is to say the area under the London County Council ?—Yes.

303. (Miss Lawrence.) I should like to know what was the origin of the fund ?—I found myself in a poor school. I had been in Chelsea, and you can imagine the difference.

304. At Orange Street ?—Yes. A medical friend of mine came in and said that they really wanted food. I thought it absurd to stand there to try to teach them. Mr. Jackson has visited the school. I could not rest in that position. I began feeding the children, and I felt the need of continuing to do so, but it was a difficult matter. You can realise that. The school-keeper got the meals ready. Then Mr. Sims came along and helped me to go on with what I was doing. He and his wife found the money with me. Finding the good that was done in that school, he said that he would make an appeal and help a neighbouring school, Lant Street, which was another poor school. That is really the origin of the fund. We con-

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fined our efforts at first entirely to West Southwark, and we were able to say that in that area there was not a hungry school child. I wish that now, in some way, we could work in an area. I knew the houses and I knew the homes. I could go about anywhere in the district. Then the fund grew and grew. It is most interesting. Some of our people have contributed from the start. Some are in Russia and various parts of the world. We have one friend in Rhodesia now who sends this year £120 from a concert. They still keep their subscriptions up wherever they go. They send to the *Referee*.

305. How old is the fund?—Twenty-five years, and we were working privately a year or two before that.

306. When you were doing it privately, or afterwards, did you make any particular enquiry as to the circumstances of the parents, or did you only take into consideration the condition of the child?—In my own school I knew the condition of the homes. I had only between 200 and 300 children, and I knew them thoroughly well. It was never a big number.

307. Did you make any difference where the state of the child was the fault of the parent?—No. I always fed the child, but I remonstrated with the father. We exercised a pretty good power in that school. We brought a good deal of pressure to bear upon the parents in that way. I said "I am a working woman, why should I feed your child, but I have to do it," and that sort of thing. We brought a certain amount of pressure to bear, and that did a certain amount of good.

308. The only appeal that is made is through the newspaper?—Yes; that is all. I make no appeal.

309. That is the only one?—Yes.

310. You have never found it fail?—No. It increases year by year. This year we asked for more and we got it. Looking at the list of subscribers, and so on, it is very interesting to see the class of people, all grades subscribe. Many say, "I am abroad. I have not my *Referee* Appeal yet, but I suppose you will be starting soon. I send the money."

311. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) How much did you disburse this year out of your £4,000?—I think it is nearly all gone. I wanted to go into that, but I had not time to get my pass-book from the bank.

312. Practically it is all gone?—Yes, it is.

313. Do you think that this year was much worse than usual?—Yes.

314. What was it that made it worse?—There were schools wanting help that had never applied before. The parents were out of work.

315. Do the teachers apply to you direct as well as the managers?—Yes, many of the teachers do.

316. Do you send grants to teachers or only to managers?—To the teachers as well. Before managers were appointed, or took any interest, the teachers had the money.

317. Have the Relief Committees of the School Board, which started about 1899, been operating practically at all?—Yes, that has been increasing.

318. Have you made grants to the Relief Committees?—Yes.

319. If you had an application from the teachers of a school, would you ask them if they had a Relief Committee. Would you prefer to send the money to the Relief Committee or would you send it to the teachers?—I should not write and ask, because I should personally know.

20. (Miss Lawrence.) It is practically all given on your personal knowledge?—Yes; I am responsible. If anything went awry, my Committee would look to me as responsible.

321. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Practically it is upon your knowledge of the schools that they make their grants?—Yes.

322. You said just now that you wished that it could be confined to an area?—I would like to explain that. I meant the agencies.

323. So that they might know something of the individual schools?—Yes.

324. Because you cannot keep the whole of London in your mind?—No.

325. When you were at Orange Street you visited and knew the homes?—Yes, I knew the homes.

326. Most teachers have not time, or perhaps no inclination for that?—No, and I would not like to put it upon them. It is a matter of temperament. What is wanted is that you should bring a different tone into the homes, and that sort of thing. I threw myself into it for eighteen years.

327. A great number of teachers would consider their duty was first to the teaching in the school, and perhaps would not be strong enough to undertake anything further?—Exactly. I am bound to admit that it began to tell upon me. The work got much easier towards the end. Orange Street is a secondary school in comparison, considering the class of child to-day. Our slums are cleared out and it is a different matter altogether. It was very hard work at the time. I never stayed in London for a week end, because I could afford to go away. Fortunately, I was physically strong.

328. What you did in Orange Street could not be done generally?—No; it would be too great a burden, and another thing is that some, although very good teachers, could not possibly do it.

329. With regard to the fund you said that about half of the subscribers subscribed small sums. Do you get some people who give a very large sum?—No, but we get the proceeds of big concerts, collections at dinners, and so on. The Camberwell Palace sent us £100 from their concert, for instance. Every item is acknowledged in the *Referee*.

330. How many times in the year does the Committee meet?—Three or four times in our case.

331. The purport of my questions is to get at your idea as to whether the *Referee* fund can work as well now that it is not confined to the people who have the actual knowledge, and that you are obliged to make grants to all sorts of people whose methods may be very different?—The Committee, as you can tell by the constitution of it, would not wish a clergyman to be at all questioned or handicapped in any way.

332. How did Mr. Sims come to know the school?—Mr. Booth had written about this very poor district. Mr. Sims came in, and I was very delighted to see him. I had seen some of his writings in various papers. Before he wrote "How the Poor Live" he went to the homes. He is a man who does everything thoroughly. He does not take hearsay. He will visit day and night, as he did in Southwark, for weeks and months, at all hours.

333. With regard to your grants, you said that you did not impose any conditions, but required accounts. Do you always require accounts, and do you always get them?—Yes; we never have any trouble. I could have brought some with me. I have some of this year's already.

334. You do not actually provide any meals from the fund?—No.

335. You merely make grants to people who do?—Yes.

336. Are all the meals free?—Not necessarily. I have noticed by some of our balance sheets that some Committees have received some money.

337. I observe that it is called the "*Referee* Free Fund"?—We give our money freely.

338. But it is not under the condition that all meals must be free?—No. For instance, with regard to the Dinner Association, it was a *sine qua non* of getting a grant that a child contributed. We call ourselves free, so that we shall be covered in that way.

339. You do not refuse to give where children contribute?—No; we help in many cases where children contribute.

340. (Dr. Parsons.) I understand that the *Referee* Fund is in somewhat the same relation to the other agencies for providing dinners for school children that the King's Hospital Fund is in relation to hospitals. You do not do anything yourself, but you furnish money to those who do?—Yes.

341. Do you, as in the case of the Hospital Fund, accompany your donations with good advice where

it is wanted? Do you point out sources of waste and ways in which the money might be more profitably spent?—No.

342. Do you exert any supervision over the way in which the money is spent?—I very frequently say that my Committee desire that the children shall not be fed merely on soup if possible. We say that, as a Committee we would like them to have a variety and not soup every day, but further than that we do not go. It is dangerous ground. For instance, there are vegetarians who are always at me asking me to confine my efforts entirely to vegetarianism, and so on.

343. Quite so. Would you raise any objection to contributing on the ground of an undue proportion of your contributions going in management expenses?—Yes, we should stop at once if that was the case.

344. (Miss Lawrence.) It must only go for the provision of food?—Yes; it must only go for the provision of food certainly. Might I point out with regard to the Cripple Fund that the Committee, knowing thoroughly how that money was used, without the slightest hesitation increased their grant this year by about £70. They were perfectly satisfied that the money was properly spent.

345. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do you often drop grants altogether?—Not often, but we have dropped certain ones.

346. On the ground that the money was improperly spent?—Mr. Sims is tremendously keen about the rate of expense being in proportion. Nothing upsets him more than when he sees a large cost for administrative purposes.

347. (Mr. Walrod.) Have you ever refused or diminished the grants on the ground that you thought the teachers, or whoever selected the children for the meal, were too easy-going about it?—No, we have not. That would require individual knowledge directly.

348. Then really it comes back to this—that the amount which you give to a particular school depends upon your estimate of the reliability of the staff and the managers in that particular matter?—Yes.

349. Are there any annual subscribers, or does the fund die, as it were, every year?—As it were it dies every year, although some of our people, as I have said, have contributed from the very beginning and may continue to. Even before the appeal I have had cheques sent accompanied by a note saying, "I suppose that your appeal will be out soon," as I told you.

350. But you do not have bankers' orders "Pay so much every year"?—I do not quite follow.

351. As in the case of a subscription to a club—"Pay £5 on the first of January every year"?—Mr. Leopold Rothschild and one or two others may send in that way through their banks.

352. (Chairman.) In your list you do not distinguish between subscribers and donors?—No. As it comes in each week it is acknowledged.

353. The theory of the fund is that it is started fresh every year?—Yes, it is.

354. Is there any system in the schools of meals for mentally defective children analogous to that for cripple children?—No, because the greater part go home to dinner. I can honestly say that no child should be hungry in a special school, because every teacher has a grant if necessary.

355. (Chairman.) In your list a large number of special schools are mentioned?—Yes.

356. Those are the schools for defective children?—Yes.

357. You make it a first duty to see that sufficient money is available in each of those schools to prevent any child actually going hungry?—Yes.

358. Would you welcome any system of meals in defective schools analogous to that in cripple schools?—Yes, very much.

359. In some of the schools there is such an arrangement?—Yes. There are a few schools where arrangements are made.

360. In those cases are the parents' contributions obtained with equal facility as in the case of cripple schools?—If I may instance Millbank we get a very fair proportion of parents to contribute.

361. As a rule, I suppose that the homes from which defective children are drawn are poorer than those from which ordinary children come?—I do not think so. The defective children are the sisters and brothers of other children.

362. You do not find, as a rule, that those children are drawn from a poorer class of home?—No. The circumstances must necessarily be the same. They are not single children, they are one of a family.

363. Is it not a fact that if there is one there are likely to be more defective children?—There are frequently more. Those children have been in the ordinary schools. I would like to point that out. Of course their affliction makes them much more difficult to deal with in the case of food, and so on.

364. There would be a class, such as is described in our reference, of "Children, who, though not defective, are, from malnutrition, below the normal standard"?—Yes.

365. What are known by the term of "retarded" children?—Yes.

366. Do you wish to deal with those children specially as regards feeding?—We do. We give those children, if they are in our schools, a great deal of milk.

367. When you say "we" you are alluding to teachers in general?—Yes, to the teachers in the schools. I am speaking of the mentally defective.

368. I am not speaking of the mentally defective but children in the ordinary schools known as "retarded" children, to take the reference to the Committee?—I am afraid that they do not get anything.

369. Would you wish to see the existing voluntary agencies devoting themselves specially to those children?—No, because it would not meet the great need in the winter of the children of the unemployed. These people are always on the border line of starvation and the absence of one week's work causes them to have to go hungry. There is no provision, and they can make no provision either. You must have something to meet that I think.

370. You have told us that, in your opinion, it is not fair to expect the teachers to know the home circumstances of the children to such an extent that they could decide who should, and who should not, have relief?—They cannot know all the home circumstances. A child's physical appearance, and its mental aptitude, would distinctly give an experienced teacher a fair chance of knowing what was wrong with that child.

371. The teacher is fully capable of finding out which are the children who are probably in that condition?—Yes, but not why.

372. The inquiries to find what the reasons of the condition are should be carried out by other persons, you think?—Yes.

373. Who should such persons in your opinion be?—Might I say "suitable managers." The word "managers" alone would not meet all I want.

374. A suitable manager, aided by any official?—Yes, the visitor.

375. The school attendance officer?—The school attendance officer.

376. Do you find that, as a rule, the opinion of the officers is well based?—Well, the men are perfectly honest, but of course it is a question of temperament again.

377. It all comes to this—that the whole thing depends on the person who does it?—Yes. We see what we look for literally, do we not.

378. The solution of the whole problem would therefore be the finding of a sufficient number of suitable persons to investigate individual cases?—Yes.

379. Have you large experience of the working of the relief committees formed under the Committee on Underfed Children?—Only as we get the reports before the Underfed Committee. One is struck with the variety.

380. Some of them are doing their work as it should be done?—As that committee would have it done. Other people outside do not agree with that committee—a few.

381. In a good many cases the Relief Committees exist only on paper?—Exactly.

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382. You have great knowledge of the attitude of teachers in the matter. Would you tell us whether you think they should be expected to take any part in superintending the meals?—No, I do not think they should. 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.

383. In the case of the special schools for cripples we understand that the teachers are forbidden by the committee organising the meals to be present at all?—Yes.

384. Have you any opinion as to whether the meals should be served at the schools or, by preference, elsewhere?—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, 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.

385. You would infinitely prefer that the meal should be served away from the school?—Yes.

386. Unless there was a school dining-room?—Yes.

387. Which is not in practical view at present?—However plain it was it would do. It could not be so plain that I should not prefer it. The dinner should not be given in the classroom.

388. Do you attach importance to children sitting down at their meals and having them decently served?—Yes, I do attach great importance to that.

389. Do you know cases in which the meal is served to children passing by a distributor standing in the playground?—No. I have heard of it, but I have never seen it.

390. In London the rule is that they sit down?—Yes, I could send you a very pretty picture of one of our schools in Kilburn, a very poor school indeed, showing the children seated at the tables.

391. Would that be in the school or outside in a Mission Hall, or something of the kind?—Outside in a Mission Hall. It is very nicely done, with table cloths and everything decent.

392. You regard it as an educative agency?—Quite.

393. Supposing that a system of meals for children were started under which the parents would pay the cost price, say from 1d. to 2d., do you think there would be a large number who would avail themselves of it?—Yes, in certain districts.

394. But it would depend on the district very much?—Yes. Preferably a child should go home to its meal.

395. You are of that opinion?—Yes, decidedly.

396. You would regard the school dinner as only a means of meeting home difficulty?—That is all. If I possibly could I would send every child home.

397. Have you a strong view as to the importance of varying the food?—Yes, very.

398. As to the number of days on which it is supplied I notice that, in many cases, meals are given two days a week, or at most three?—That is a little help, but that is all. If you are going to start a system you would certainly have to provide at least for the five school days.

399. In some cases I understand provision is made for Saturday as well?—I have heard of it in certain parishes, but sometimes conditions are attached to it. A child attends a class for religious instruction and has its meal afterwards.

400. We may safely leave out Sunday perhaps?—Yes.

401. Every family which is a family at all would endeavour to provide a meal on Sunday?—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.

402. Do you think that if any day is to be omitted in the week Monday would probably be more wisely omitted than Saturday?—Yes, I think so.

403. Have you any views as to the relative advantage of large and small agencies?—The large agencies of course can work much cheaper.

404. But they are not equally able to cope with the need of individual cases, are they?—I think it could be well organised from a sort of Central Board for a Division. I have sometimes felt that that would be a great deal better, but you can never get the clergy to agree.

405. You find that the parochial system interferes very much with a proper mapping out of areas?—Yes. I have a great sympathy with the clergy who want to arrange their own parishes. You will never get them all to fall into line. In years gone by I thought that if we had taken a division in West Southwark and had had one Central Board of Management, and then had the division worked under that Board, it would have been better. Without that you will never get anything like uniformity. You will get an extravagant number of necessitous cases in one district and you will get another class of people who do not believe in giving relief, and that is where the whole difficulty comes in. It is not at all easy; it is a most difficult problem.

406. Do you consider it of great importance that where some children pay and others do not, those who do not pay should not be known to those who do?—Yes. If I were running the meal I should like distinctly to have the same coloured ticket to admit both.

407. Could you tell us the reason?—Those who know anything of children know that if they had a little fall out, one would say to the other, "My mother pays for my dinner and your mother does not." It would cause no end of trouble. You can picture the sort of thing that would take place at the flats where the mothers would meet. I think it would cause a great deal of friction.

408. Do you think that the managers would let it be known which had paid and which had not?—Do you mean that the mothers would not know?

409. How would they know who had not paid?—They would know that the woman next door had not paid, for instance.

410. That should be avoided you think?—Yes. It would depend on the organisation.

411. (Miss Lawrence.) Do you think that if there were facilities given with regard to the mentally defective schools it would more or less cause an organisation to be started to deal with the question there?—Yes.

412. One of the principal difficulties is that there is no plant of any sort?—Yes.

413. You said that you would include the school visitor as one of the organisers?—I do not know about as an organiser, but as a referee. I do not think that his official duties should overlap the distribution of food. I do not think that he ought to be connected with that. He, after all, is the attendance officer.

414. In what way would you employ him?—He should be at the service of a committee to give information about a family when asked.

415. You would connect him with it in that way only?—Yes, only.

416. It has been suggested to us that he would not know a large proportion of the children, but only the irregular ones?—That is all he would know, and then again he might have his favourites. You cannot help it.

417. You would merely use him as a channel through which information could be got?—Yes, if you wanted information.

418. There was a question of the teachers in the mentally defective schools staying to help at the dinner. Would the same objections apply to the teachers in the ordinary schools where there are many more, and they would not have to do it every day?—Our rule lays it down that one teacher shall be present on the building. You could not take them away from that building, and say that they shall attend another centre.

419. No. You would have to employ a second teacher for that?—You could not ask a teacher to do it.

420. (Chairman.) It is a question whether it is an extraneous duty under the code?—Yes; you would have to face that directly.

421. (Miss Lawrence.) The same thing would not apply as regards their being so tired as in the case of the mentally defective. They would only have to do it once a week—not every-day?—Only about once a week.

422. Therefore, there would not be quite so strong an objection, as in regard to the other schools?—No.

423. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do you think that the new Minute about the Poor Law assisting the children to meals would help at all?—I am rather afraid of it. From what I know of these neglectful parents when the child is starting for school he will be warned that if he dares to tell his teacher that he wants a meal he will get a thrashing when he gets home, because his father will be locked up for not feeding the child. I am afraid that the child who wants the food will be deterred from asking for it as is the case now. A great deal of our burden is because of that class of neglectful parents.

424. When you dealt with those that you knew in Southwark, how did you manage to influence that kind of parent. Did you actually, as a matter of fact, make some of them treat their children better, do you think?—Yes.

425. So that your actual visits, and dealing with the parents, improved the lot of some of these children quite independently of your giving them meals?—Without any boast, it did. These people are very susceptible. The lowest grade learn to respect you if you are honest, and you can influence them a great deal. I do not say you can cure them of their bad habits; you cannot do that, but you can influence them a great deal. You will have long spells of a better state of things in many of the homes through your influence.

426. In the case of grants from the *Referee* Fund to different teachers you said that from some schools, just as I suppose from some parishes, you get a very large number of necessitous cases, and from others hardly any?—Yes.

427. In making your grants can you take into account the temperament of the teacher?—I think you have to know the needs of the locality.

428. Supposing one school demanded a great number of dinners and you thought that it did not need them, you would not give them?—We should not say anything, we would simply diminish the grant, letting them have, say, only £5 instead of what had been applied for.

429. It is known that in some schools the head teacher of one department has different views from the head teacher of another?—Our committee has made the rule that if there is no committee of managers taking any interest, only one head teacher shall apply for a grant. In a few cases we have been obliged to depart from that. It is not because the teachers do not believe in the need of the children in the school, but they cannot work together. That is really what it means very often.

430. When you say that the only way to really get at it is to get suitable managers to enquire, if we could get suitable managers in each school would that diminish the demand in a great many schools?—Yes, if you could bring the pressure to bear.

431. At the same time you would feed all those who needed it?—Yes, I would always feed the child. The command is not laid upon me to visit the sins of the fathers upon the children and I never would do it. I never could take that view.

432. If you had suitable managers they probably would find means of helping the children in their homes?—Yes.

433. Without visiting the sins of the fathers upon the children they could probably help the parents to help them?—Exactly. I think that a great deal of our difficulty in feeding is on account of the home circumstances.

434. Is it possible that, in some cases, by feeding we have tended to make the parents neglect the children still more, where the method is not adopted of going to the parents, but tickets are more or less indiscriminately given. Is it possible that by that means the children are

neglected more?—I do not think so. I used to send the most needy children away for a summer holiday. Certain ladies, and others interested, said, "You are on wrong lines altogether. If you did not send those children away and pay for them you would find that Tom Jones would send his child." Then for one year the free system was dropped. We started early in the autumn to prepare for the next year and to get contributions. I have never forgotten the misery it was to me. I made up my mind that I would follow this out after what had been said, and the result was that the children who most needed a holiday did not get it. I did not move Tom Jones. It did not matter one farthing to him, or Billy Smith, whether the children went away or not. I saw the very children that I had ordinarily sent away, who needed a breath of fresh air, remaining in the slums. They did not get it. You cannot move those people.

435. Now, supposing the dinners are distributed somewhat irregularly, as unfortunately we know they are, two or three tickets a week being given to the same child, do you think that on the other days of the week the parents may say, "You may get a ticket, therefore we shall not bother to give you anything"?—I do not think they are given as indiscriminately as that, most of the children are on a sort of list.

436. But they do not know beforehand on which day they will get the meal. In many a school they are given one or two tickets a week. They do not know whether they are going to get it on Tuesday or Thursday. It is those children on the list that one is rather afraid about. The parent knows that they are on the list, but does not know on which day they are going to get the ticket?—I should have thought that the child would feel pretty sure when he was going to have a meal, but I do not know.

437. It is a question of probabilities. He would know which day it would come round, you think?—You see if he did not get it at school he would get none. There would be nothing at home, very likely.

438. Would not the parent make a push to get something for the children if she thought they were not going to have anything, which she would not make otherwise?—No, I do not think so. They are fed very often in a most haphazard way. I think I might point out that whatever system is established, one has to take into consideration the little local tradesman. I think that we shall be interfering a good deal with him. He may only have a fried fish shop, but still he lives on the people immediately around his shop. Wherever we can, we send to a neighbouring cookshop, because we feel that the man is heavily rated and that if we can deal with him we are doing the right thing. We are not prejudicing the work by causing him to say, "I have to pay for coals, gas and everything else, and here are these people doing so and so out of the rates." Wherever I can I employ local men and I tell my teachers to do so. We have a cookshop near by some schools, where the children can go in after twelve and sit down to dinner. They are out before the regular adult customers come in. The question of the local people is a question that we have to think of. Those people have to live.

439. (Chairman.) Would you rely as far as possible on the local food supply?—I would.

440. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) It would not be the cheapest way of feeding them, would it?—At Millbank there is a man who supplies the meal very well indeed at 2d. per head. He delivers it at the school. They do not go to his shop. He supplies a very good meal.

441. (Dr. Parsons.) Has anything been done to bring pressure on the worst class of parent through the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Do you work in connection with them?—Yes, we work well in connection with them. We have a case now that is being pressed. We do not bring the school authority at all into it. We put the officer on frequently and he renders valuable help.

442. Do you think there is any chance in cases under the recent order of getting the parents to pay the cost of the meals that are furnished by the guardians?—I think you will disgust the man in the street, as it were, because he will say, "This man owes sixpence for his child's food and it has cost five shillings to get it." I know that that will be the difficulty. Rather than be bothered with the whole form of getting the money I am afraid that people will give in.

443. But if the money is not recovered there may not merely be one sixpence but many sixpences?—Yes, but

Mrs. E. M.
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Mrs. E. M. the cost of recovery will always be greater however you multiply it.

23 May 1905. 444. You think, then, that the cost of recovering the one sixpence will be so great as to make it not worth while to resort to that process in order to prevent many other sixpences coming upon the ratepayers?—I would not say that. I am picturing the guardians that I know, and I am just thinking of how they would look at it. I could give you districts in London where I know exactly the attitude of the guardians towards that question. You could not get them to do it. I myself would spend pounds in pursuing a man who neglected his child and I should think that I was doing good, but I could not convince other people that I was doing good.

445. In many of the poorer districts of London, the guardians would be elected largely by the vote of people very little above the class we are speaking of?—Yes; and very often hardly above it. We cannot name divisions, but the question of administration is a terribly difficult problem. If you had a system to-day you would get in one district a prodigal, and in another district you would get the C.O.S. member. If the C.O.S. member is dominant you get a certain method, but in a neighbouring parish you might get the very opposite of the C.O.S., so what can you do? I see in your regulations very great difficulty.

446. What would be your view of the relative advantage of giving a meal every day in the week, or five days in the week, to a limited number of children who are most in want of it, as compared with providing a meal on two days a week for a larger number?—I would give to the smaller number. I would do that thoroughly. You do not do much good by giving a casual meal to a child who is not really in need of it. If you really want to benefit the hungry child you must continue your feeding. I have seen the difference between the child who has been fed every day and the other children.

447. (Mr. Walrond.) Supposing there are 100 children equally in need, would you prefer to give five meals a week to twenty, or two meals a week to fifty?—I was not supposing that the hundred were equally needy.

448. Practically equally. I will say?—But most societies like big numbers.

449. And there is rather a temptation, I suppose, to get the number?—Yes. I am in favour of taking the individual child.

450. Pursuing it right through and really doing him good?—Yes.

451. (Dr. Parsons.) You prefer to give five meals a week to the twenty most needy, instead of two meals a week to the fifty most needy?—I prefer five meals a week, because you do more good; but that does not appeal to sentiment, does it?

452. (Mr. Walrond.) The other is mere tinkering?—Yes.

453. (Chairman.) Have you any experience of the working of the Charity Organisation Committees in this matter?—No, not in this matter. They do not take up the feeding question, do they?

454. You have not personally come into contact with the C.O.S. over the question of the feeding of school children?—No.

455. What would you say about the Christmas holidays. Is not that, on the whole, the most difficult time of all the year?—No, because there is so much charity about at Christmas. As a matter of fact, in Southwark there were so many robin dinners, and casual treats and feeds, that we ceased our dinners.

456. Robin dinners are casual, are they not. There is no system about them, is there?—No; so far as I know there is not. They are really treats given during the fortnight in which the school is closed. People are very good in that way. The children are always going to parties in the poorer districts.

457. The need is really met by other agencies?—Yes, I think so. In Southwark, for one week, we let them have breakfast.

458. Have you any opinion as regards the relative advantage of breakfast and dinner?—I feel strongly that I would like to make the London child fully realise the value of breakfast. The average London parent does not. I am going about my duties at nine o'clock in the morning. I see window blinds down. A child is crawling out. It has just got out of bed. It is unwashed and unkempt. It is going to fetch a bundle of wood for fire for the break-

fast. Of course it is just a scramble as you may imagine. 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."

459. In the morning?—In the morning. They would eat the hardest and dryest 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.

460. The usual home breakfast would be tea and bread?—Tea and bread.

461. The presence of a child at school without breakfast would not necessarily mean that it was underfed or in want at home?—No. It sometimes means that they have not taken the trouble to get anything ready. Many are hungry, no doubt, because there is nothing at home. There is not a farthing. When the casual labourer goes out to his work the child is dispatched somewhere to meet him at 12 o'clock to get twopence, or threepence, from him; then the meal is got with that. That is the life of thousands of our children. When the man goes out in the morning he does not leave a farthing behind. He has not got anything to leave. He gets his money during the day. I am referring to market-porters and so on—not to the licensed porter, but to the casual man.

462. He picks up his money in the course of the morning?—Yes, and the child stands there and waits for a copper or two to get food with when he comes back. I would point out that these people, as I said before, are almost chronically on the border line of want. The moment a man or woman is ill, or there is the least sickness, or anything of the kind, there is nothing; they start by pawning their things, and in the winter, for instance, just at the time when they want the blanket it is pawned. When you speak to a child about boots, in many cases you find that they are pawned. It is not really that the people neglect the children. They are not always neglectful, but there is no work and so no money.

463. Have you anything else to add to your interesting evidence?—No, I think not. We have always felt that the need is rather feeding centres than money. I believe that the charitable public would subscribe the money for the food.

464. By feeding centres do you mean suitable buildings with kitchens in which food can be prepared and served?—Yes. May I say that for a great many years in the crowded districts it has been a great problem how to decently bring up boys and girls over ten years of age, and I have often felt that I would have liked to have seen in those crowded districts dormitories put up. The ground floor should contain the feeding arrangements, and then you could teach these girls housewifery in a practical way. They would make a bed which had been slept in; they would sweep out a room which had been used, and they would have to cook food rapidly which the children will come in to eat. If I had remained at West Southwark I think I could have tried it in some way. I would take the senior girls from the crowded homes and I would make the parent pay, say, 6d. a week for the dormitory accommodation, and the girls would do all the cooking and cleaning and so on. I believe it is practicable and it would relieve a great many of the evils that I know exist in these crowded districts where rents are so high. You cannot go to people and say, "You ought to have another room." It is impossible, rents are so high.

465. Do you think that any other use than is at present made could be made of the cookery centres in regard to supplying meals for children?—The dormitory arrangements would come nearer to the Brussels method of providing children with meals. They have houses where they train girls and provide meals.

466. As you are aware our reference does not go beyond voluntary agencies?—No.

467. The Brussels method is supported by rates and taxes, as I gather?—Yes.

468. (Chairman.) Thank you, very much.

Miss MARGARET FRERE, called in; and Examined.

469. (Chairman.) You are an active member of a School Relief Committee in connection with the Tower Street Council School in Seven Dials?—Yes.

470. I propose to take the *precis* which you have kindly put in as your evidence in chief. It can be put on the notes?—Certainly.

FEEDING OF CHILDREN.

TOWER STREET COUNCIL SCHOOL, SEVEN DIALS.

Heads of Evidence.

A. *Methods Employed.*—Since January, 1899, a School Relief Committee, consisting of the three head teachers and two lady managers, have managed the feeding work. No local authorities or outside agencies assist in any way, and no money has been received for any feeding purposes from newspaper funds or feeding associations for four years. No money is spent on machinery, as the meals given are all provided at Lockhart's dining-room, within a stone's throw of the school. The tickets cost 3d. each (eighty for a pound) and a supply of them is kept by each head teacher for use on emergencies all through the year. The tickets are free, and are paid for out of a small fund, collected every January by me from friends for the benefit of the children. I get about £30 every year and spend about £5 on food tickets. The names and addresses of children who ask for tickets, also of all children who seem sick or sorry, are given to the visiting managers by the head teachers; the homes are visited and the mothers interviewed. If the home visit reveals distress the children are placed on the dinner list at once for a fortnight; then the mother is visited again, and if still in trouble the dinners are continued, and so on, sometimes for several consecutive weeks, but frequently, through help to the parents, the children come off the list at the end of a few weeks. I try to help parents who have fallen on evil times, as if they can be floated all is well with the children. Children who are neglected and not fed by careless or cruel parents require a great deal of looking after, and such cases have to be dealt with individually and the S.P.C.C. has to be asked to visit and watch them. But I find, as a rule, my own visiting and interest in the children do make the careless mothers take more trouble. I warn them that no dinners will be forthcoming from the school and that my attention has been drawn to their children, and so on. The new Order may be useful in dealing with the parents. The children mentioned in Class A. are very puzzling. I have had a few on my hands and feel that all the dinners and their cost are thrown away on these human wrecks. I have managed in three instances to get such children into the Poor Law Schools, but they had no fathers. One family of the Class A. type has been a drag on our fund this winter for six months on end. The three children had fifteen dinners a week for fourteen weeks and absorbed over 200 tickets. Clearly the number of tickets given in a school is no guide to the poverty of a school. This family sent up my numbers of tickets enormously and cost over £2 to my fund.

B. *Relief Given.*—Dinners five days a week to all the school children of a family in need. Milk is given daily to special medical cases. If ordered by our local doctor, milk is given in the holidays by arrangement with a local dairy. Children in need are fed at any time in the year and for as long as is necessary. As a rule cases of distress occur rarely between May and October, but I always beg the teachers to tell me of any cases, and I go and see them at any time, and do what is best to help them. Pending the inquiry, tickets are always given by the teachers to all children who seem to them to need help of this kind.

C. *Kind of Food.*—Hot suet and meat puddings and greens three times a week; rasher of bacon and potatoes once a week. Beef sausages and potatoes once a week. Milky rice puddings and stewed apples or prunes once a week for a change. The children dislike soup, and as it does not use their teeth I never have it; or jam, as they get so much of that at home. They want fatty food, so I give them suet. The number of children fed varies a great deal. I have had nineteen children representing twelve families on the dinner-list in a period of fourteen weeks from January 9th to April 18th, 1905, out of 320 on roll.

D. *Retarded Children.*—I expect the majority of my children are below normal standards, physically and mentally. They live in bad air, never get proper exercise and are worked rather hard out of school hours and go to bed late. But 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.

E. *Suggestions for Improved Organisation.*—The London County Council Scheme of relief committees seems to be the machinery needed. I should like the word *relief* dropped and the word *visiting* substituted. The visiting ought to be done, I think, by paid trained ladies, not by men, and certainly not by men of the type of the ordinary school attendance officer.

Every school visiting committee should publish an annual report. These little papers would prove useful to the central authority, as showing improvement or the reverse in administration and they would contain valuable information and suggestions for other workers.

471. I understand that the committee on which you work is not a relief committee under the Underfed Children Committee of the County Council?—No, it is not.

472. It is an independently constituted committee?—Yes, under an old Order of the School Board, with regard to how to administer charitable funds.

473. Have you seen the working of those relief committees in other schools?—No, not at all.

474. You were quite satisfied with your own constitution and so did not propose to follow the new regulations?—Yes.

475. You say in your proof that no money has been received for feeding purposes from newspaper funds or feeding associations for four years. Do I understand that a good deal of money was received from these sources previously to that date?—Yes.

476. Will you tell us about that. Would you develop your evidence on that point?—We used to receive from the London Schools Dinners Association £20 a year for a dinner system, which I ran for three schools—Drury Lane, Great Wilde Street, and Tower Street. I was Secretary and Treasurer of the Local Dinners Association. £10 a year went direct to my head teachers from the *Referee* Fund, so that we always had £30 a year. I collected in subscriptions for the three schools about another £30. Then the *Echo* used to send us £5 occasionally for boots only.

477. You worked in connection with that a regular dinner system?—A regular dinner system for seven years in three schools—a large system.

478. Did the parents contribute considerably towards that or were most of the meals free?—Free eventually. We first of all tried a paying list and that dropped off within three weeks of its being opened. We had no more paying children. They never came again, and therefore it was free.

479. Did the children who paid cease to come, or did the paying children come and claim to be admitted free?—Those who paid ceased to come.

480. Your experience, so far as it went at that time, would go to show that a system by which a dinner is provided on full payment at a school is not self-supporting, and does not attract parents?—No, not at all.

481. Do you believe that that would be the case now if such a system were tried?—Yes, 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.

482. I gather from your evidence that you feel very strongly that every case should be dealt with through the Lome?—Yes.

483. You mention the new Order of the Local Government Board. To what extent are you of opinion that

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that Order will meet present difficulties?—Since I have studied the Order I have come to the conclusion that it will be a dead letter, because it rules out two classes of parents who really form the most difficult classes. Those who are in temporary distress from any cause are to be left to private charity. The other class is widows and deserted wives, to whom the Order does not apply.

484. The Order does not apply to those, but in those cases relief may be given, but it cannot be given by lean. That, I understand, is the sole point of the Order?—It will not be reasonable, you mean?

485. It cannot be given in that form?—Therefore will it be of any use for us to apply to the Guardians with regard to those cases where it cannot be recovered.

486. In those cases where the Order does apply, have you any opinion as to it?—I have not tried it yet.

487. Is it proposed by your Committee to try it?—Perhaps I ought to explain that I am the Committee—I have nobody else.

488. Have you no colleagues?—No; I have no colleagues.

489. You mean that you are the only manager on the committee?—Yes.

490. You give an example at the end of your first paragraph of the case of a family which has been a drag on the fund for some time?—Yes.

491. Are you of opinion that where meals are given they should be given continuously?—Yes.

492. And over the whole year, if necessary?—Yes, if necessary.

493. Have you seen difficulties arising from the sudden termination of the dinner system?—Yes. I used to end it off automatically at Easter and I had many cases of distress in May and June, which I used to help as a private individual, because my funds had run out.

494. Do you attach importance to giving milk?—Yes. The doctor in the Medical Mission often orders the children milk in preference to anything else, so I give them milk for four or five weeks as advised.

495. Is it given in the morning?—At eleven and three.

496. At the break in both morning and afternoon school?—Yes.

497. You have found that by your close supervision at this school the need for relief has been greatly diminished?—Yes.

498. Is that to be in any way accounted for by a rise in the class of children attending the school?—No, not at all. They are the brothers and sisters of those who were there previously.

499. Have the homes remained equally destitute?—Quite. I see no change.

500. You attribute the whole alteration to the personal care which has been taken in administering the relief?—Yes.

501. As regards the kind of food given, I see that you set yourself strongly against soup and bread and jam, which seem to be the staple articles of diet in many schemes of feeding which have been before us?—Yes. I know that they are the staple articles. The children do not like soup, and doctors tell you that it is very bad for the digestion, and that it does not cause them to use their teeth.

502. The dislike for soup, I suppose, might be eradicated. Children dislike a great many things which are good for them?—But is soup good for them?

503. Of itself the dislike is not a reason for not giving soup?—They waste it.

504. Have you any views as to the ways in which teachers can help in this matter?—Yes. The teachers who know the children who are before them can always give you the names and addresses, and that is the important thing, of children in distress who ask for anything or want anything.

505. As a rule, can they point out likely cases from their careful observation of children in school?—Yes. That is all they can do.

506. Do you think that a careful teacher would be unlikely to miss any case where food was really wanted?

—No. I think that a careful teacher would not miss a case where food was actually wanted, but they sometimes fail to observe cases of defective eyesight.

507. We are only at the present moment on food?—I do not think they would miss a case where a child is failing for want of food.

508. On the whole, therefore, you could trust to the teachers to point out the *prima facie* cases?—From my experience only I should say yes.

509. But it is no part of the teacher's duty and you would not expect the teacher to go further into the case and be able to report on the state of the home and the needs of the child?—No. On that I feel very strongly that they ought not to be even asked to do it.

510. Would you give us your reasons?—Because they have other work to do which is very arduous, not only teaching, but paper work, and they are absolutely unfitted by character and training, I think, to act as almoners amongst the poor. They have really little knowledge of the circumstances of the children attending their schools. They do not live in the neighbourhood as a rule, and they are not acquainted with the conditions of the children's parents, that is to say their earnings.

511. To go further into the subject of teachers, would you expect them, in cases where food relief is given, to superintend the giving of it?—I should be against it, because it is in their hours of recreation when they ought to feed themselves and take a change.

512. Where food is found to be necessary, would you give it on the school premises, or would you make a point rather of giving it elsewhere?—Elsewhere if possible, while the school rooms are being aired.

513. Setting aside the teachers, who would be the right persons to investigate in the cases where food is applied for?—The women managers attached to the school.

514. You say advisedly the women managers?—Yes.

515. Would you give your reason for saying the women managers?—Because I do not think the work is work for men. It is entirely domestic work involving questions connected with children's home life and health. I do not think men would be the people to do it, nor would they have the knowledge.

516. For that reason you do not consider that the school attendance officer is at all the right person to follow up a case?—No, I do not think he is at all the right person. I have had a lot to do with school attendance officers, and they are very good in their own sphere, but I do not think they are the right persons.

517. You would not avoid asking the opinion of a school attendance officer about a case?—No.

518. You would find that a valuable element in judging, supposing that he knew anything?—It is such a big "if." I have never found what they could tell me of any use at all.

519. That is very strong?—I never have.

520. They would be acquainted no doubt, as a rule, only with the cases of irregular children?—That is all.

521. So far as your field of operation concerns those irregular children, their opinion would be of use in knowing the circumstances of the home?—Not the circumstances beyond two. They know if a man is out of work, and they know if there is illness, but they know no more.

522. Both of those would be material matters?—Yes.

523. So that you would not exclude the school attendance officer when conducting an investigation?—I would not exclude him, but I would check his information by personal investigation.

524. (Miss Lawrence.) Did you employ many visitors to collect all this information, which is very valuable. Were the investigations made under supervision?—It was done through two friends who belong to the Charity Organisation Society.

525. Did you start this form?—They started it.

526. Do you still continue that?—Yes.

527. Do you find it gives you all the information required?—Yes—under those heads.

528. The final decision with regard to tickets would now

be your decision as you have no colleague?—It would be my decision.

529. You say that you get about £40 a year and spend about £5 on food tickets. I presume, however, that, virtually speaking, it is a Relief Committee. It does not apply only to food, but to other things?—Yes, other things.

530. Do you find £5 a year sufficient for food tickets?—It would vary. One year it would be £4, another £5, and another £6.

531. But not much more than that?—Not much more than that.

532. I see that you say the children are placed on the dinner list at once for a fortnight if there is distress. Is that after a visit, or do you, in some cases, feed a child immediately, before inquiry?—He is always given a ticket before inquiry.

533. One ticket?—One ticket. Then I visit, and if I think it is a case of distress which wants a lot of inquiry I put him on for a fortnight.

534. There is a dinner provided before even any preliminary inquiry?—Yes, to please the teachers.

535. Would you feed a child who was absolutely neglected by his parents even though there was money in the home?—Yes, and we would apply to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and, under the new Order, I suppose, to the Guardians.

536. You say you find that the children are just as healthy and do their lessons as well when they go home to dinner as they did when you fed sixty a day. In those days do you think that a great number received food who did not require it?—Yes.

537. You found it necessary to stop?—Yes, that is why I stopped.

538. You do not see any appreciable difference in the children?—None.

539. Are they the same children?—Yes. When I say the same, they are the brothers and sisters of the others who have passed out.

540. There is no case of overlapping?—No.

541. (Chairman.) Is there a large permanent population? Has there not been a good deal of change?—There has been a great deal of change because of pulling down.

542. I am interested to hear you say that they are the brothers and sisters of those who were there eight years ago. In spite of the change do the children still come there?—Yes, they come from great distances to the school now.

543. (Miss Lawrence.) With regard to Relief Committees, do you think that there would be sufficient money coming forward to employ paid trained ladies?—Yes.

544. Would you make every Relief Committee responsible for its own expenses, or would you have a central fund?—For the paid trained ladies I would like a central fund.

545. So that each local committee can apply to a central body for paid help?—Yes.

546. That would be your idea?—Yes.

547. The numbers would be regulated by the needs?—Yes. I believe that the applications would diminish very greatly.

548. The numbers requiring food?—Yes, and the numbers of the schools which are said to be in distress.

549. You would like a Relief Committee, at any rate to start with?—Yes, I would.

550. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) I see that you say on the first page that you frequently gave help to the parents, and that thus the children came off the list. What form would that help to the parents take. Did you give them money or in what way did you help them to feed the children?—For one thing I helped them to get work, and in the case which I mention, as it is a long case, they came off the dinner list when we got the father regular work under the Holborn Borough Council.

551. In what other ways have you helped to obtain work?—I have helped a compositor who could not go on with his trade because he could not see, by giving

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the man glasses. I sent him to my oculist and got glasses, and in other cases I have sent fathers away who were ill and helped the mothers so that they became earners. That is the point.

552. In some cases you say you have made the careless mothers take more trouble?—Yes, by visiting them and giving them little domestic hints on the children's heads and health. They have taken the trouble to make the children clean.

553. You have had a very poor class at Tower Street, from Seven Dials and that part of the world?—Yes, very poor.

554. What were the chief reasons of the "distress" of the children?—In the old days, do you mean.

555. Yes?—The fact that the teachers thought they were poor looking children from a poor neighbourhood in my opinion largely created "distress."

556. You think that they assumed that they must be in need?—I think they assumed that they must be in need.

557. The children were able to make out a *prima facie* case?—Yes, that is all.

558. Some children look delicate or ill?—Yes, they do.

559. How do you deal with those delicate children?—I visit their homes, see their mothers and find out under what conditions they are living, whether the windows open, whether the children are being washed, and various other matters of that kind. We very often find that many delicate looking children are by no means ill. They are not ailing even.

560. It is only their looks?—It is only their looks.

561. In many cases you find that that is not due to want of food, but to want of air?—Want of air and want of sleep.

562. I see that you continue to visit cases where the children are sent away?—Yes.

563. You keep in touch with the family?—Yes.

564. You have found that delicacy often arises, not from need of food, but from need of air?—Yes.

565. In some cases the women are widows in receipt of out relief, and so on?—Yes, in some cases they are.

566. Is that out relief adequate?—Thoroughly inadequate.

567. You know the article which Miss Horn, who was working with you, wrote?—Yes.

568. She was one of the managers with you?—Yes.

569. It mentioned specially that the widows were in receipt of inadequate out relief and were unable to feed their children properly?—Yes.

570. Have you brought the question before the guardians?—Yes. I brought it before the guardians three weeks ago in connection with a case where there was very inadequate relief and they refused to increase it.

571. Miss Horn says that in some cases they did increase it and were induced to make a sufficient allowance?—If they did I am not aware of it.

572. You have brought it before the guardians, but generally without result?—Yes, twice lately.

573. In the case of a man who is ill and is the breadwinner, would you feed the children during that time?—Yes, and send the man away to receive convalescent treatment through the Charity Organisation Society's Committee. Application is made to the Committee.

574. Would the family be fed while the husband is away to some extent?—Yes. I feed the children and the Charity Organisation Society send the father away.

575. You said you were able to improve individual families. What you mean is, I suppose, that the general character of the neighbourhood remains the same?—Yes.

576. In individual cases you have been able to do something?—The Local Sanitary Authorities have, where necessary, insisted on dirty rooms being papered and cleaned. Miss Horn has seen a good deal of drains and dustbins. In certain individual cases she has been very successful, but the character of the neighbourhood remains unchanged.

C

Miss M.
Frere.

23 May 1905.

Miss M.
Freere.

23 May 1905.

577. In the case of the children who were on the dinner list and have now dropped off, do you feel that you have done something adequate for them through the family, or are they just as poor as when they were receiving dinners?—Just as poor.

578. So you have not been able to do anything adequate for them through the family?—No, only where we have been able to get the fathers and mothers work.

579. Or get them assistance in illness?—Yes.

580. Miss Horn convalescent treatment?—Yes.

581. Have you done much in the way of clothing?—Very little lately, but we have outfitted whole families.

582. Do you find that children are often very badly fed and that the lack of physique is sometimes due to that. Do they get the wrong sort of food?—I think they get the wrong sort of food. I visit at dinner hours and I find they get a lot of tea, which is not good.

583. Have you done anything to help the parent to improve that. Have you been able to give advice and assistance in that way?—Not very much. They cannot afford milk.

584. One of the things to be considered is the unwholesome method of feeding infants?—Yes.

585. Have you done anything with regard to that?—Miss Horn has and the Charity Organisation Society have done a good deal.

586. Did you have more than Tower Street, or only Tower Street?—Tower Street only.

587. Did you find any larger lists in one department than in the other?—Yes, in the old days much larger.

588. It is really the condition of the homes that you think is responsible for the bad physique of the children?—Yes.

589. By your relief committee, are you able to do anything to improve that, except in these ways that you have mentioned with regard to the dust bins and the papering occasionally?—No, I do not think we are able to. I think that the children in those homes are just as well off without the dinner in the middle of the day as they were with it. It did them no good.

590. You do not think it has made any difference?—I can see no difference at all, nor can my teachers. That form of help is of no use.

591. Miss Horn says that the only way in which school relief work can be done is to take the family as the centre?—Yes.

592. You quite agree with that?—Quite.

593. One wants to see how we are going to improve the children through the family?—It will be done largely through these health visitors who are being started by the Charity Organisation Society who begin with the mothers in the homes and the babies as they come into the world.

594. Have you a health visitor attached to your school?—I wish I had.

595. You have not one?—Not yet.

596. Have you hope of getting one?—No. I have just moved into Holborn out of Westminster. In Holborn they do not exist. If I was in Westminster I could have one.

597. You think that the proper line is to have visitors who would improve the family and the home?—Yes.

598. (Dr. Parsons.) I gather from your answers that you consider that the inferior physique of the children of whom you have been speaking is due rather to the unhygienic homes in which they live, and the way in which they live, than to the mere want of food?—Yes.

599. Has nothing been done to improve the sanitary conditions in the part of the town which you have referred to?—Yes. Under the borough council, I think, there has been in the last two years an effort to improve the drains and dust bins and sanitary arrangements.

600. There are byelaws as to letting lodgings, which would apply to most houses where these people live, for the prevention of overcrowding and the general enforcement of cleanliness, and so on. Has no action been

taken under these to improve the condition?—Yes. Under the local by laws of the county council families are moved out of my locality because of overcrowding.

601. I am not speaking of the byelaws of the county council, but of the byelaws made by the borough council?—The families are moved out of the rooms if they are overcrowded. They have to go. I have lost a number in that way.

602. Is the result of moving them out that they get more room elsewhere?—Cheaper rents and more room.

603. (Mr. Walrond.) How many on an average do you think you feed a day?—Two or three.

604. Not more than that?—No.

605. Who superintends their meals. I see that it is given at Lockhart's. Do they go by themselves?—They go by themselves and the manager at Lockhart's, whom I know, and who is interested in it, superintends their meals, which are according to a menu I give him.

606. A small number like that it is easy to superintend?—Yes, it is.

607. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You used to have sixty a day?—Yes.

608. (Mr. Walrond.) Then you yourself superintended?—Yes.

609. And saw that they behaved properly?—Yes.

610. Were the meals served at Lockhart's?—In various places, as may be imagined. It was very difficult in that part of London.

611. Not in the school?—Not in the school. I wanted somewhere near. I tried three different places and finally ended up with a Mission Hall in West Street belonging to the Missioner of the district. He gave it to me free and I ran the dinners.

612. You took a good deal of trouble to make it a lesson in behaviour?—Yes. It was a school of manners.

613. Now it is no longer a school of manners; there is a manageress to look after them?—No, there is nobody.

614. (Chairman.) Do they have a table to themselves?—Yes, a separate table at Lockhart's dining rooms. They behave very well, I am told.

615. (Mr. Walrond.) You say that the number of tickets given in a school is no guide to the poverty of a school. I do not follow that?—I thought that people would see my report and say "Miss Freere gives 400 tickets in her school. How many children are underfed." They might think it was 400 children, might they not and therefore I would like to make it clear that one family of three children took such a large number of tickets as 200. It is no guide to the number of children on my list who are being fed. You want the two to correct each other.

616. There is a case where you inquired very carefully into the circumstances of some children and you gave tickets for a time. At last you came to the conclusion that no more tickets were to be given and that you would report the matter to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children?—Yes.

617. You do not go on feeding the child, do you, until action is taken?—We have some children to whom I refer still on the list and at any minute I might have to feed them. I called in the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children because the children were so fearfully dirty.

618. But you stopped the tickets before you reported to the Society?—Yes, but I do not think we did really. That was the decision of the Committee.

619. You think it was not acted on?—I do not think it was acted on.

620. You do not consider that a child must be fed at all costs and that such action as may be necessary by the Society should be taken simultaneously?—I think you must feed the children, but at the same time call in the Society.

621. That is the method which you prefer?—Yes, I prefer that.

622. Now that you are the Committee you can ensure that?—Yes, I do.

623. (Chairman.) Do you think that the fear of the calling in of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, or the officer of the guardians, would prevent the children from admitting that they are insufficiently or improperly fed at home?—I do not think it would affect the children at all.

624. But is it not possible that the parents might threaten the children with certain consequences if they admitted that they were ill-fed?—That is a difficulty which can only be met by somebody going to the mother at the time. I have a case of that now.

625. Do you think it is a real difficulty?—Yes, it is a real difficulty.

626. Did you find, as a matter of fact, that the last winter was worse than the winter before in London?—I do not think it was worse, as far as my school was concerned.

627. You would not commit yourself to a general statement about London, of course?—No, I could not.

628. The witness who was here just before you said that they felt it necessary to call for a good deal more money than in the previous year and that they spent it all?—I have had no sign of it at all in Tower Street. No parent has even been up to see me to ask me.

629. Employment has not been worse in the district of that school than in other winters?—No.

630. Is there anything else that you would like to add before you leave the chair?—With regard to the name of the Committee I should like to say something. Supposing that Committees are set up in necessitous schools, I wonder if they would call them visiting Committees instead of Relief Committees. Do not you think that "relief" is associated with guardians?

631. It is not for us to discuss that matter, as our reference uses the word "relief," and I think that we feel ourselves rather precluded from recommending a change of language—"To inquire into the methods employed, the sums expended, and the relief given by the 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." "Relief" has a cant sense now, you think?—Yes.

632. It means Poor Law relief, you mean?—Yes.

633. That is your objection?—That is my objection.

634. I quite follow the point?—Another point is this: Somebody said: "cannot you group the schools. Do you think that you ought to have a Committee in each separate necessitous school?" I think so. Teachers will only come to a committee to hear about their own children. They wish to slip into a room in the same building. I have tried a dinner system in grouping, but it did not answer. I think that it would be a great pity if one tried to group schools for relief work.

635. You attach great importance to keeping the school as the unit?—Yes, as the unit for the work.

636. The other proposal would arise on the grouping of management?—Yes.

637. You would make it analogous to that?—No.

638. The schools under the London County Council are now grouped under the Education Act?—Yes. It would seem obvious to group them, but with regard to the relief of children I cannot help thinking that it is better to keep the school as a separate unit and have the teacher and managers for the work.

639. (Mr. Walrond.) Do you approve of a large central fund which administers grants to necessitous schools?—Yes. I think that is quite right. We have that in Holborn.

640. (Chairman.) That is a sub-association?—That is a sub-association.

641. We have not yet unravelled the whole system of London Central Associations. Have you any opinion with regard to records?—I think it is very useful if you are doing work of this kind to have records.

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642. You attach importance to some record being kept as to the individual child who is being fed with regard to how often and on what date?—Yes. The case papers are really little histories.

643. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do you keep a record on the case papers as to the actual amount of food given, for instance?—I never have done so.

644. So that you are not carrying that out on your own case papers?—No.

645. (Chairman.) Can you say on what days each of the children receives relief and for how long?—Yes, I have a record. We have to make that return every week to the London County Council.

646. You do not make the return, do you. You are not a Relief Committee?—We are on a special footing.

647. For the purposes of the Return you are exactly the same?—Yes, we send every week a printed form.

648. (Dr. Parsons.) Do you think that there is any possibility of overlapping, that is of the children whom you feed getting dinner tickets from other agencies and disposing of them?—We have tried to eliminate all those agencies, but they will get some tickets, I know.

649. (Chairman.) They would get those, not through the school, but from outside?—Sometimes through the school. For instance in my school they have just been doing it. They did not tell me.

650. Will you tell us something about that?—The Children's Happy Evening Association works in my school. I have nothing to do with it. The gentleman who manages that the other day gave the headmistress and head master some tickets which had been given to him. I think that they had forty. I did not see them and I do not know what they were, but I was told that he had given them, and the headmistress had given them away to the children as she liked.

651. Were those for dinners in the middle of the day?—Yes. They were dinner tickets for dinner at a French restaurant.

652. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Were they an odd lot of tickets?—Yes, an odd lot of tickets that had come into his possession.

653. Did they only last for about a week?—For about a fortnight.

654. Do you think that now you have dropped feeding that the children have got tickets from the clergy or others?—No; as far as I know. The clergy are interested.

655. (Chairman.) Do they work with you in the matter? No, they are neutral. They do not work with us.

656. (Mr. Walrond.) Are there any soup kitchens near you?—Only a parochial one to which the children do not go.

657. (Chairman.) The teachers would support you, would they not, in keeping out any other sources of supply of dinner tickets?—Not wholly. There is a headmistress who occurs to me who would not. She hates the whole thing and she goes against it always.

658. (Mr. Walrond.) Do you mean that she hates limitation of the tickets?—Yes. She would like to feed them all and she would like to have all the money. There is some prestige attached to giving, and she always resents very much the whole plan of a Committee and of investigation.

659. (Miss Lawrence.) She likes the patronage?—She likes the patronage, and she likes the prestige and she openly says so. She has her opinion just as I have mine.

660. (Chairman.) Generally speaking the teachers have the awarding of the tickets almost entirely in their own hands as matters go?—Yes, in their own hands almost entirely.

661. (Dr. Parsons.) They may be used as rewards for good conduct rather than as relief for necessity?—They sometimes were in my school. I do not know whether they were in others.

Miss M.
Freere.

23 May 1905.

Mr. A. STIRLING, called in; and Examined.

Mr. A.
Stirling.
23 May 1905.

662. (Chairman.) You are a member of the Committee of the Destitute Children's Dinners Society?—Yes, I am.

663. You have been so for some years?—Yes, I have been for ten winters on the Committee.

664. Can you tell us for about how long the Society has been in existence?—For about forty years.

665. It has gradually developed to its present position?—Yes, it has.

666. I have before me the account made up to the 30th September 1904. That I understand is the latest account which is issued by your society?—Yes, that is the latest account. I take it that the account for this year will be pretty much the same. The amounts received were about the same. (I have not the exact figures), the number of dinners given was somewhere about the same.

667. We may take this as a guide?—You may take it as a guide.

668. I notice that your income is derived from subscriptions and donations, including one from a paper, "The Christian," and from interest on investments?—Yes.

669. In the year before us the income seems to have been a little over £800?—Yes.

670. Your expenditure exceeded £1,000?—Yes.

671. The difference being made up by the sale of certain of your investments?—Yes.

672. Nearly £200?—Yes, or rather I should say I think that a legacy that was left to us was partly used for current expenses.

673. Would you tell us exactly what the work of the Society is?—The work of the Society, as it is now, is to make grants to those who are giving dinners in various parts of London and, as I daresay you have noticed, upon pages 16 and 17 there is a list of thirty-six dining rooms. I believe that one of them has dropped out. There are only thirty-five at the present moment. That has been the average number since I have known the Society. There have been changes. Some have dropped out and some have taken the thing up again.

674. The work of your Society is to make grants for other societies or associations to use?—Yes.

675. On what conditions are those grants made?—I think you must refer to the rules in the earlier part. When a society applies to us for a grant we put these rules into their hands. The first thing we do is to ask them if they have got a committee, or if they can form a committee, so that we shall not be dealing with an individual.

676. Do you insist on a local committee?—Yes, we insist on a local committee. We put these rules into their hands and ask them if they are prepared to act upon them. If they are, and everything we hear with regard to those who are managing is satisfactory, we make them a grant.

677. Are these rules all in force now?—Here is a rule which says, that each child has to pay a sum not exceeding one penny. That really has dropped out now, and it is a halfpenny. None of them, or very few of them, pay more than a halfpenny.

678. Would you refuse to recognise any society which permitted children to pay a penny for their meal?—Certainly we should not refuse them, but we will recognise any, who get their children to pay only a halfpenny.

679. Your rule says: "not exceeding one penny"?—Yes.

680. It admits the halfpenny?—Yes.

681. If 1d. or 2d. were charged, that would take them out of the category of associations that you could help?—Yes, that would take them out of the category of associations that we could help. If they charge 1d., and so on, there is no occasion to come to us for a grant. That would defray the cost of the dinner, or go a long way towards it.

682. Is one of your tests as to whether the society needs help or not, the fact that they charge not more than one halfpenny for a dinner?—No; we do not put that as a test. If they really want support in their work we give it. We do not put it in the way of a test. Practically, I daresay it is; but that is not the way in which we put it.

683. The rules printed on your first page are the rules under which you at present work?—Yes.

RULES.

(1.) In order to improve the general, physical, as well as moral condition of the children of the destitute poor in London, it is advisable to improve the diet of children attending board, ragged, and other schools, by enabling them to purchase a good dinner once a week, or oftener, at a price not exceeding one penny per meal.

(2.) This society shall be called the DESTITUTE CHILDREN'S DINNERS SOCIETY to be worked by establishing or supporting dining-rooms for destitute children in the various poor districts throughout London under the management of local committees.

(3.) The dinners shall consist of Irish stew or nourishing soup, composed of beef or mutton, vegetables, etc., with bread; the meat being in the proportion of not less than three ounces of meat, without bone, to each child's dinner. Pudding may be added at the discretion of the local committee.

(4.) Admission shall be by ticket, to be procured by the children from the managers or teachers of the various schools of the district, on payment of a sum not exceeding one penny.

(5.) The manager or superintendent of any dining-room is held responsible for the due carrying out of the rules.

(6.) If the dinners provided at any dining-room are found to be of quality below that described in Rule III. the grant made by the society to the said dining-room may be reduced or discontinued.

684. We will put them in the evidence.—There is another rule which we deal with rather laxly: that is No. 3, which says, not less than three ounces of meat. That is what we should like to get, but practically the amount has resolved itself into being between two and three ounces. There are one or two, perhaps, who go a little beyond the three ounces. Some of them try to go lower than two ounces, but we object to that.

685. These societies are for providing dinners only—not breakfasts?—Not breakfasts, as far as we are concerned. Some of them give breakfasts.

686. Your grants would not be for breakfasts, but for dinners only?—Our grants are not for breakfasts. We should not allow them to be used for breakfasts.

687. The benefit of the dinners is confined to children attending schools, I understand?—Yes.

688. Those schools may be of any complexion?—Of any complexion.

689. You do not have any sectarian or unsectarian test?—No. As you see many of those giving the dinners are clergymen of the Church of England; in fact, more than half the number. In many cases the dinners are confined to Church schools. Some of them only feed Board school children, because they have no Church schools in their parishes. Then there are other bodies of Christians. We do not object, as long as the children are attending school. That is the point.

690. Are the applications made before a certain date?—They must make an application before any grant is given to them, and they do not as a rule open the dining-rooms until they get the grant. Some of them may do so.

691. You do not require the application to be made before a particular date?—No, not before a particular date. Some of them do not begin until after the 1st November, some do not begin till December, and so on, but when they have made up their minds that they are going to begin they make an application to us.

692. Do you make any inquiry on receiving an application as to whether the ground is already occupied, that is to say whether the inauguration of a dining-room is necessary to provide for the locality?—I think we make general inquiries, I do not know about specific inquiries. We make general inquiry as to what dinners there are in that locality.

693. As regards the expense of dining-rooms, in your report here I see that you put down the number of dinners given, the children's pence, and the amount of grant?—Yes.

694. I suppose we may take it that there is considerable local support besides the two items of children's pence and amount of grant?—That varies very much. Some districts are very poor and they do very very little. Other districts do a good deal more, but what each one does I cannot say.

695. Do you get any annual report from the dining-rooms showing exactly their income and expenditure?—No, I do not think we do. They come to us for a grant about once a month during the winter, and they make a statement of their receipts and expenditure during the month before we make another grant.

696. You watch their financial position from month to month?—Yes.

697. I see that eventually the grant comes usually to a round number of pounds?—Yes. We generally do give it in round numbers of pounds.

698. Is that grant awarded at the beginning, and paid out by instalments as needed?—No. It is handed to them at the beginning of the month. £5, or £7, or whatever it may be is handed to them. Perhaps I misunderstand you. You asked if the whole of this is awarded to them at the beginning?

699. Yes?—No. They make monthly application, and we give them what we think is sufficient for the month.

700. It is a system of monthly grants continued from month to month as necessary?—Yes, monthly grants.

701. In awarding the grant what are your guiding principles as to amount?—One is the number of children that are fed, and the next is whether they have expended all their previous grant. I think that those are the chief things. Then, of course, we take into consideration the question whether they are acting up to our rules with regard to the quantity of meat and with regard to the children's pence.

702. Do you pay any regard to the receipts from children's pence in awarding your grant?—Yes, we take that into consideration.

703. Would the amount of pence operate to reduce the grant, or to increase it?—We take that as a sort of lump sum. If they are getting the pence we consider then that they are working up to our rules. If they showed us that a good many children were paying the halfpenny, then we should be disposed to reduce the grant.

704. You expect, subject to the limit of the penny, that as much as possible shall be obtained from the children?—Yes, as much as possible. At times a certain number of children are not able to pay, and especially has that been the case this winter. In other cases where there are two, or three, or four of a family receiving relief, we do not insist upon their all paying the halfpenny. Perhaps two or three of them pay the halfpenny.

705. Do you have returns before you showing how many children are paying, or do you only have the total receipts?—We are told what has been received from children's pence, and we have also the number of children that have been fed during the month, and we see by that whether the bulk of the children are paying half-pennies, or not.

706. Your rules provide that admission to the dinners shall be by ticket. To whom are the tickets issued, and by whom are they given to the children?—Some of the children are admitted by tickets, and others pay the halfpenny as they come into the dining-room. The tickets are very largely given into the hands of the school-masters and they issue them.

707. Have you, as a Society, anything to do with the tickets, or is that left entirely to the local management?—That is left to the local management. We have nothing to do with that.

708. That would vary, no doubt, in different dining-rooms?—Yes, it varies in different dining-rooms.

709. The ticket primarily would apply only to those children who are not paying?—To those not paying, and we do not know in many cases whether the children

pay, or whether others find the money to make up the amount.

710. That is very frequently done, I suppose?—That, I understand, is the case at various Board schools. The teachers at the Board schools perhaps have funds put into their hands to pay for the dinners of a certain number of children, and they hand them over to whoever conducts the dinner as children's pence. Whether the money is really from children's pence or whether it is from other sources we do not know.

711. This column which adds up to £377 odd for children's pence would probably contain a good deal of money which was not actually out of the pockets of parents, but was contributed from other sources. It might be so?—It might be so. As a matter of fact I do not think it is so very largely, but I believe that it is so. However, we have nothing definite to show that.

712. You do not go behind the money to inquire into that?—No, we do not inquire into that. It comes to us as children's pence.

713. You say that you have no definite annual accounts from each of these dining-rooms?—Not as a rule. In some well-worked parishes they have a parish magazine and publish the accounts in that, and generally when they do so they send a copy to us, but we do not ask for it. It is sent simply because they wish us to see it. We do not insist upon that, and in the bulk of cases it is not done.

714. We are very anxious as a Committee to obtain a definite statement of all the money which is raised in London for this purpose. We should probably do well to apply to each of these dining-rooms for an account?—Yes.

715. We may take these addresses, no doubt?—You may take those addresses.

716. Perhaps you will give us an amended list of addresses, if there have been any changes during the year?—Yes, we could do that. As a matter of fact I think that all these addresses would find the people. However, you shall have a correct list.

717. I read on page 8 of the report the committee see no reason for deviating from the principles of the society as expressed in last year's report. Does that refer only to the rules, or does it refer to something other than the rules?—I think that it has to be read with the last clause on the previous page: "The question of free dinners has been much discussed recently in the columns of *The Times*. Your Committee, however, see no reason for deviating from the principles of your society as expressed in last year's report." That is to say, they see no reason to change the system upon which they have been working hitherto, that is that the children pay in a certain proportion. I think that is what is meant by that paragraph.

718. It means that you do not see any reason for insisting on all dinners being free?—Yes, that is what it means.

719. Having read some of these local reports I gather that, so far as your society are aware, a system under which a dinner shall be provided for school children at a reasonable figure, say, a penny, or even possibly a little more, would be likely to bring a large number of children, that is to say, that there would be a considerable number of parents of children who would wish to avail themselves of a dinner if provided at a low price?—At as low a price as a halfpenny, but I do not think at a penny.

720. You draw the line of a penny. You think that anything beyond a penny would probably not produce a large number?—Yes, I think probably it would not. We have not tried it since I have had anything to do with it, so I cannot speak about that, but I do not think it would.

721. Do you know how far the dinners at these dining rooms are given in the schools. May we take it that where a school is mentioned in this report the actual dinner is given at that school?—Yes; in a large number of cases it is so.

722. For instance, to take the first one, St. Gabriel's Schools, Chrisp Street, Bromley, Poplar, probably the dinner would be in the schools?—Yes. There is a very small number of children there, and the dinner is given in the school. The next one is a working men's mission hall in Colliingwood Street where they give dinners to all

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c'asses of people. They give the dinners supported by our society separate from the others. Taken at Mr. Rosenthal's schools the dinners are given actually in the school rooms where the children are taught. The next one is not in operation at present. With regard to the next one (Mr. Parry's) the dinner is given in a building adjoining the school. It is not given in a school room. Then as to D. H. Moore, Levine Grove, the dinner is given in a room where they have Sunday School. They have no school of their own there. Then Matthew Smith—that is a school room, I think—C. H. Connor—that is a very small affair. The dinner is not given in a school room. With regard to the next the dinner is given in a room that is more a parish room than a school room.

723. You need not trouble to go through the list. That indicates the kind of thing?—It indicates the kind of thing.

724. In many cases the children's meal is only part of the work of the particular agency to which you make grant?—Yes.

725. With regard to the note at the bottom, "Many of the dining-rooms received help from outside friends and were thus enabled to give a much larger proportion of dinners than others not receiving such assistance," I suppose that the stress there is on free dinners. It means that the proportion of free dinner is much larger than others, does it not?—It may be so; probably is, but I do not know. We do not know anything at all about what they get from outside sources.

726. (Miss Lawrence.) Does anybody from your society inspect these dining-rooms at any time?—Two or three of us who are on the committee go round and inspect them. We have no paid inspector, or anything of that sort.

727. No, but somebody sees them?—Yes. I have inspected a good many during this winter, and two or three others have done so also. I think I have been at fifteen, but, of course, the difficulty in inspecting is that it must all be done at one hour (half-past twelve) and the dinners are so scattered about. They are not all in one locality in London, but from end to end, so it is very difficult.

728. Do you always insist on Irish stew, or do you have any other forms of meal?—Irish stew is one of those things that have pretty nearly dropped out. They rather insisted on that at one time, but now it has got more to thick soup with the quantity of meat that is mentioned in the rule, from 2 oz. to 2½ ozs. in it, and well thickened with pease-meal and lentils.

729. Is it always the same thing, soup and meat?—Yes.

730. There is not a great deal of variety?—No; but then, you see, these dinners are not daily. They are only twice a week. There are one or two who give dinners five days a week, but the bulk of them only give them twice a week. Then in addition to that some of them give a sort of suet pudding. As the children go out they get a slice of suet pudding.

731. Do the same children go twice a week, or are the dinners given to different children?—Partly one, and partly the other. I think that now a good many of them go twice a week.

732. How are the dinners served in the dining-rooms; what are the arrangements?—They employ a woman cook and she is, perhaps, the only paid person. Then, in some cases, various people come in and assist. In other cases there are Sisters, and other Church workers, who take part.

733. Do the children sit down at tables?—The children sit down at tables.

734. Do they have table-cloths?—Some of them have table-cloths. We have never been able to insist upon it, and they do not altogether go in for them, but some of them do. There is a considerable difference in the way in which they treat the children in that respect.

735. The children, having only just the soup and the meat, it would not be necessary for them to have more than a tin mug?—No, they do not bring their own tins. They generally have basins and spoons provided for them.

736. Plates and knives and forks, are not necessary with that sort of food?—No, they are not necessary.

737. Have you any means of knowing how the teachers choose the children?—No, we have not. In Board schools we have no communication with the teachers. In the case of a parish the clergyman chooses, or those

working immediately under him. In some cases there is a mission woman employed in the parish, and she really does a great deal of the selecting.

738. Would the question of your giving a grant turn upon whether you thought the fund was being reasonably administered, or not, or given out too lavishly?—Yes, I think so. If we had any reason to think that it was being given too lavishly, or unwisely, I think that we should certainly call attention to it.

739. You would look into that?—Yes, and if it was continued we should reduce or discontinue the grant. As you will see, the sixth rule says: "If the dinners provided at any dining-room are found to be of quality below that described in Rule III., the grant made by the society to the said dining-room may be reduced, or discontinued."

740. That is not the only reason for discontinuing?—No.

741. You would take into consideration the question of proper administration?—Yes.

742. Have many of these people whom your fund has assisted been for some years on this long list of yours, or do they vary from year to year?—They vary, but most of the rooms have been in operation for a good number of years. I have been engaged for ten years, and most of the rooms have been in operation for that time, and some of them were in operation a good deal before that, I believe.

743. When they apply to you do you enquire whether they receive help elsewhere, or not, or is that a matter that you do not consider?—We ask them generally to let us know if they are getting help elsewhere. In some cases they do let us know. In some cases the accounts are not kept very regularly and they have rather a difficulty in telling us. But we do not make a great point of that.

744. Do you see the applicant personally, or is it done by correspondence?—It is done by correspondence. It is very seldom that we see an applicant personally. The only personal communication with the applicant is by the committee going round and visiting him.

745. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Does your committee meet monthly to make the monthly grants?—Twice a month during the winter from November to the end of March.

746. The executive committee here consists of eight names?—Yes.

747. That is the full number of the committee. I suppose that they are not always present?—That is the full number. The President, the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, has taken a great interest in it for years, and our meetings are always held at her house. When she is in town she generally presides.

748. I was noticing in this list of schools the name of Mr. Moore, Levine Grove. You said that the building was used as a Sunday School. What sort of organisation does he have?—He is the minister of a chapel there, and the room to which I referred is a sort of mission room connected with his chapel, not immediately adjoining, but some little way away. In this room he has a Sunday School and there the dinners are given.

749. The tickets would be given rather through the Sunday School than through the day school, I suppose?—Yes. I think that the tickets are given a good deal upon the recommendations of the district visitor, a Bible woman who works in the district, and who, from what I have seen of her, is a very capable woman and understands the people in the neighbourhood.

750. It would not be definitely through the schools in that case?—No, not definitely.

751. You have no check upon the number of children who actually pay, have you. In the report, for instance, you say: "The children's pence received were actually £3 more"?—We have no check upon it. Whenever we think that there are too many dinners being given without the children's pence being paid we pull the people up and tell them that they are not acting up to the rules which they have undertaken to obey and in most instances they attend to it. Of course in exceptional seasons we have to overlook it somewhat if more free dinners are given.

752. In that case I suppose it would be quite open to any one of your centres to add some tickets from somewhere else, or some funds from somewhere else, instead of getting more from the children. You could not check that?—No, you could not check that.

753. They might get funds from somewhere else to make it up?—Yes.

754. The letters from the different centres give various reasons for the need of the dinner. On page 11, for instance, the Sister in charge of St. Mary's Mission House in Whitecross Street speaks about the very low rate of wages, and so on. That means, I suppose, that they are all chronic cases that come to her centre?—Yes. I take it that it is rather a poor district.

755. Whitecross Street is, of course?—Yes.

756. These people are never likely to be improved?—I fear not.

757. It is really supplementing wages to some extent?—Yes.

758. (Dr. Parsons.) I see that the first rule contemplates that a dinner may be given once a week. Do you think that a dinner once a week is of much practical value?—I believe it is, but as a matter of fact it is not acted upon. I think that there are generally two dinners a week given.

759. At least?—Yes.

760. Would these schools have any arrangement with any other agency which would supply dinners on the other days in the week?—In one or two cases I believe they would, but we really hardly have any cognizance of that.

761. A witness whom we had this morning thought that it was of more value to give a dinner five days a week, that is every school day, to a limited number of children, the worst of the cases, rather than a dinner twice a week to a larger number of children some of whom were not very badly in want of it?—Well, I do not know how that may be. It may be so, but experience differs, I take it, with regard to that.

762. You would not refuse to give a grant to any school that gave dinners five days a week to selected children?—No. As a matter of fact one or two schools that we are assisting give dinners five days a week, but I do not say that all the children have dinners five days a week, probably not.

763. Would there not be an advantage in allowing a greater latitude in the choice of materials for dinner. Of course, if dinners are only given once or twice a week the question of variety is not so important as if they are given every day, but we have been told of the advantage of various other things besides what are mentioned here, such as porridge, and milk, and suet pudding, and so on?—As a matter of fact a good many of them do give suet pudding to finish up with. Porridge and milk I have not seen, nor have I heard it suggested for dinners.

764. The porridge was mentioned as being given for breakfasts?—By giving soup well thickened with pease-meal, and things of that sort, I fancy that you can do more for the money. If you go to other things you will probably not get so satisfying a meal for the same amount.

765. We have been told that the average London child has a great dislike for soup?—From what I have seen of it I do not think that that is so.

766. That is not your experience?—No. They seem to get through it very readily and very comfortably. You understand that they have bread with it; it is not soup alone. Generally they have a slice of bread. Occasionally we have found, particularly with little children, that they do not eat all the meat that is in it; they leave it. But that is not the rule. I think. It is more in the case of very small children. That is regulated a good deal, or may be regulated, by the way in which they give the soup out so as to take care that the very little children do not get so much meat as the older ones.

767. They have spoons to eat with, I suppose?—Yes, they have spoons to eat with.

768. (Mr. Walrod.) Can you say at all the average cost of a dinner?—Not very accurately, because we have not the whole expenditure before us; if you will refer to pages 16 and 17, where the dining rooms are described, and work it out you will find that that comes to nearly 1½d. per head, but then that does not include any charge for cooking, or for utensils, or anything of the sort, and it does not include what may be given from other sources.

769. (Chairman.) We may take it that the cost of the dinner always exceeds that amount?—Yes, it would. I should think that the cost is about 2½d. altogether, but I have not figures for that. It is only guesswork.

770. (Mr. Walrod.) The reason why I asked, was that in dining room No. 27 the children's pence amounted to £34 18s. 5d., and the amount of grant is £35. That is practically self-supporting. As your rule is that they may not pay more than a penny, I rather argue from that that the dinner only costs a penny?—That room is rather an exceptional one. It is a place where they feed other people, and the accounts are rather mixed up together with other dinners. They have a *cresche* and they have young workwomen who have been in the schools in former years coming in and getting their dinners. We have never been quite satisfied about the way in which they make up their accounts. It seems to be honestly and fairly done. I do not mean to say it is not, but there is rather a mixture in the accounts.

771. You think that possibly the £34 18s. 5d. may include more than children's pence?—Yes, it may.

772. So that you cannot argue from that the price of the dinner at all?—No, you cannot argue from that. It is rather a large amount.

773. (Dr. Parsons.) I notice that there is a great discrepancy between the proportion of children's pence and the number of dinners given. To take, for instance, Nos. 25 and 33, the amount of the children's pence is almost exactly the same—£3 15s. 0d. In the former case 7,000 dinners were given, and in the latter case only 2,000 dinners?—No. 25 is in a very poor district close to the docks, and I fancy that there is very hard work to get the children's pence at all frequently.

774. Then there must have been a large number of other sources. There must have been a good deal besides the £14 which you gave them, and the £3 15s. which the children gave in order to provide the 7,000 dinners?—Yes, I fancy that there must have been.

775. (Chairman.) Have you anything to add to your evidence?—I do not think that I have.

776. Is there anything that we have not brought out properly?—I should like to refer to the Rev. Mr. Spencer at Haggerston; he is No. 36. He wrote us a long letter not this last winter, but the previous winter, about the work. He says: "And so in many ways I trust and believe a quiet good work has been done among them. They have learned a little manners." He is very careful about training the children. For instance, he makes them go and wash their hands before they sit down to dinner. "They have got to think more kindly of the people who volunteer to wait upon them, and have improved in health and tone. We have learned the best and most acceptable kind of dinner is a sort of meat and lentil soup and bread, and a fine appetising suet pudding with currants to finish. And I think the children all like this dinner, can digest it, and grow thereby. We have found that too much meat to a child who is not accustomed to very much is not well digested. We can manage what I venture to believe is a thoroughly good nourishing dinner as much as a child can eat, a little under 2d. per head. There never seems a difficulty about the halfpenny which the children bring, but whenever there is, we remit it and give the dinner free. I can only say that I would cheerfully make my own luncheon on the children's food, and find it very appetising and sufficient two or three times a week. I always get every article of food myself, and freely criticise it if it is not up to the standard. In the third place, I should like to say very strongly that there would be a great danger in these dinners badly administered and regarded as a *right* coming from the rates. They would, I am convinced, decrease the sense of parental responsibility already seriously affected by many of the influences of the present day, and tend to sap the independence of the children in after life. From both these dangers I hope the children's dinner parties as we give them are free. Kindness never injures. A careful selection of the children prevents abuse. I do not say we are not mistaken in cases here and there, but on the whole I am convinced by a careful administration good is done and evil is minimised." That is from a clergyman who is working at Haggerston who is very much interested in his parish, and that is his opinion. I do not know that I have anything else to say. I think that from the Report, and from the result of your questions, you have got all the information which I can really give you on the subject.

777. (Chairman.) We are very much obliged to you?—Thank you.

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THIRD DAY.

Tuesday, 30th May, 1905.

PRESENT.

Mr. H. W. SIMPSON, C.B. (in the Chair).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE
Mr. R. WALROND.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (Secretary).

Mr. H. LEE J. JONES, called in; and Examined.

Mr. H. L. J. Jones.
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778. (Chairman.) You are the founder and honorary director of the Food and Betterment Association?—Yes.

779. When was the association started?—In 1893.

780. What is the area over which the work extends?—The whole of Liverpool, Bootle and Birkenhead.

781. But mainly, I imagine, Liverpool?—Yes, Liverpool mainly.

782. Your evidence this morning will be chiefly confined to Liverpool, as regards the feeding of school children?—Yes.

783. What is the constitution of the association?—We have a consultative committee. The names of the gentlemen are in the report before you.

784. Is the Committee appointed by subscribers, or is it co-opted?—No. The members were proposed by myself originally, and are nearly the same to-day as at the commencement. We have a fresh president each year.

785. Practically you decide the personnel of the Committee?—Yes, quite so.

786. The work of the association is philanthropic work in general?—Yes.

787. Including not only the provision of cheap and free food, but also such matters as clothing, rational recreation and even medical aid. Does that pretty well cover the ground?—Yes, fairly so.

788. Generally speaking?—Generally speaking, yes. We do a considerable work in connection with grown-up people, but that generally covers the children's portion of the work.

789. Will you tell us in what way the association provides meals in connection with schools in Liverpool?—We have a large central cookery, at which the meals are cooked and the bread cut and various things packed, and then floats are used by which the meals are sent to various schools and centres.

790. When a school wishes to be provided with meals, what steps does it take?—A manager or the headmistress or master writes to us and says that he or she wishes so many meals for the children. As a rule they start by letting the children, as a whole, pay, and then they pick out the children who are considered the poorest and grant them, sometimes from funds collected by themselves, free meals.

791. Is there any Committee which manages the provision of meals in each particular school?—No. It is simply done on the initiative, and according to the judgment of the headmaster and mistress.

792. It chiefly rests with the teachers?—Quite so.

793. You, as an association, have nothing to do with the matter except supplying meals?—No, not as far as the schools are concerned, but we provide a goodly number of meals at our two headquarters. We come across the cases in visiting, and grant meals to the children direct.

794. We are only concerned with the provision of meals by voluntary agencies for children at public elementary schools. Apart from the school you would accept any child whether attending school or not. You draw no distinction between those who are attending school and those who are not?—No, but we do not apply it to children who have left school, as a rule. I am speaking of school children. We let the schools know that we are

dealing with the cases; we get to know what school the child attends and let the head master or mistress, or assistant know, so that there is no overlapping. We only feed a few of those who have left school.

795. When you say that there will be no overlapping, is your Association the only agency working in Liverpool. Are there not a great many parochial organizations at work?—No.

796. Not soup kitchens, for instance?—No, there are only two that I know of.

797. In the whole of Liverpool?—Yes. St. Augustine's and the Sisters, Bute Street. At least a dozen centres have been given up since we started.

798. The work of providing meals in Liverpool is practically centred in your association now?—Quite so.

799. When a clergyman desires to provide meals for the poor of his parish he will come to you?—Yes.

800. He will not open a centre?—I have not known one to open a centre since we started.

801. You have no official connection with the Liverpool Education Authority?—None whatever. Some of the officials, or the members of the Committees, are our Patrons or on our Committee.

802. The connection is a purely personal one?—Yes, purely personal.

803. As regards the meals at schools, are they generally provided at the school, or at convenient places, close by?—As a rule at the school, but there is a number of schools that find it inconvenient to have the dinners, and we have then a centre.

804. Have you any knowledge of the difficulties connected with working the meals at schools?—Yes. I think, that, as a rule, if there is a complaint it is that the soup leaves a smell in the schoolroom. I should think that it is an agreeable one, because the soup always smells good, but some say it makes them feel sick, and the children are apt to upset the soup on the desks. It can be easily washed away, but, it is said, it leaves a stain on the woodwork.

805. There are objections in some cases?—As a rule they do not raise objection at all, but where there are objections they are of that nature. As a rule teachers do not think of them.

806. Are you informed every morning how many dinners will be wanted?—No. If they need more dinners they have to tell us that the demand is going up. In a general way, they also tell us if the demand is going down.

807. Have you a standing order for so many dinners, subject to correction?—Yes, according to our own judgment. If they want more they must tell us. They can easily tell us that. If the soup is all used they will send us word.

808. With regard to payments made to your association from the schools, how are they dealt with?—They keep a pass-book in which they enter the number of free dinners and the number of paid dinners, and they are made up either at the end of the week, which is the rule, or at the end of the half season, or season, for the whole of the dinners.

809. When you say the number of free dinners, is no payment made to you for the free dinners?—In some

cases, but in most not. In some cases they collect money from the congregation, as at Mount Carmel School, and pay us for the free dinners.

810. Does your association undertake to provide so many free dinners in the school, or so many halfpenny dinners as far as funds are collected?—As far as funds collected allow. It varies very much. In very cold weather money comes in fairly well, but it is not absolutely reliable of course.

811. Do the managers of each of the schools know on any morning how many free dinners they will have to dispose of?—No; one cannot say "on any morning" on given mornings, yes, but not every morning. It is not certain throughout the winter. We may, for instance, get more money in one week and send more coupons. They will know how many according to the number of coupons we send.

812. You send on coupons before the dinner?—Yes.

813. And those coupons entitle the holders to free meals?—Yes, quite so. The masters or mistresses or assistants give them out at their discretion.

814. Is it open to any child to obtain a meal on payment of a halfpenny?—Yes.

815. Whether at the school or at your headquarters?—Yes, except a child who is thought to be too well off to be buying the meal for a halfpenny. Such a child is stopped from getting the meal. There are very few, but some mothers will take advantage of it. We do not allow those children to buy the dinners because the meals are subsidised by the public and it would not be fair to the shopkeepers.

816. It is admitted that the dinner costs more than a halfpenny?—Yes, as a rule it does.

817. From your handbill which I have here I gather that dinners are to be had for a halfpenny?—Yes.

818. Without any restriction on those who may apply for them?—Only that which I have just stated, for such persons can well afford to buy raw food-stuff and cook it at home.

819. The choice of the children is entirely in the hands of the teachers?—Yes, entirely.

820. You, as an association, have nothing to do with that?—No. We have not the time or the organisation to cope with it.

821. Have your association formed any opinion as to the capacity of the teachers to discriminate?—Yes. I think it is very accurate indeed—very accurate.

822. Is it thought that the teachers, even if they can discriminate, are the right people to exercise discrimination?—I think so. Any case which they are doubtful of can easily be investigated. We can do that.

823. Have you any staff of visitors working under your association?—Yes; we have four. We could have six on an emergency.

824. If a doubtful case was reported you would place it in the hands of one of these visitors?—Yes.

825. Are they ladies or gentlemen?—Two gentlemen and two ladies, and we can have two additional ladies if necessary.

826. Are they paid workers?—I was going to say, in speaking of the constitution, that we work on the principle of self-sacrifice. None of our workers receive more than £15 a year, and consistently meagre keep; some of the workers work without, or at reduced salary, and mere keep. We have a group of workers who are living the life which we lay down. It is quite apart from their religious beliefs. It is a purely social matter. They may hold their own religion, or none even theologically, and we do not mind as long as they lead the life laid down by us. The workers all live amongst the people. That is a principle. They live at our two headquarters; they do not live away. They must all live on the premises.

827. Could you hand to us a report of your Society showing the amounts received and spent?—Yes.

828. It is all worked from headquarters?—Yes. We have twelve workers. We are getting two more—making fourteen, exclusive of myself.

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829. When you said four, with six on emergency, you were speaking of visitors?—Yes.

830. You say in your *precis*: "It is expected that the teachers will report to the association any cases where the child is underfed through paternal neglect, which cases are referred to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children." Is reference to that society frequently invoked?—It is what we call the Liverpool Society; not the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. That society works outside the borders of the City. It is called the Liverpool Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

831. Are references frequently made to the society?—Not very often. We seldom have such cases. It is a diminishing occurrence for parents to try to impose upon the dinners. They are too afraid; they know it will be found out very quickly.

832. What would be the result if they were found out?—They would be brought up by the Society before the magistrates for neglecting to feed the children and imposing upon charity, because, if they are imposing on us they are neglecting to do what we can prove they can do.

833. Have you ever actually brought a case into court?—Yes we have had cases.

834. And secured convictions?—Yes. They are cautioned in the first place. If they are brought up again they are dealt with accordingly.

835. You say that from every point of view you consider it an advantage that the children should be fed in as small groups as possible. Would you enlarge that, please?—I feel, for instance, that it is not desirable to have the children fed on any wider basis or greater scale than in the school. It would not be at all desirable for children to be fed in a very large hall.

836. Would you object to the needy children from two or three schools being assembled together?—No, not if the number did not exceed 200. I think that is a controllable number, a number over which you can have influence in various ways. You can get better manners, and so on.

837. Are you having regard to the personal influence over individual children or the difficulty of managing a larger body than 200 at the same time?—To both. You can have influence over 200 children whilst at meals, from the point of view of manners and not upsetting the soup, and so on.

838. Meals are provided all the year round by the organisation?—Yes. We are prepared to provide all meals, and we are giving free meals all the year round.

839. The amount of provision no doubt falls off very much in the summer?—Very markedly in the summer, both in regard to the purchase of dinners and in the need for free dinners. Even the poorest have various additional avenues for raising money, particularly such as selling fruit and vegetables, and so on.

840. You attribute the falling off solely to better employment in the summer months?—Yes, quite so. Then, of course, expenses are less. Less coal is needed, less oil is needed and less clothing.

841. As to the sum expended on provision of meals you say that you think that the total amount would be about £1,200?—Yes.

842. That I suppose is purely an estimate. Do you keep any separate account for the school meals?—No, we do not. I think it is fairly accurately approximate, in fact, I am sure it is.

843. You would attribute about two-thirds to the cost of food and one-third to distribution and preparation and other expenses relating to it?—Yes.

844. Is it your experience that a good meal can be provided for a penny, including all expenses?—Yes, I should say that it is.

845. Would that be such a meal as described on your leaflet?—With the addition of a slice of currant bread or more of the same food—a farthing's-worth more really, or nearly that at any rate.

846. We will have the leaflet printed with the shorthand notes:

D

Mr. H. Lee
J. Jones.
30 May 1905.

FOOD AND BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION.
ESTABLISHED 1893. IRRESPECTIVE OF CREED.
119 & 121, Limekiln Lane, Liverpool, N.
What it does free.

Sunday.—Children's Surgery at 6-30 p.m.
"Porenpine" Pleasant Evening for Children during winter months only, at 7 p.m. (tickets sent to different schools or districts in turn.)

Monday.—Coffee and Concert for Women and Working Girls at 7-30 p.m. (from October to March.)

Tuesday.—Children's Surgery at 6-30 p.m.
Supper and Social for Sandwichmen (last Tuesday each month), sometimes given by the "Liverpool Freeman."

Wednesday.—Supper and Social for Ragpickers and Old Clo' Men (middle Wednesday each month).

Thursday.—Coffee and Concert for Men and Youths at 7-30 p.m. (from October to March).

Friday.—Children's Surgery at 6-30 p.m.

Saturday.—Food and Fan Treats for Children at 7 p.m. (tickets sent to different schools or districts in turn).

Children's New Brighton Outings.—Children are taken to New Brighton every Saturday (from May to September) and on other days during holidays.

Open-air Concerts.—Concerts are given (from May to September) in the courts and alleys, or other suitable places, of each district.

"Midnight Free Coffee Barrack."—Coffee and bread and butter is given to all homeless men on the Dock road, between 1-30 and 3-30 a.m. (from November to March.)

"House for the Homeless" 42, Marybone.—Over 50 free beds nightly for deserving men.

Festive Fare and Toy-laden Tree Treats. For poorest poor children only, at Christmas-time.

Any case of distress will (as much as possible) be assisted with food, if proving satisfactory.

Clothes will be given (whenever possible) to any satisfactory applicant.

What it sells cheaply.

Dinners, from 12 noon to 6 p.m.—Dinners are sold at 1d. each as follows: MONDAY, Yellow Pea Soup and Bread and Jam; TUESDAY, Green Pea Soup and Currant Bread; WEDNESDAY, Beef and Barley Soup and Plain Bread; THURSDAY, Green Pea Soup and Currant Bread; FRIDAY, Yellow Pea and Fish Soup and Currant Bread. As a change, potatoes will often be served with the Soup.

Breakfasts, from 8 to 9 a.m.—Breakfasts are sold at 1d. each, as follows: MONDAY, Sweet Cocoa and Currant Bread; TUESDAY, Sweet Cocoa and Bread and Butter; WEDNESDAY, Sweet Cocoa and Bread and Syrup; THURSDAY, Sweet Cocoa and Bread and Lentil Paste; FRIDAY, Sweet Cocoa and Bread and Jam.

Invalid Food.—Any kind of Invalid Dinner or Dainty is prepared at a nominal cost, and can be called for at noon. For instance, ½ pint of Beer Tea with Toast costs 3d.; ½ pint of Beef Tea with Milk Pudding as well costs 4d.; Milk Pudding alone, 1d. Full price list can be had on application.

H. LEE J. JONES,
Founder and Hon. Director.

Headquarters and Central Cookery:
119 & 121, Limekiln Lane, Liverpool, N.
Telephone 6429 (Central.)

Are those meals actually provided for a halfpenny?—It depends entirely on the cost of food stuff, of course. As I state in my summary there was a period when we found that the income equalled the expenditure. Speaking exactly we made £3 11s. net gain on a quarter's work, shewing that, if food is at normal cost, you can give a splendid dinner and pay your way.

847. If you wished to make the meals pay their way you would not put the price below a penny, including all expenses?—No, not to provide a quite ample meal. The dinner that we provide for a halfpenny is a very good one. It is a pint of thick soup and a slice of bread, and a child scarcely needs much more.

848. Have you any opinion as to the relative advantages of breakfasts and dinners for school children?

Yes. That is a rather important point, so I wrote this:—"Because a halfpenny or penny spent on a dinner of either flesh and cereal or pulse and cereal soup and bread yields twelve times more digestible nourishment than a meal of cocoa and bread; whilst the human frame needs sustenance more after the work of a morning than the rest of a night. Then a mother can more readily (from the standpoints of expense and knowledge) provide a breakfast than a dinner; and the dinner is more conveniently served at the school."

849. Your opinion is in favour of dinner?—Absolutely. It is very easily explained. The bread stuffs, or cereal portion, are about equal in the dinner and the breakfast. When you come to a bowl of soup as against a cup of cocoa, you have, say, one teaspoonful of cocoa and that has not as much nitrogenous matter or albuminoid as the soup, which contains say, six teaspoonfuls of pea flour, each equal in strength-giving properties to the cocoa.

850. The opinion which you are giving us is rather as regards one kind of food as against another. My point is whether the food before school in the morning is or is not more valuable than the food in the middle of the day between school times?—I think, if it is a matter of granting one meal a day, undoubtedly the dinner is more valuable. If you are going to keep to conventionality, giving dinner as we understand it, and breakfast as we understand it, and only giving one meal a day, I think dinner is better because the human frame needs more food after work than after rest. A child can far better in the morning go on with a little bread and tea than he can at dinner time after work. Of course, there is, I know, a general sentimental feeling about not letting a child start the day on an empty stomach: very few children really do, nearly all get at any rate a little bread.

851. Do you find much greater advantage from dinners, as a matter of fact, than from breakfasts?—Decidedly. There is a chemical advantage, and advantage from every standpoint, if there is only one meal a day; of course it is better to grant two if possible and justifiable.

852. Do you attach importance to provision being made for every day rather than two or three days of the week?—Certainly. I think that is quite necessary.

853. In all cases connected with your association is the school meal provided daily?—Yes, with the exception of Sundays.

854. On Saturdays too?—On Saturdays we provide them, but they do not have them at the schools. The meals are at head-quarters for the children to have and a goodly number have them each Saturday. We can even provide meals on Sunday, but not soup. We are always there to attend to any children who may be sent.

855. As regards the notice which children attending school receive as to whether they will have a meal or not on any particular day you say that handbills are issued. Have you an example of the handbill?—I am very sorry, but I have forgotten to bring the handbill.

856. Perhaps you will send us one. In the meantime will you tell us what the contents are?—At the top is written "Food and Betterment Association. Nourishing Half-penny Dinners Served in School daily." Then follows the five days' menu. The address of the Central Cookery Centre is at the bottom.

857. That is given to the children?—Yes. It is a very short and simple statement.

858. They are given by the teachers to the children?—Yes.

859. On receiving one of these what does the child actually know about the matter?—The child is told to take the handbill to its parent.

860. That means that any parent who likes to give his child a ½d. can be sure of its having a meal?—I should say, to begin with, that the teachers only give the handbill to poor children, not to all, of course, but to children who they think are in need of dinners from an outside source. They give them to those who can pay but who need help, apart from those who need them free.

861. They give them to those children who can pay some part but are in need of help?—Yes, if they feel that they can get the ½d. somewhere. It is philanthropically helping them.

862. There again the selection would be entirely by the teacher?—Yes, quite so.

863. Do you feel that your Association covers the whole ground in Liverpool as regards the provision of meals to school children?—It certainly covers the bulk of the ground now and can cover more ground if it is asked to. We have a plant in excess of normal demands. We can cook, for instance, 10,000 meals a day if necessary.

864. You have not reached, at present, the limit of your power of output?—No, not the limit of our capacity of output. We had a cooking plant erected to meet the extreme conceivable emergency. We can produce really more than 10,000. We can cook 12,500 dinners a day.

865. What suggestions would you make for improving the present organisation in Liverpool?—I do not think I can improve upon what I say in my *précis*.

866. Your three points here seem to be official recognition by the Local Education Authority, an appeal to the public published under their auspices for funds and the provision of places in which the meals can be served?—Yes. Where there is any objection raised of any nature. In most schools there is no objection raised.

867. We might put Head E. on the notes?—Yes. (The following is the paragraph.)

E. Suggestions for Improved Organisation.

The Association has for some years been exceptionally equipped at its large Central Cookery here for the provision of either dinners or breakfasts, or both, to underfed school children, but the three principal things lacking are (1) the consent of the Local Education Authorities to organise a system in the schools by which the names and addresses of children needing meals will be tabulated, also whether they are temporarily or chronically so, and to report to either the school visitors or to this Association, or to both, any doubtful cases, so that observation thereof and report thereon might be made, and (2) an official periodical impressing on the public the seriousness and the reality of the needs of underfed school children, to thereby (and this, I am sure, can easily be accomplished) bring in sufficient funds (to be disbursed by the Association or by the said Education Authorities) to amply meet the requirements of all scholars in need, and (3) to consent for a room to be placed at the disposal of the Association in each poor school, or school yard, where the children might partake of their meals.

868. How many schools altogether are in connection with you now?—About two-thirds of the whole number of schools in Liverpool, I think.

869. You say that two-thirds of the work is covered at present?—Yes, fully that. I should say that the northern headquarters are in the centre of the poorest schools in Liverpool and those children all come to our headquarters. They do not dine at the schools. Where we are near the schools the children go to our headquarters. They do not dine at the schools, because there is no need for it. We have a staff of workers to look after them.

870. Have the teachers anything to do with the selection of the children in that case?—They select the children, but they do not stay with them.

871. You rely on the teachers equally in that case?—Quite. Some of the schools, St. James the Less, for instance, send a teacher with them to the door, but the teacher does not stay. In respect to our headquarters, we are in touch with more than two-thirds of the children going to the schools.

872. The number of meals provided, you say, is about 200,000 in the year?—Yes.

873. That would not mean a very large number of children. You are unable to give the number of individual children?—No. We are not sufficiently in touch with the individual children.

874. You are not aware that any records are kept at the schools of any individual children?—I am sure no records are kept; at least I think I can safely say so. I think it would be a very great improvement if we could have records. We are acting largely in the dark beyond trusting the teachers to pick the right children, the worthy children, as I am sure they do as a rule.

875. You leave it to the teacher's discretion?—Yes, as decided at the conference of managers over which Lord Derby presided, to which I refer in my proof. That

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was a very good conference indeed. It was very representative and excellent in every way.

876. (Miss Lawrence.) I suppose it would not be possible for you to tell us, roughly speaking, the proportion of children that you feed out of each school?—No. To strike an average would not be very helpful.

877. What is about the size of the largest school?—Broadly speaking, the schools accommodate from 1,000 to 500. I should say that a school of 1,000 would have 60 children fed as a rule. A school of 500 would have about the half the number. There is great variety, and an average is not very helpful under the circumstances.

878. Have you any particular knowledge as to whether or not the same child gets a dinner every day?—Yes. I think each case is fairly consistently followed up.

879. The children get the meal on each school day?—Yes, quite so, until the period of distress has passed away. On the other hand, if it is chronic we can only do as much as is possible. In chronic cases that are very badly off no doubt they are fairly frequently supplied, taking the year round. When the dinners at the schools have stopped after the winter time the children come on to our headquarters.

880. When you serve the meals in a school how do you serve them. Do the children have plates and spoons or mugs?—We have never adopted tin-ware. We have always had enamelled plates and Britannia metal spoons, to make things look nice.

881. Are table cloths provided?—No.

882. Who distribute the dinners?—The teachers take it in turn. They do not do it entirely. They generally direct one or two of the older scholars, who do it.

883. Do the teachers make themselves virtually responsible for order being kept, and for looking after the dinners?—Yes, and for booking the number of dinners.

884. When you say that a child can bring a halfpenny and buy a dinner, how is it known how many dinners are wanted if the child only comes in the morning?—They start the season with a given number. They first of all give out the handbills and tell the children to bring word in the morning if their mothers wish them to get the dinners, so that we are guided in the first place by that. The children put up their hands and say they will have dinners. We have to deal with it according to the demand.

885. Broadly speaking, if it is sixty in the first week it remains at sixty all the way through?—Not necessarily. It may go down or it may go up, according to the weather or the condition of trade in the particular district. It does not of necessity keep to the number started with.

886. It does not?—No, not at all.

887. You say that the centre is opened as near the school as possible if meals cannot be served on the premises. What sort of centre would that be?—It means that we get a clergyman, or any district visitor, to recommend a decent widow with a shop, and she is responsible for serving the soup and the bread. The children go there with the coupons. We have a proper coupon system. The children take the dinner home.

888. Does she prepare the food?—No, we prepare it ourselves so as to ensure good quality. That is a great point; otherwise in many cases you would get dinners far more expensive and less reliable.

889. You say "The Association, directly and indirectly, only as yet is financially able to do two-thirds of the work of feeding underfed school children in Liverpool." Does that imply that if you had more money you could cover more ground?—Clearly.

890. It is only the financial help that is wanted?—Yes; otherwise we are very fully equipped, over fully I may almost say, to do the work.

891. I may take it that the relief given is really of the class of dinner mentioned here?—Yes. It could be increased with a little more money, of course.

892. You never give the children solid meat. It is always in the shape of soup?—We could not afford it at that price. We could give them a little, but it would not be worth while.

893. Not if you had 200 in one place?—No. From no standpoint would it be financially possible to make the meal pay for itself if that was done, and I do not think it would be as good. You have to consider very

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Mr. H. Lee
J. Jones.

30 May 1905.

much the digestion of the children. We have made a great improvement by frequently having pulse soup instead of meat soup. The children used to vomit very much after the meat soup of the old-fashioned soup kitchen. They could not digest it. The pulse soup is a great improvement. The pulse is extra cooked.

894. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) With regard to the sixty meals per day, which we take as a rough number, how many of these would be by free coupons which you issue from the Association?—As a rule half of those.

895. The others would be children who bought tickets after the handbill?—Yes.

896. The teachers may have bought the tickets for them?—Yes.

897. You would send, out of the sixty, about thirty coupons, and the children would buy the other thirty?—Not of necessity. The school may collect funds. It is rather a rough and ready average. We have been more a centre of supply and general guide. Each school has to look after its own grant, so to speak.

898. When you say that you are only financially able to do two thirds of the work, how does that refer to the metal coupon?—That would include what we grant. That is part of the ability to do it.

899. If the teachers collect funds as well, you can hardly tell what is the total financial support given?—We can tell what we have of course. As a matter of fact the teachers do not give the majority of the meals out of their own collections. By no means is that the case. We give the majority of free dinners. It is only here and there they do it. St. James the Less has done it and Mount Carmel, and another Catholic school this year did it, but as a rule they do not. They depend on us for the coupons. St. James the Less did it this year under the special stress of the hard times.

900. You have only two headquarters yourselves?—Yes, only two.

901. What number of premises, other than schools, have you?—We have as a rule twenty-five centres.

902. That is not including the schools?—That is not including the schools. It is in addition to the schools.

903. Do you ever rent those premises?—No.

904. Are they always given?—No, they are not given. It is simply a small shop possessed by a respectable person, a widow as a rule. We pay her so much a week for lading the soup, and so on, between 12 o'clock and 1.30.

905. You pay her for distributing, and she provides the premises?—Quite so.

906. Does that payment to her come out of the item for salaries and wages, which is only £305, or does that only cover the salaries of people at headquarters?—That covers the salaries and wages of the Association's superior and subordinate workers only.

907. Not the widows and small shopkeepers?—“No, expenses at winter supply centres, £30, does that.”

908. That is the payment of these people?—Yes. We only have these centres during the very bad period, not most of the winter months.

909. If you have twenty-five, and they only cost £30, it is a very cheap arrangement?—Yes. It is a very small expense. They only serve for an hour and a-half a day.

910. The salaries at head-quarters only come to £305. In your *price* you say: “The total amount would be about £1,200 annually. This sum is divided (a) £800 on food stuffs (chiefly raw), and (b) the remainder on preparation, distribution, office and general expenses.” Where do the office and general expenses come in. Are those the printing, postage, and so on?—Do you mean in connection with the meals?

911. Yes?—The dinners for the children.

912. Yes?—They would come in for hand-bills, and our letter headings.

913. You do not separate it from your other work?—No, we do not.

914. It is part of the general account?—It is part of the general account. I might say that our chief need for staff is in connection with other branches of the work, and not the children's dinners. You do not require much staff in connection with the children's dinners; it is very

very little that you want really outside of the cook and the cookery helpers. Our chief expense now is entailed by the other branches of the work which require more visitors and general organisation in connection with concerts.

915. The twelve workers live in these two headquarters?—Yes, eight at the north and four at the south.

916. One of them is quite new?—Yes. It is about eighteen months old.

917. I see in this year's accounts £1,400 for that?—Yes.

918. Before that you had only one?—Yes. We do not cook at the south; we continue to cook at the north, and send the soup on to the south. We can send any quantity.

919. You provide 200,000 meals, which is about two-thirds of the work. Are the other 100,000 meals all breakfasts?—I do not quite follow.

920. You say you provide 200,000 meals a year, and that is about two-thirds of the work of feeding underfed children?—The work necessary.

921. You do not mean that other work is done?—No.

922. How many breakfasts are given in addition to your work?—Not many I am sure; at least if there are I do not know of them. I only know of Bishop Goss's School and Edgar Street. They are the only one I know of. The breakfasts have invariably been a failure. At both they have Sisters who look after them. Those Sisters are specially equipped, but I do not think there is any such system in connection with any of the other Roman Catholic schools.

923. With regard to doubtful cases into which you would enquire, what would make you consider a case doubtful when a teacher had sent it in?—In that case we would take the teacher's word. The doubtful cases which we come across ourselves or are reported to us we enquire into.

924. You would not inquire into a case sent by a teacher unless the teacher asked you to do so?—No, certainly not.

925. Does it often happen?—No, it does not often happen. I think it is chiefly owing to the fact that the teachers do not apply themselves so much to that aspect. I do not say a word against the teachers, but I think there is need for more thorough organisation, not that I am suggesting that there are many children who get meals who should not have them, but I think there is a great need for organisation and tabulation in that direction. It would almost perfect the work if we could have that. We should be on surer ground, although I am sure that in the majority of cases the teacher's judgment is perfectly sound.

926. Are the two instances which you gave—Bishop Goss's school and St. Augustine's—both Roman Catholic?—No, one is Church of England—St. Augustine's.

927. They give dinners?—Yes, St. Augustine's does.

928. Do they give breakfasts?—No, only B'shops Goss's.

929. At B'shop Goss's they give breakfasts?—Yes, but at St. Augustine's they do not. They give dinners, the money for which is raised by a concert on Saturday night.

930. (Dr. Parsons.) At your headquarters are the children fed at a sit-down meal?—They sit down. We have accommodation for 300 children. We can feed 300, in fact more, because we can feed one lot in twenty minutes, and another lot in twenty minutes. We can really feed 600 per day at each headquarters—or a total of 1,200.

931. What happens if the stock of meals which you have provided is exhausted owing to the demand being greater than you have anticipated?—We always cook sufficient to cover the fullest conceivable need. We are always on the safe side. Shortage may happen at a school, but it can fairly easily send the children to the depot, which may be a slightly long walk in some cases, but as a rule they get the dinner.

932. Is there any loss through more being provided than there is a demand for?—Not much. We do not look upon it as a loss because we send out the workers to look for deserving cases and the food is given for supper. What we have over we can always use like that. If any is left over at the schools and is stale, of course that goes to the pigs.

933. With regard to the food distributed from these winter centres, how can you be sure that it is the children who get the food if it is taken home. May it not be shared by other members of the family?—That is quite possible. That is why I think we should have accommodation at each school even if it is a temporary shed in the winter time in the school yard. I think it very desirable to have some kind of accommodation at each school. You are quite sure then of the children getting the meal, but undoubtedly as a rule the children taking the meal home get it. As a rule they are children of decent people who are worthy parents.

934. Is it your experience that the soup is liked by the children?—Very much liked indeed; at any rate, the soups we make, because they are so good and savoury.

935. In some parts of the country we are told that they do not like soup?—I do not want to say anything against the soup that others make, but so much depends on the soup. There is soup and soup. Even with regard to haricot soup, which is the blandest to the children's palate, nowadays they eat as much as we give them. They like our soups very, very much; in fact, it is almost alarming often to see them eating them.

936. Are breakfasts included in the 200,000 meals?—We provide very very few breakfasts indeed. What we provide are nearly all dinners. We find that dinner is preferred.

937. Have you had any opinion expressed to you by the teachers as to the children's capacity for school work after breakfast or after dinner?—No, I have had no specific opinion, only the general statement that they think they do ultimately better physically on the dinner than on the breakfast, granted that there is only one meal given by charity a day. That must be so because, chemically, dinner is twelve times superior.

938. I am speaking rather of the time of the meal than of the quality of the meal?—I would reply to that by saying that ultimately the child is better off physically, and I suppose that is because the child, after sleep or rest, is not in such need of strong supporting food, like nitrogen or albuminoid, as after work time.

939. Have the children generally had a meal in the nature of breakfast before coming to school?—As a rule they get a little bread. At dinner time they need more, and they can get that because we provide it. That is a very great point.

940. It is not your opinion, then, that a very large number of children come to school without having had any nourishment at all?—No, not a large number. They may often not have had an adequate meal, but they have not been without food entirely.

941. You think that a breakfast of a sort is more easily provided by the parents than a correspondingly adequate dinner?—Decidedly. The conventional breakfast is bread and a little margarine for a child, and perhaps that is sufficient, whereas a dinner requires nitrogenous matter.

942. And requires cooking?—And requires cooking. Parents may give a child cheese and bread or meat and bread, but as a rule they do not. It is far better for a child to have pulse food with the addition of a cereal. If we have meat we always have a good addition of barley, for instance. Very often meat alone disagrees with the children. I can give an instance of a sergeant who has had a good deal to do with the old-fashioned soup kitchens, using meat entirely. He used to say, judging by the smell, “I always felt inclined to turn down another street, but with your dinners I feel inclined to turn in.” The dinner is always prepared with regard to the chemistry of the foodstuffs. It is cleanly and always very appetising.

943. You sometimes give meat?—Yes. But we chiefly give pulse soups with lentils or haricot beans, and peas, and a proportion of fat. The children can assimilate it far better than meat, having regard to their condition.

944. Doing business on a large scale, you are able to make contracts on advantageous terms?—Yes; we buy cheaply, whether it is meat or pulse, or whatever it may be. We have mutton broth and beef and barley soup at certain times of the week.

945. (Mr. Walrod.) Do you get complaints from local tradesmen that you are taking the bread out of their mouths by this simple organisation?—I have heard that

suggested, but I have never yet met a tradesman who would do anything but give us a contribution, if he could. It does not really touch them. They cannot discover it. It is so infinitesimal.

946. Is the food taken home of the same kind as that given in the school?—Yes, it is identical.

947. Soup?—Yes.

948. Do you supply a tin to carry it home in?—No. They bring their own receptacle.

949. Are many of these cases, where they carry it home, cases of free meals?—About the same proportion as when they have the meals on the school premises.

950. Are they largely made use of?—Yes; they are largely patronised, but it depends on the number in the school.

951. Do you approve of the plan of carrying home food, and would you like to see it extended?—We would much prefer the children to have meals in the schools. Where they do not it is because the school management will not allow it, or there is no accommodation and they cannot. It is best for them to have it in the home, but apart from that if they cannot have it in the home then it is better to have it in the school.

952. Do you get any complaints from the teachers as to the stuffiness caused by the eating of food in school?—No. As I said, most schools have no objection whatever, but wherever there is an objection it is of that nature. Some say that the soup smells in the school and that the children spill it on the desks, but very very few schools say that.

953. Have you had any teachers complaining that their assistants ought not to be employed in feeding children during the interval?—No. Where they are favourable to the meals, and that is so in most schools, the teachers take turns. It only means sitting by and having their own dinners, and supervising two or three older girls who attend to the scholars having their meals.

954. You do not think it is an objectionable system on that ground?—I do not think so as long as there is willingness to do it, and in most cases there is real heart to do it. It is very little labour. Where teachers have not done it they have thought it would be a trouble, I suppose. Most have no objection, as I say.

955. (Chairman.) Where subscriptions are specially collected by a school, in what form do they reach you. Is it in the form of half-pence paid for the dinners?—No; not in half-pennies but by cheque, and we in turn send coupons to the poor schools.

956. They buy from you additional free coupons?—Yes.

957. We have a return from Mr. Leslie of the Liverpool Education Committee in which he states that the number of dinners given in the year was 211,000, almost exactly corresponding with what you have told us, and 48,100 breakfasts in the year. You would expect about such numbers?—Yes.

958. You have knowledge of that, in your association?—Yes.

959. Have you anything further which you would like to add?—I would like to say that I think the number of children more or less in need normally in Liverpool during winter is about 2,500 per day (excepting Saturdays and Sundays, when resources improve) for paid meals, and somewhat more than half that number for free meals; whereas abnormally I think the need would be 2,500 for paid meals, and fully that number for free meals. My reason for believing that it would be unwise for the State to undertake this work is as follows:—Because the poor man being, though indirectly so, a ratepayer, he would feel a right to demand food for his children, which fact would tend to seriously retard, if not nullify, his growing inclination to gauge the number of his offspring according to his earnings, thus rendering the “last stage worse than the first.” There is no such fear in connection with private charity, as there can be no personal right to demand it. I speak thus with every respect to the poor, believing, as I do, and so far unlike most, that poverty is much more caused by misfortune than by misconduct. If in any way I can be of assistance, having regard to the time and knowledge that I may have, I shall be very happy at any time, or anywhere, to help you.

960. (Chairman.) Thank you, we are very much obliged to you for your evidence.

Mr. H. Lee
J. Jones.

30 May 1905.

Mr. FRANK JOHN LESLIE, called in; and Examined.

Mr. F. J. Leslie.
30 May 1905.
961. (Chairman.) You are Chairman of the Elementary Schools Management Sub-Committee of the Liverpool Education Committee?—Yes, that is so.

962. Were you a member of the Liverpool School Board?—No, I was not. I came in on the appointed day.

963. So that your experience of educational administration is coeval with the birth of the Liverpool Education Committee?—Yes, so far as elementary education goes. I had a good deal to do with secondary education work before that.

964. Does the sub-committee, of which you are chairman, practically deal with the whole question of elementary education in Liverpool?—Yes. Everything goes through that committee: I may say that we have 160 schools, with 131,000 children in regular attendance and nearly 4,000 teachers, so that there is a good deal to do.

965. We propose to take as your evidence in chief the *precis* which you have kindly provided us with and to ask you questions upon it?—Certainly.

The following statement was handed in:—

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL INSPECTION AND THE FEEDING OF CHILDREN IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Feeding of Children.

Precis of evidence proposed to be given by Mr. Frank John Leslie, Chairman of the Elementary Schools Management Sub-Committee of Liverpool.

A. Methods Employed.

1. There is only one agency of a public character in the City of Liverpool which undertakes the systematic and regular provision of meals for children, "The Food and Betterment Association," which is carried on by subscriptions under the control of a committee, and the personal management of Mr. H. Lee J. Jones. This association supplies meals at certain schools, and also at its own centre.

There cannot be said to be any overlapping. The provision of meals is too fragmentary and incomplete for that.

2. (a) The local authorities, education or otherwise, take no part in the administration of any provision of meals.

(b) The Education Committee allows use of school free, and raises no question as to the use of coal and gas. Its co-operation has hitherto been rather passive than active.

(c) The Education Committee have never given for this purpose the use of offices, or the services of clerks, nurses, caretakers, or other employees. Whatever may have been done in the schools by caretakers, teachers, or others has been purely voluntary, and unofficial.

The late school board, on more than one occasion during periods of extreme distress, readily permitted the managers of several schools situated in the poorer parts of the city to use the school premises, and provided not only gas and coal but certain necessary apparatus in the way of cooking stoves, boiler, etc.

3. (a) There appears to be no arrangement in force by which the parents make, or are asked to make any contribution, except where they give their children the half-penny necessary to obtain a meal coupon in the schools where that charge is made.

(b) As a general statement it may be said that the meals are given free, payment by the child being the rare exception.

The funds are provided by either

(1) The managers or teachers of schools by voluntary donation.

(2) Collections made in the better class elementary schools, or by concerts, bazaars, or grants out of Penny Bank interests from such better class schools. In several cases in Liverpool such a school takes special charge of some one poor school, by providing funds, clothes, etc.

(3) Public subscriptions.

(4) Catholic charity organisations, and collections made in the Roman Catholic chapels.

4. It would seem that in schools where meals are given

no systematic attempt is made to ascertain whether the parents could provide the meal. If the teachers are satisfied that, from whatever cause, a child is coming to school without food the meal is given to it. There is no doubt that the want of any official system in selecting the children to be fed is strongly felt in this respect.

5. Children are selected in the first instance by teachers. Information is often supplied by school attendance officers, parish priests or sisters of the poor (ministers of religion who are often themselves managers of the schools) and is found to be of much value in ascertaining the condition of the home and position of parents. In many instances the teachers themselves visit the homes, and come in contact with the parents. The Charity Organisation Society or any special relief committee do not work in any way through, or in association with, the schools.

6. Of the twenty-five schools in Liverpool in which arrangements are in force for feeding children, the meals given are served in eighteen cases on the school premises; in five cases in premises (mission rooms or cocoa rooms) near to the school; in two cases at the depot of the Food and Betterment Association.

7. There is only the one public agency or centre of distribution in Liverpool: the Food and Betterment Association; so that no comparative results of any value are procurable.

8. The work of providing meals is usually undertaken by the same schools each winter, but sometimes it has to be discontinued for want of funds.

B. Sums expended.

1. The total sums spent on meals for school children in Liverpool cannot be ascertained. The work which is done is usually of such a fragmentary and unsystematic character that no proper accounts are kept.

2. The same remark applies as to the cost of food material, preparation and distribution.

It is not likely that in any case cost is incurred in rent, or office expenses. The apparatus—that is, cups, plates, kettles, etc., are sometimes furnished by the managers, and sometimes out of the funds which supply the meals.

3. A meal may be said to cost on an average 1d. per head. The Food and Betterment Association charge 1d. for the soup they supply.

4. The sources of supply of funds have already been referred to (see A (3) (b) above).

5. The poorer the school the more difficult it is to raise funds, and there is no doubt that the work is much curtailed for want of funds. In some places, such as Manchester and Bradford, there are associations at work to collect funds, but in Liverpool there is none such.

C. Relief given.

Arrangements for feeding children are in operation in twenty-five public elementary schools in Liverpool.

Council schools	-	-	-	4
Church of England schools	-	-	-	8
Roman Catholic schools	-	-	-	11
Undenominational schools	-	-	-	2
				25

1. (a) and (b). In the Schedule A to this *precis* is a tabulated summary which gives detailed information as to numbers.

The food between meals (hot milk and biscuit) is given in only one school.

In two schools breakfast only is regularly provided consisting of bun with treacle, and milk or tea.

In all the others dinner is provided consisting usually of soup and bread, but in four of them there is in addition, stew, hot pot, or meat and vegetables.

It seems that only one school, a Roman Catholic one, gives breakfast regularly as well as dinner, but one Church of England School provides breakfasts, gives a free dinner occasionally.

(c). There is very little variety, but the children always seem to relish the food.

(d) Through the winter it is possible for the children to obtain the dinner, if they want it, with regularity, but, as mentioned below, it is a remarkable fact that owing to a natural feeling of pride they will only ask for it if they cannot get it at home.

In the summer little if any provision of meals is made in any school.

(i.) The meals are provided on five days in the week.

(ii.) A child can, as already mentioned, get a meal on each of these days if it wishes.

(iii.) No provision appears to be made in, or in connection with, any school on Saturdays, Sundays, or during holidays.

(iv.) The meals are provided from about October to March. If the idea is to safeguard a child from being in want of food the period is obviously not long enough. The teachers agree that this is so, but plead lack of funds.

2. The children know about the provision of the meals, but the parents do not receive any direct notice.

3. Last winter 212,110 meals were given.

4. No records have been kept as to the number of individual children relieved. But in the Departments affected there are 17,271 children in average daily attendance, so that it is obvious only a small percentage of these could have received the meals.

5. No records as to the children relieved or the dates are kept. Each school carries out its own scheme in its own way, and the Education Authority does not interfere at all.

It may, I think be useful that I should here set out some particulars of an enquiry which I was asked recently by the Education Committee to make, into the question of providing free meals in the Liverpool schools. I made a report upon it, and I now append so much of that report as appears to be at all relevant to the present enquiry.

I felt that in such an enquiry the information to be obtained from the teachers could not fail to be valuable. I, therefore, invited a number of the head teachers of the Liverpool Schools, both Council and voluntary, situated in the poorest districts of the city, to meet me at the Education Office, with the result that an interesting and instructive conference took place. They all agreed that a percentage of the children, in their schools, come in the morning having had no food of any kind since the previous day, while a much larger number come after an insufficient meal, usually consisting of a piece of bread which they eat on the way.

The extent of the destitution prevailing was strikingly illustrated by the teachers. Under the present system, the percentage of attendance is looked upon as one of the chief tests of the efficiency of a school, and the schools are arranged in an order of merit based on this percentage. It, therefore, becomes important to the teachers to secure the regular attendance of the children. In one Church school, which appears to be the very poorest in the city, the teachers themselves often go out to visit the homes of the children and ascertain the cause of their absence. It is a common experience in that district to find no beds at all in the houses, and the children are often, in the middle of the morning, found asleep on a sack, in a cellar destitute of all furniture, their parents having gone out to seek the means of getting food to bring back to them. When summoned the children get up readily enough, and, with no clothes but the ragged ones in which they have been sleeping, they follow the teacher to school. They are, however, soon faint and sleepy from want of food, and it is almost impossible to teach them.

I made careful enquiries as to figures. The number of children given to me as coming to school without any food at all varies in different schools from 2 per cent. to 10 per cent., while from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. are believed to come hungry though having had something; this usually consists of a drink of weak tea at home, and a slice of bread eaten on the way. I am myself doubtful however, whether the percentage of entirely unfed children really reaches 10 per cent., except perhaps in times of abnormal destitution, and only then in a very few schools.

All the teachers agreed that it was almost impossible to do any good by attempting to teach starving children, and that the time and trouble expended in doing so was thrown away.

Some of the statistics furnished by the teachers were very noteworthy. The head master of one school stated that when he was appointed the attendance was very bad, and twenty children a year were sent to day industrial schools. He found, on enquiry, that the irregularity was almost wholly due to want of food, and the parents, who had nothing to give their children until the middle of the day, encouraged them to sleep through the morning. Free breakfasts to those needing them were soon after introduced, the funds being collected by the clergy, with the result that the attendance improved, and the number

sent to industrial schools steadily decreased, until last year only one boy was so sent. This winter, however, no breakfasts have been given, owing to want of funds, and the attendance and efficiency are gradually falling off again. The average attendance in December, 1903, was over 90 per cent. of those on the rolls, and in December, 1904, 84 per cent., without, apparently, any other cause for the decrease.

In reply to my questions as to whether the hunger of the children was due to drunkenness of the parents, some of those teachers who have some system of feeding said they did not stop to enquire—the starving condition of the children was sufficient for them. Others said that very many of the worst cases were due neither to drink nor indifference of parents, but to their want of regular work.

I was somewhat surprised to find the teachers unanimous in thinking that there was no fear of any provision made for free meals being abused. They all spoke of the sense of pride in the matter shown by the children themselves. Only those really in need ask for the meal, or the tally to exchange for it. If children who could be fed at home are getting the free meals the other children resent it, and let it be known. The difficulty is to get the children to admit the want of food at home, and one head mistress said she could often find this out only by watching the children carefully and then making enquiries. The girls are particularly loyal, and will not say anything about their home circumstances. It was found sometimes that a child with only a slice of bread for its own breakfast would share it with another child who had none at all, and neither of them would ask for the free meal. A striking instance of the tender consideration shown by young children for the feelings of their school mates was related by one head mistress, who said that recently a number of children had come to her school (a Council School) owing to the closing of a mission school in the neighbourhood. Very few of these had shoes or stockings, and she soon found a noticeable increase in the number of her original pupils coming to school barefooted. On enquiry, she learned that they had agreed among themselves to do so out of sympathy, so that their new school-fellows should not feel themselves in any sense inferior.

There was a slight difference of opinion as to the time at which it was best to give the meal; the general belief was that it should be given as breakfast, but some thought that this was inconvenient, and that it was impossible to get the room so used clean and tidy again for use as a classroom. These were in favour of giving a free dinner to those needing it, but this seems open to the objection that the breakfastless child looking forward to its dinner would not get much benefit from its morning in school, when the heaviest part of the day's work is done.

I question whether, in practice, the difficulty raised about the breakfasts cannot be got over with a little care and organisation. As a result of my mentioning the needs of the children in the poorest of all the city schools a lady has during this year provided funds for breakfasts. These are prepared by some of the teachers, and are ready at 8.30, and the head mistress assures me that everything is cleared away and the room made clean and tidy by 9.0, and that the effect of the simple meal provided for about fifty children a day is most marked in promoting regularity of attendance and increased efficiency.

The teachers point out that reliable information can always be obtained from the school attendance officers as to the circumstances of any child, and this in itself should be a sufficient safeguard against abuse.

The means now employed for giving breakfasts are either to provide them at the school, or to give to the child a 1d. or 1d. tally in exchange for which it gets the meal at one of the Food and Betterment Association's Depots, if there is one reasonably near.

The money for this purpose comes from subscriptions by the managers, or the teachers and their friends, but the supply of funds is necessarily intermittent and irregular, and the poorer a school is the fewer, as a rule, are its friends and resources.

It is obvious, from the accounts given by the teachers at the conference I had with them, that the need is not, and is not likely to be, met by voluntary efforts. Further, they seem to think that the meal given by the Food and Betterment Association, useful as it is, is not of a kind calculated to satisfy the wants or improve the stamina of the children. What is needed is a systematic provision of funds to which the teachers can at once confidently resort in time of need.

Mr. F. J. Leslie.
30 May 1905.

Mr. F. J.
Leslie.
30 May 1905.

991. And they are anxious that the whole amount earned should be used for philanthropic objects?—Yes, that is so.

992. Have the Roman Catholics special organisation in Liverpool?—Yes, they have. Of course, the Roman Catholics are very strong in Liverpool. Out of 160 schools they have thirty-one. Probably there is no other place in the kingdom where they have such a large and strong body as they have in Liverpool.

993. As a rule the children would be possibly better looked after in those schools than in other poor schools?—Yes, I should think so. They are kept more in personal touch by the Roman Catholics. Their parochial organisations are very complete, as a rule.

994. On the point as to what part teachers should be called upon to take in this provision of meals for the children, do you consider that the teachers can themselves discriminate between the children who require food and those who do not?—Only very roughly, I should think. Some of them tell me that they can "spot," as they say, a child who evidently has not had proper food when it comes to school, but it must be a very rough and ready process, and they have no organisation for finding out the truth. That is where, I think, the local authority might usefully come in, because the local authority has under its control a very large number of school attendance officers, who could be put to follow up the truth of the statements made in the schools, whereas the teachers now have no means of doing it. As they say, if a child is hungry they try to give it something to eat, and that is about as far as they go into the question.

995. You do not think it would be fair to expect the teachers to do much more?—I do not think it would. I do not see how they could.

996. Would you suggest that there should be some further organisation besides the school attendance officer for following up cases of children in need of food?—It might be useful to detail one or two officers to follow up specific cases; we rather thought of doing that to test it—that where we got a number of statements as to children in the schools in want of food we should follow those up at once to see what the truth really was in a considerable number of cases, so that we might judge whether the need was as great as it was stated to be.

997. Would you use for that purpose the managers of the schools, or would you call into being some special relief committee?—It could be worked, I take it, under some committee of our own body, through an attendance officer, for instance, told off for the purpose. I do not think the managers would undertake it. Managers are often grumbling now at what they have to do in the schools. It is very often rather difficult to get managers.

998. This is a philanthropic work which would appeal possibly to a different section of the community from those who act as ordinary managers?—Yes, it might. I do not know if you have taken any evidence as to what is done at Bradford.

999. We are hoping to hear about Bradford soon. We have not yet had any evidence from there?—I went rather carefully into what was done there. It seemed to me that that is what they have done at Bradford. There they had constituted a sort of philanthropic committee who collect the funds and look after the cases. They do it in conjunction with the education authority.

1000. You are so far favourably impressed with the system in force at Bradford?—Yes—on paper. I have not been there, I do not know more about it.

1001. Do you think the school attendance officers can really know the needs of individual cases?—Yes, I think they do. They are very thorough in Liverpool. We have a great many of them.

1002. Is not their knowledge generally confined to the irregular cases?—Yes, I daresay that is so primarily. It generally is with regard to irregular cases that help is wanted.

1003. Would their visits be resented by parents?—Yes, by some parents no doubt. The slack parent does not like to be looked after by anybody.

1004. Are there Charity Organisation Committees in existence in Liverpool which might help in this work?—

Yes, there is a Charity Organisation Society, and a very strong one, and they might certainly help.

1005. They have not so far taken up this particular side of work?—Not to any extent. They have written a long letter to me, pointing out the difficulties which they feel in regard to anything being done in that way. They are a body of very large experience. If it were any advantage I would put this letter in.

1006. Please?—I will send you a copy. It will show you exactly what they do. I think it rather a useful letter.

1007. We can make it an exhibit?—Yes. (See Appendix.)

1008. Have you any views as to whether if meals are provided for school children they should be provided at schools or elsewhere?—Elsewhere, if possible, unless there is at the school a room which can be advantageously used for the purpose. In some cases there is. The teachers speak very strongly about the difficulty of feeding in class rooms, and I daresay there is difficulty.

1009. There is untidiness, and there is also the impossibility of a proper flushing of the school with fresh air?—Yes, with regard to untidiness, if they give children, as they do in some schools, bread and treacle, you may imagine the condition of the desks afterwards.

1010. Have you any opinion as to the propriety of asking teachers to superintend the meals?—I am rather against it, because the teachers work very hard indeed, and in Liverpool particularly they do a great deal of work outside of school hours with the children, in getting them interested in games, and in all kind of ways. I think it would be very unfair to put it on the teachers if we could possibly help it.

1011. But you find them always willing to help any good work?—Yes, they are always willing. I happen to know that in Sheffield it has been put upon the teachers. I do not know whether I am right in mentioning it—the teachers do it, but they find it a great burden.

1012. Do you consider that if an agency is set on foot in Liverpool, it should be of a continuous type and should always be at hand to help?—Yes, I do. One of the reasons why the present system is unsatisfactory is because of the intermittent character of it. For instance, in some of the Roman Catholic districts if there is an energetic priest there, he will stir himself and collect funds and do all that is necessary during one winter; but then a new priest comes who is not so energetic and not so in touch with the people and he does not trouble himself; then there are no meals and consequently the want is not met.

1013. Any effort of this kind you think should be sustained?—Yes, it should be. It should not be altogether dependent on persons, as it is now.

1014. You say that the work has sometimes had to be discontinued for want of funds?—Yes.

1015. Has any strong appeal, properly backed and guaranteed, ever been made in Liverpool on this matter?—No, no public appeal in my recollection.

1016. Have you any opinion as to the likelihood of its success?—I think it would succeed. There is a strong feeling against its falling on the rates; but on the other hand people feel that it is something that ought to be done, and I believe that there would be no lack of funds.

1017. You consider it of the highest importance that if this work is done statistics should be available to show exactly what is spent and how the money goes?—Yes, that is very important. At present one drawback is that there is no reliable record of what the things cost.

1018. Have you formed any opinion as to the cost at which a satisfactory meal could be provided?—Yes. A meal could be provided at a 1d. per head, no doubt.

1019. Would you be inclined to allow any parent to take advantage of that meal upon payment of 1d.?—That is a difficult question; I have not considered that; I should not like to say. I do not see offhand why if the penny meets the cost of the meal they should not be entitled to do it; but there are many points to be considered.

1020. So far have your investigations been concerned with those parents who are unable to pay the penny?—Yes, that is so.

1021. Have you any opinion as to the relative advantage of breakfast and dinner if only one meal is to be provided?—It seems to me certainly that the breakfast is the more rational meal to provide. They threshed that matter out very thoroughly in Birmingham, and are providing breakfasts.

1022. We are going to hear Mr. Hookham this afternoon?—They decided that breakfast was the right meal, and that seems so to me. As I have pointed out in the notes which I have made, a child who has gone breakfastless to school is a very useless person all the morning from an educational point of view, when it is looking forward to its dinner.

1023. At the same time a Continental child would not miss its breakfast at all; it is entirely dependent on the midday meal. It is largely a question of habit, is it not?—Yes, I suppose it is.

1024. Then you say it is a remarkable fact that owing to a natural feeling of pride, only those children ask for meals who cannot get them at home?—Yes. I was very much surprised to hear that from the teachers; but they were very emphatic upon it. I saw a dozen upon it, and they all agreed about that. It is rather important, because it has been constantly urged against this system of meals that it would be taken advantage of by children who ought not to have the meal; but the teachers declare that it is not so.

1025. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Would those teachers be from the better schools?—No. I designedly had a dozen teachers from the very poorest schools in Liverpool.

1026. (Dr. Parsons.) Would that statement refer to the free meals, or to the halfpenny meals?—That refers to free meals.

1027. (Miss Lawrence.) You said that there were 160 schools in Liverpool?—Yes.

1028. And in only twenty-five of those is it found necessary to have any provision?—Only twenty-five have made any provision.

1029. Have made any?—I should rather put it in that way. Are those twenty-five quite the poorest?—Quite the poorest.

1030. Would you wish to see that extended. Do you think that twenty-five is a small proportion of the 160?—I have not gone into that. Nothing has been done in the others and therefore one would presume that nothing was considered to be needed.

1031. Would it be a fair question to ask you whether it would depend upon the need of the school or the energy of the people connected with it?—It would depend on both. The school might be in need, and if those in charge had not the energy to get the thing up it would not be done.

1032. Therefore we might suppose that at some of these schools it would be advisable?—Yes, I should think that in more than the twenty-five it would.

1033. But not a very large number?—No, not a very large number.

1034. In the cases where the managers provide or secure the funds, who organises it all? Does one individual manager do it?—Yes, very often one individual manager, but more often it is thrown on the teachers. The teachers are really under the managers, and they feel that they have to do what the managers wish, and it is thrown on the teachers. Whether they like it or not they have to do it generally.

1035. In that case do they employ a cook to cook in the school or do they have food sent in?—Very often they have the food sent in, but in some cases the caretaker of the school prepares it.

1036. In those cases does the education authority give facilities?—They give negative facilities, if I may put it so. They do not put any difficulties in the way; they do not ask about the gas and so on, or what is done, but they do not absolutely provide facilities.

1037. Or utensils?—No.

1038. Not even a gas stove?—No, I do not know of any case where they have provided a gas stove especially

for that purpose, but in a good many schools there is a gas stove for cookery demonstrations, and I think that is sometimes used.

1039. Have you come across any cases in which the cookery classes have supplied this food?—No, I think there is no such case.

1040. Have you any opinion as to the advisability of those two branches being worked together?—I should think that it is impossible. You see it is a very experimental or elementary kind of teaching of cookery to a small class. They would never be able to cope with it. Besides that, it is done at the wrong time of the day. I should not think it is practicable.

1041. With regard to collections in the better class of elementary schools, are those started by the teachers?—Yes. I fancy the teachers in some of the better schools have wanted to demonstrate practically the advantage of helping those in less favourable circumstances, and they have urged the children to help some poor school. They have selected a poor school and said "What we can collect together we will give to that school." Very often the children in the better class of school are taken down to to meet the poor children, and to see those whom they have helped, and are thus made to take an interest in them.

1042. You have no rules against making collections in the elementary schools?—No, not for such a purpose.

1043. Is there a great division in the matter of the class of children with regard to their being well off or not?—Yes, in Liverpool there is a very sharp line. For instance, we have large schools with the very poorest class of children who hardly ever come to school with boots and stockings on; and then in another part of Liverpool we have an elementary school which sends forty or fifty candidates for the Oxford examinations every year—it is as sharp as that.

1044. There has never been any question of the parents' objection to these collections?—No. I do not think the money comes so much from collections as from concerts, bazaars and entertainments.

1045. I was using your word when I said "collections"?—In some cases it is so, but I think it is more general for them to make a united effort once a year. They do in some cases make collections certainly, but it is purely voluntary.

1046. I see that out of the number of twenty-five there are only four council schools who have feeding arrangements?—That is so.

1047. But I suppose the class of children in those twenty-five schools are all about the same?—Yes. All about the same. The Council schools are probably rather the better class.

1048. On the whole you think there would be less need in them?—I think so; because, you see, before the old School Board was established Liverpool was very well schooled in the old parish, and the old parish of Liverpool is the place where there is the greatest destitution. During the whole of the thirty years of the School Board there has been no school built within the old parish of Liverpool.

1049. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) With regard to the number of meals that you mention, there are 212,110 altogether, of which 156,000 odd are dinners. Mr. Lee Jones told us that he gave 200,000 dinners. Out of your total, what additional number of dinners do you think is really given. Is your total in addition to his 200,000, or does it include part of his 200,000?—No doubt partly, but certainly not wholly. His 200,000 is clearly not anything like monopolised by our schools. For instance, I believe that he sends over to Birkenhead.

1050. (Chairman.) We understood from him that this figure was for Liverpool only, and that it was made out by tallies and returns by the teachers sent to him?—I do not want to dispute his figures. I know nothing about this.

1051. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Does your return give any number of meals not given through him. Can you tell us at all. You said there were only eleven out of the twenty-five that were through him?—Yes, I think that is so. My schedule will give it.

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1052. The other fourteen schools will all be in addition to his?—They will be in addition and will show 103,760 dinners out of a total of 156,010.

1053. Out of the thirty-five Roman Catholic schools, there are eleven in which meals are given; that leaves twenty-four where they are not given. Are those which are left the better class Roman Catholic schools. The Roman Catholic schools are generally the poorest, are they not?—They generally are. Most of all the Roman Catholic schools are in pretty bad neighbourhoods.

1054. Do you think that returns have been got from all of them?—Yes, we are quite satisfied that we have got returns from them all. The Director of Education assured me that they had exhausted it and that I might take it that these were all.

1055. So that with regard to the twenty-four schools, you suppose that they would find no need?—I presume that that is so.

1056. I suppose that the Roman Catholic population in Liverpool is largely a dock population?—That is so; it is the unskilled labour population to a large extent.

1057. You say here: "Where meals are given, no systematic attempt is made to ascertain whether the parents could provide the meal." How is it possible to go into that. Do the teachers go into it at all, do you think?—I do not think they do. They trust to the children very much. They seem to have, as I say in my paper, a very strong belief that a child will not ask for a meal unless it wants it, because it does not get it at home. How far that is reliable I do not know.

1058. I see you say that in two schools breakfast only is provided, and in one school breakfast as well as dinner; and yet the total number of breakfasts seems very large. Does that 48,100 breakfasts apply only to those three schools?—There are four schools. Of these one (St. Titus) provides also dinners occasionally. The numbers are: St. Titus, a Church of England School, 600; Bishop Goss's, 30,000; St. Bernard's, 7,500; St. Thomas and St. Williams, 10,000. That makes it up to 48,100.

1059. Is Bishop Goss's one that gives breakfasts only?—Yes, breakfasts only.

1060. I visited Bishop Goss's when I was in Liverpool, when I saw you. They told me they were only giving breakfasts, but they said at the same time that Mr. Lee Jones gave them some dinner tickets; so I suppose they were sending children to the Food and Betterment Association. Would that account for this in any way? It might.

1061. I have it down that they got about thirty tickets a week. It is not a large number, but it partly shows how it might be worked?—It might be so. Certainly there is nothing here about dinners.

1062. With regard to Bishop Goss's school there are no dinners, according to your return?—No dinners. It is their own return.

1063. I understood that meals were distributed by the sisters of St. Vincent?—Yes, the sisters prepare the meals and the distribution is made after investigation.

1064. These would be outside of that altogether?—Yes, they must be so. There is no organisation. I suppose the distribution is just to a few children.

1065. In the four cases where you speak of better dinners, I suppose they are not under the Food and Betterment Association?—At St. James's, Toxteth, they supply soup, bread, and hot-pot. It is supplied by the ladies' committee, quite independently of the Food and Betterment Association. In the case of St. Titus, the food is provided by the teachers and donations. At St. Francis Xavier's they give them soup, rice, meat, milk and vegetables. That is given by the sisters. At St. Patrick's, where they only give jam and currant bread extra, they are supplied by the Food and Betterment Association. Wherever it is more than soup and bread it is not under the Food and Betterment Association apparently.

1066. Some of the meals that you have mentioned would cost more than a penny?—I should think so. I suppose that you did not have time, when you were in Liverpool, to go to see the organization in Oliver Street.

1067. No, I have never been there?—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.

1068. 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.

1069. 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 tomorrow."

1070. (Dr. Parsons.) It is on a commercial basis?—Quite; she makes it pay.

1071. 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.

1072. (Miss Lawrence.) It is just like any other catering shop?—Quite.

1073. 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.

1074. (Dr. Parsons.) Sometimes the schools have to be closed on account of the prevalence of infectious disease. What about the dinners of those children who ordinarily would be fed at school?—I am afraid that they go short then of their dinner, as well as of their education, where the dinner is provided at school. It is just the same as in the holidays. There is no provision for holidays.

1075. (Mr. Walrond.) Were the 156,000 dinners in the schedule all given at the schools?—No. In eighteen cases they are given at the schools, in five at other premises and in two at the Food and Betterment head quarters.

1076. Would "other premises" be the centres where food can be procured such as Mr. Lee Jones referred to?—Do you mean centres of his own?

1077. Yes?—No. I think not. I think that in only two cases the children are systematically sent to the depôts. In the other five cases they are sent to mission rooms or cocon rooms.

1078. The centres he says are established as near to a school as possible. They would not be included in your return, and there might be a very large number of dinners given at those centres?—Yes, that may be so. If a child brought its halfpenny from home and went to Mr. Lee Jones' depôt, nobody would have any check on it at all, and that is where the discrepancy is, I think.

1079. (Chairman.) We understood from him that the centres that he mentioned were all recognised and in connection with the schools, and therefore they ought, presumably, to be on your return?—Yes. I cannot make his figures tally. I will look into that.

1080. Have you anything to add on these points before we go to the question of Medical Inspection?—No. We had yesterday a rather interesting interview with the guardians of Liverpool as to the Local Government Board circular. I suppose that that is outside of your scope.

1081. Not exactly. Authorities working under that order may utilise voluntary agencies as is specifically mentioned?—A deputation from the Education Committee went at the request of the guardians to confer with them on this circular. We went into the matter pretty fully, with the result that they are unanimously of opinion that it would be very undesirable for them to be called upon to carry out that circular at all. They think that the agencies being voluntary they ought not to be brought into it at all, as it would result in disfranchising a great number of people, and that it is not the right thing to be thrown upon them or upon the rates. We decided to confer upon that view in order to decide whether or not we would put them into motion, because nothing can be done unless we do put them into motion. I think the feeling rather is that that scheme is not a very workable one.

1082. It will be valuable to us to have that statement, but I think we will not carry the matter further this morning. Then in respect of the medical inspection of children in public elementary schools, you have kindly given us a short account of what is now done in Liverpool. We understand that there is at present no school medical officer as such?—No.

1083. I think that we might put this on the notes?—Yes.

The following document was handed in:—

Board of Education.

COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL INSPECTION AND THE FEEDING OF CHILDREN OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Medical Inspection.

A. Staff.

1. The Liverpool School Board have, from time to time, had before them a suggestion as to the advisability of appointing a school medical officer, but so far they have not come to any definite decision in the matter. The only medical officer who comes into touch with the schools is the Public Medical Officer for Health for Liverpool, and he confines his work almost entirely to the supervision of the sanitary condition of the school buildings, and the supervision of infectious diseases reported to him as mentioned below.

2. The Liverpool Queen Victoria District Nursing Association have, for some years as an experiment, provided nurses to visit several of the elementary schools situated in the poorer neighbourhoods. For the past four years two nurses have been almost entirely engaged upon this work, whilst two district nurses have devoted part of their time to such visitation.

During the last year twenty-one schools were attended by the nurses, some two or three visits a week being made to each school. The nurses attend during school hours and examine all scholars brought to them by the teachers.

The nature of the ailments requiring attention are mainly affections of the eyes and ears, skin diseases, dirty heads, gathered fingers, glass or splinters in the feet, bad heels and toes.

As to the extent of the work undertaken by the nurses it may be mentioned that, during the visits made last year, 55,673 cases passed through their hands requiring dressing or some special attention. The total number of cases dealt with weekly may be put down as from 1,300 to 1,400, making a yearly total of 55,600 to 57,000 cases.

The effect on the children themselves is very pronounced. They seem to enjoy coming out to the nurse, and are sometimes accompanied by friends who are not in need of treatment. The speedy improvement, e.g., in the matter of heads, is a notable feature. This very satisfactory result is largely aided by the sympathetic co-operation of the teachers, in addition to the tact and skill of the nurse. The nurses carrying on the work are spoken of in the warmest terms by the teachers, who select the children for treatment, and in many other ways emphasise the value of the work. The managers, too, in many instances, have shown very practical sympathy and approval.

The effect on attendance is also distinct; it is stated that in some cases a falling off in average is prevented, and in others an actual increase has been noted. In Widnes the improvement is officially stated to amount to 2 per cent., directly traceable to the nurses' work.

The attitude of the parents is almost invariably sympathetic.

It is estimated that the number of schools probably needing assistance in this way to a greater or less extent is approximately eighty—that is about four times the number at present assisted, involving an outlay of something like £200 in salaries, cost of dressing materials, etc.

B. Organisation.

With a view to the prevention of the spread of infectious disease, arrangements have been made and have

been in operation for quite fifteen years, by which the head teachers of the school and the school attendance officers forward to the Medical Officer of Health, on a postcard supplied for the purpose, particulars of any case of infectious disease brought under their notice. The case is then carefully watched by the staff of the Medical Officer's department, and when the sickness has disappeared notification is given by the Medical Officer, through the school attendance officer, to the head teacher as to when the child and children of the same family may be re-admitted to the school (see sample forms marked A).

This arrangement is found to work most satisfactorily and to be of great help to the Medical Officer of Health in preventing the spread of infectious disease.

Medical Officer for Epileptic and Defective Children.

For the purposes of carrying out the provisions of the Blind and Deaf Children Act, the Education Committee have in their employ a Medical Officer appointed specially to examine and report on all cases of children said to be physically or mentally defective, and thought to be eligible for admission to the special schools for mentally and physically defective children. He also carries on private practice.

Closing of Schools on Account of Infectious Diseases.

The staff of the Sanitary Department, which is under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health are required to visit periodically the public elementary schools for the purpose of ascertaining the number of children said to be absent from school on account of infectious disease, and it has been the practice, during the past two years, for the Medical Officer of Health, once the number of absentees on account of infectious disease is said to have exceeded 25 per cent. of those in average attendance, to suggest to the Education Committee the advisability of closing the school or department affected, for a period of twenty-one days.

During the time the school is discontinued, arrangements are made for thoroughly disinfecting the school premises, and for the windows and ventilators to be kept open during the greater part of the time.

In the course of the two years referred to the Medical Officer has found it necessary to recommend the Education Committee to close something like eighty departments in each year, whilst the whole of the infants' departments throughout the city were closed for three weeks in June, 1904.

Testing of Eyesight.

In March, 1895, the late School Board had under consideration a report prepared by Mr. Robert J. Hamilton (copy of which accompanies this memo) as to the eyesight of the scholars attending several of the Board Schools, and as a result of this report a scheme was introduced by which the head teachers of all the schools were required to arrange for the eyesight of all the scholars to be tested

(a) On passing from Standard 2; and (b) when in standards 3 and 4 once in every six months.

In all cases where the eyesight is found to be defective it is the duty of the teacher to notify the parent or guardian of the fact on a form prepared for the purpose (see form marked B).

The accompanying return showing the results of such examinations during the last three years of the School Board affords some useful and interesting information. For instance, in the report for the last completed year, it was found that out of the 13,116 children examined, 1,514 were more or less defective in both eyes, and a further 1,090 in one. The number of cases in which to the knowledge of the teachers, the parents took action after being notified of the defect in their children's sight was 513.

The scheme for the examination of the eyesight of school children has been extended by the Education Committee to all the Elementary Schools throughout the city, and is found to produce most beneficial results.

Mr. F. J.
Lestie.
30 May 1905.

Mr. F. J.
Leslie.
30 May 1905.

RETURN WITH REGARD TO EYE-TESTING ARRANGEMENTS.

1900—1903.	Standard III.										Standard IV.										Totals for whole School.	Number of cases (known to Head Teachers) in which parents have taken action after notification of defect.	Percentage of cases in which action has been taken on number found defective.			
	No. Examined.			Number found defective.						No. Examined.				Number found defective.						No. Examined.				Number found defective.	Total	
	Departments.		Total.	Juniors.		Senior Girls.		Senior Boys.		Total.	Juniors.		Senior Girls.		Senior Boys.		Total.									
	Junior.	Senior Girls.		Senior Boys.	One Eye.	Both Eyes.	One Eye.	Both Eyes.	One Eye.		Both Eyes.	One Eye.	Both Eyes.	One Eye.	Both Eyes.	One Eye.		Both Eyes.								
	1483	1437	1954	4874	64	172	132	220	173	276	369	677	—	—	151	241	223	238	377	509	1028	746	1186	1932	324	16.7
	910	2487	3032	6429	70	83	233	348	250	383	533	816	225	255	184	375	211	316	434	715	1264	945	1461	2403	494	20.5
	468	2735	3707	6910	39	59	231	337	338	375	603	771	87	272	187	371	201	359	482	744	1311	1080	1514	2604	513	19.7
During three years under late School Board.																										

1084. You have had considerable experience in Liverpool of the work done by the Queen's nurses?—Yes, we have.

1085. And your experience has been wholly favourable?—Wholly favourable. It is exceedingly satisfactory. We are now considering a scheme by which the nurses should become more in our service, and under our control, but still should be supplied by the Queen's Nursing Association. There are some legal difficulties in the way which we have not solved yet.

1086. What has your arrangement hitherto been? Have you paid the association for supplying nurses?—Not at all. They have done it all voluntarily.

1087. There has been no payment at all so far?—No.

1088. I understand that there are certain technical difficulties in the way of contracting with the association to supply the services of nurses?—Yes, that is so.

1089. But by some means or other you fully hope to utilise them.

1090. The effect of the visits of the nurses has been wholly for good?—Yes, remarkably so.

1091. Has there been no difficulty with parents?—No, there has not.

1092. Not a single case of a parent objecting?—I am told that is so.

1092. Although 55,000 to 57,000 cases have been dealt with yearly?—Yes. It is very surprising that there has not been a case of a parent objecting, but I understand it is so.

1094. Have you any proposals before your committee for appointing a School Medical Officer?—None at all at the present time. 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.

1095. He is not able presumably to pay systematic visits to the separate schools?—No. You see he has a system of this sort. First of all there is a postcard addressed to him which is to be sent in case of any infectious disease in the school. He, thereupon, sends out a note to the school to say that so and so must not attend school. He sends out another note to say that if there has been no sickness during the last fortnight the following children may attend school. We send that on to the particular school stating, "We have the authority of the Medical Officer for Health for saying that you may now re-admit the following children to your school." So that you see the whole thing is very systematic.

1096. You have no system of medical examination of children who are absent from school from sickness other than infectious sickness?—We have, in this way; we have an arrangement with six public dispensaries in Liverpool. We pay the medical officers there a small sum per annum. We pay them about ten guineas each, and we accept their certificates with regard to the reason for children's absence. If a child wants to be excused on account of illness its parents take it to the local dispensary, and the officer there sends us his certificate, which is a very convenient way of dealing with it.

1097. Yes. That is a very important matter. There has been no attempt to ascertain by medical inspection what children are ill-nourished?—No. The only thing with which there has been a systematic attempt to deal, I think, is the eyesight.

1098. That you have mentioned in your proof?—Yes.

1099. Is the testing in the first instance carried out by the teachers themselves?—Now it is.

1100. Under directions given by Dr. Hamilton?—By Dr. Hamilton, who is in private practice. Some years ago he was asked by the School Board to give an address to teachers explaining all about the eye, and how it had to be dealt with. I will hand you a copy of his address. The teachers now send to the parent this form, which I will hand in, if they see anything wrong with the child's eye. The improvement has been very great.

1101. That system is at present in force in Liverpool?—Yes, it is in force in Liverpool.

1102. At present you have not before you any proposal to enlarge what is now done in this direction?—We have not that before us.

1103. (Miss Lawrence.) With reference to the form which is sent by the teacher to the parent with reference to the eye-testing, has it been generally found that the parents have taken their children to a medical authority on receiving that, broadly speaking?—Yes; they have pretty well followed it up. It has been found that many of the parents take an interest in the matter, and follow it up.

1104. (Chairman.) Have you any organisation in Liverpool for providing such things as spectacles?—No, I do not think we have. I do not know of it if there is one. There is such a lot of organisations in Liverpool that it is difficult to keep in touch with them.

1105. I understand that one of the great difficulties with regard to examination is that no good follows because there are no spectacles forthcoming?—Yes. I do not think there is any association, but I would not like to say there is none.

1106. (Dr. Parsons.) With regard to the eye testing arrangements, do these figures refer only to errors of refraction, or do they include also other matters in connection with the eye, such as ophthalmia and sty and so on?—Yes, they do.

1107. I notice that the number of instances in which action has been taken in respect of cases found defective is small. It is only about one-fifth of the whole?—Yes.

1108. Unless we can assume that the majority of the cases in which action was not taken by the parents were cases of a trivial kind which would get well by themselves, it does not look as if much benefit resulted from examination?—There is a considerable number of cases in which action has been taken, but I quite agree that it would be better if it could be followed up more than it is, and if the parents could be made to do something. Of course we have no power over the parents in that respect, and some of them are in that respect shockingly careless.

1109. Do the nurses do anything beyond examining the children. Do they undertake dressing for minor ailments, and so on?—Yes, certainly.

1110. It might require repeated visits in the case of one child?—Yes it might.

1111. So that the number of cases dealt with weekly, the 1,300 to 1,400, does not necessarily mean so many separate children?—I think it does. It means that a case is a child. It does not say that there were that number of visits, but during the visits made 55,000 cases passed through their hands.

1112. Cases requiring dressing or some special attention?—Yes.

1113. But each child that required dressing might require it several times?—That is so, but it would not reappear as a fresh case.

1114. In what way has an increase of attendance been brought about by the visits of the nurses?—By the fact of the children not staying away from school. These slight cases have been taken early and not made the excuse for staying away from school. For instance if a splinter in the foot is not attended to, it soon becomes very much worse.

1115. (Chairman.) The attention of the nurses would probably be rather a reason on the part of the parents for sending the children to school?—Quite so. The foot could be attended to, whereas if it were not attended to the child would very soon be unable to walk, and would have to go to a dispensary, and stay away from school in consequence.

1116. (Dr. Parsons.) But still it is a little bit hypothetical?—The teachers are quite clear about it.

1117. That at least 2 per cent. of the children would not have come to school if it had not been for the work of the nurses?—Yes, that is what they say. That statement is with regard to Widnes, not Liverpool.

1118. (Chairman.) Widnes is not under your authority?—No, it is not; but it is not far from us.

1119. (Dr. Parsons.) This only applies to 21 schools?—Yes.

1120. Do you think that it would be useful if it applied to a much larger number?—We are quite clear about that. We are very anxious to apply it.

Mr. F. J.
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- Mr. F. J. Testie.
30 May 1905.
1121. To every school?—To every school needing it.
1122. Do you think that the 160 would need it?—No, I do not think so. There are lots of schools with a class of children where the parent would see that every care was taken of the child, without throwing it on the school authorities.
1123. No special examination of children is made with reference to their general physical development?—Not so far. Nothing has been done in Liverpool of that sort.
1124. Only with regard to specific ailments?—That is all.
1125. (Mr. Walrand.) Is there anything done in the way of the periodical testing of the eyesight of children by the teachers with test cards?—Yes.
1126. You remember that the old Education Depart-

Mr. GEORGE HOOKHAM, called; and Examined.

- Mr. G. Hookham.
30 May 1905.
1131. (Chairman.) You have for some time at your own expense generously provided breakfasts for school-children in Birmingham?—I have provided breakfasts.
1132. For how long has this system been continued?—For just five years altogether at the present date. During the first six months it was done experimentally at one school only just to try the method. It was then extended to eleven schools, and about two years afterwards to fourteen altogether of the poorest in Birmingham. That is the full number for about four years.
1133. Has it been fourteen for four years?—One was added a little more recently. It has been thirteen for about four years, and fourteen for about a year.
1134. On what principle have the schools been selected?—As the poorest.
1135. Are Voluntary schools included or only Council schools?—Yes, two voluntary schools, both Roman Catholic, are included amongst the fourteen poorest.
1136. You have personally superintended the system yourself?—Yes.
1137. Without any staff?—Yes, without any staff except those I have alluded to in my article in the *National Review* on Free Meals for underfed Children. One of my clerks has helped, and one foreman, and one porter.
1138. Has there been any official recognition of your work by the local education authority?—No, they do not officially know of it. I have never informed them. As a matter of fact the Chairman of the Committee has always known of it, and a few others who could not help knowing of it.
1139. The Committee have given you facilities for carrying out your work?—Certainly.
1140. Would you indicate the nature of those facilities?—They have allowed me to use the school rooms and on dark days in winter gas without charge for lighting, the cooking being done elsewhere.
1141. Would you describe to us the nature of the breakfasts which are given by you?—The diet was arranged in consultation with a medical friend who is an authority on the subject, and it consists of a cup of hot cocoa, made from Fry's Essence of Cocoa, half a pint of sterilized skimmed milk, and sugar. The solid food consisting of five ounces of bread known in the trade as "seconds," the bread being cut into two slices, each about three-quarters of an inch thick, one spread with butter the other with jam. A rather smaller quantity is given to some of the smallest children.
1142. It is found that this diet is relished by the children?—Very much indeed, and the cocoa particularly.
1143. In what manner are the breakfasts served?—The bread is delivered direct from the flour-mills, and the butter and jam from other centres, in each case in proportion to the numbers fixed for each school. The cocoa is made at the depot of the milk merchant, who in the last heating of the milk for sterilization adds the cocoa essence and the sugar with which he has been previously provided. He supplies the cocoa thus made at the ordinary price of sterilized milk.

- ment about twelve years ago sent out a number of test cards, and got in the results, and Mr. Brudenell Carter made a report on some London schools, which was published?—This is the card which was sent out to the Liverpool schools. It is recommended by Dr. Hamilton in his address, and that is what they work upon.
1127. When a child enters the school is he tested in that way?—I cannot say whether the teachers test them or not, or whether they take them periodically.
1128. But it is a general system?—It is a general system in very constant use right through the schools.
1129. (Chairman.) Have you anything to add to that?—No, I do not think so.
1130. (Chairman.) We are much obliged to you for your evidence.

1144. The cocoa comes from the one centre to every school?—Yes, from the one centre to every school.
1145. How is it transported?—A boy is sent from each school with a tin can mounted on a perambulator. These boys receive 2d. or 3d. per journey according to its length.
1146. The boys being boys in the school which is being supplied?—Yes, boys belonging to the school supplied.
1147. What part does the caretaker in the school take?—At each school the caretaker, generally assisted by his wife, receives the provisions, cuts and spreads the bread with butter and jam, and deals out the breakfast, afterwards washing up the cups and cans. For this an average payment of 1s. a day, or 5s. a week is made.
1148. That applies to every school day in the week?—Yes.
1149. Not to Saturdays or Sundays?—No.
1150. Do the children take their breakfast standing, or in what way do they take it?—They sit comfortably to their meal. My medical friend strongly insisted they ought to do so. The medical authority who has assisted me is Dr. Robert M. Simon, of Birmingham, who is Medical Inspector under the Educational Committee. He has assisted me from the beginning with regard to the breakfasts.
1151. Are the meals served at the school?—Yes, at the school.
1152. In every case?—Yes, in every case at the school.
1153. Has that been found to lead to any inconvenience?—Not in the least. I have never heard the slightest complaint either from the school teachers or from the Education Committee.
1154. Would there generally be an empty room for the special purpose?—No, not as a rule. In one or two schools it is so, but not as a rule.
1155. Are the teachers usually present at the time of the breakfast?—In the earlier time they were generally present, but the thing has become so automatic now that they are only occasionally present. If they think that there is any reason for them to go they go.
1156. The main responsibility for superintending the meal would rest with the caretaker?—I always look to the head master and mistress to overlook the caretaker, and see that the caretaker does the work for which he is paid; but from day to day the responsibility is with the caretaker. The final responsibility is with the school-master or schoolmistress who kindly undertakes that responsibility.
1157. Do the teachers play a very important part in your scheme?—The most important part. It rests with them in the first instance to report the numbers requiring the meal in each school, to select the recipients from day to day, to give out the tickets, to test the quality of the food, to make complaints if necessary and generally to superintend. All this they perform in the best possible manner.
1158. Do you consider that it is possible for teachers to discriminate satisfactorily between the children who should and the children who should not receive breakfasts?—As a rule they can distinguish very perfectly, but

- there are some cases where they are liable to be deceived; and then they get evidence volunteered by the other children. It is to be understood that there is not a superfluity of breakfasts given—never quite as many as there are applicants, and if a child gets a breakfast whose father is in work some other child who does not get a breakfast and whose father is out of work is always ready to inform the teacher.
1159. It is known to the children that the meals are limited in number?—Yes, because they often have to go without in consequence, or occasionally at any rate.
1160. As a matter of practice you do not go behind the decision of the teacher in the matter of an individual child?—No, I do not. I take that as final. I think that between the teachers and the children I get the most perfect information on the point.
1161. Over what period of the year does the supply of breakfasts extend?—Over the whole school year, but there are about twice as many in winter as in summer.
1162. Do you attach importance to the continuance of the system throughout the year?—I think there is just as much necessity for the smaller number in summer as for the larger number in winter.
1163. Is care taken to see that a child who is in need receives the food continuously from day to day?—Yes.
1164. You would very much deprecate the giving of a breakfast on alternate days?—Yes. I think that we should get nothing like such good results. I have answers on the subject from the head teachers in the various schools, and several of them say that the good effects are only apparent when the children have had meals from day to day.
1165. Is any record kept to show what children receive the breakfasts and on what days?—No, not of the individual children; only the total number.
1166. You feel that the teachers as a matter of fact do carry out your wishes in that way?—Yes, I am quite sure they do. I am continually talking to the teachers and testing them, and I am entirely satisfied with their conduct of the business.
1167. But would it not be well, nevertheless, that an individual record should be kept?—It might be for some purposes, but I have no purpose for such a record. I can see that it might have a use.
1168. Can you tell us how many meals were provided during the last complete year?—About 320,000.
1169. Representing about how many children per day?—About 1,600 or 1,700 in the winter, gradually coming down to about 900 in the summer.
1170. Nine hundred would be about your minimum in the slackest time?—Yes; 800 or 900 would be about the minimum in the slackest time.
1171. I think that your figures give an average of 1,400 to 1,500 daily?—Yes, I think about 1,400.
1172. Would you tell us what the cost of the provision comes to. Figures are very useful on this point?—Would you like it in detail under the head of the various articles of diet or the total.
1173. I think that the total would be enough for our purposes now?—In food about nine-tenths of a penny per head and including all costs about one and one-tenth of a penny per head per meal.
1174. What would be the comparative cost of the food and all other expenses. For every hundred pounds spent, how much would go to providing the food?—The net expenses would be about 16 per cent., and of that 10 per cent. goes for the payment of caretakers that I have spoken of before. It is only 6 per cent. otherwise.
1175. You also supply the plant necessary?—Yes. That is of a very simple description. The initial cost of that is about one shilling per head.
1176. That is to say that if sixty children are going to receive breakfasts you lay out about £3 on the necessary plant?—That is so and that is kept in repair at a cost of about 15 per cent. of the original capital sum.
1177. You would therefore put the cost per child per year at what?—It works out to a trifle over 20s.

1178. Your experience shows that you can provide a child in Birmingham throughout the year with a good breakfast for about £1?—Yes; for the school year of 220 days.
1179. I understand that you consider a breakfast a more important meal for a child than a dinner?—Yes.
1180. Would you kindly give us your reasons for that?—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.
1181. I understand that there is in Birmingham a system of providing free dinners for school children?—Yes.
1182. The returns which I have before me for last year show that close upon 250,000 free dinners were given during the past year?—Yes.
1183. Would those dinners as a rule be given to the same children who receive the free breakfasts?—Yes. So far as concerns the schools where free breakfasts are given. The free dinners cover a much larger number of schools than the free breakfasts.
1184. The dinners are not confined to anything the same extent that the breakfasts are as regards school?—No.
1185. It appears from the dinner report that they are able to provide a free dinner for less than a halfpenny?—For less than a farthing.
1186. That is the cost price of the food only?—The food only is one-fifth of a penny.
1187. Including all costs the returns shew, and the evidence of Dr. Airy before the Physical Degeneration Committee showed that the ultimate cost price of the dinner is less than a halfpenny?—That is so. I remember the report.
1188. Have you any remarks to make upon that?—I think that with the small funds at their disposal they do the very best possible with them in spreading it very thinly over a large number of children; but I cannot think that the meal is an adequate meal. It is purely vegetable. It is a matter of opinion whether that constitutes an adequate meal or not for children living in courts and alleys, but it is as a matter of fact purely vegetable.
1189. Have you formed any opinion as to the number of children in Birmingham who require free meals or assisted meals?—I have done more than form an opinion. I have had a census taken of the schools. In December 1903 I issued a circular to the head teachers in the elementary schools, asking how many children each estimated to be underfed and in need of a free breakfast in his or her department in winter. Answers were received from 266 out of 268, and the total figure arrived at was 6,012 out of a population of about 550,000.
1190. And out of an attendance at school of how many, can you give us the figure?—I cannot tell you the attendance, but from a number on the register of 96,000.
1191. The number on the register is quite enough for the purpose?—That is in winter. The average would be about 4,500, taking summer and winter.
1192. Is that average obtained on the analogy of your breakfast supply?—Yes. It is the mean between the two extremes.
1193. You are personally satisfied that 4,500 on an average would require to be either fed free, or assisted in their feeding?—Yes. I think that is practically demonstrated.

Mr. G. Hookham. 1194. That would require in Birmingham a sum of about £4,500 on the figures that you have given?—Yes.

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1195. Do you consider that if an appeal were made to the people of Birmingham by duly constituted responsible persons, there would be any difficulty in collecting that sum?—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 from £4,500 to £5,000 a year by these means seems to me quite hopeless.

1196. I understand that so far no very vigorous effort has been made in this direction in Birmingham?—I do not think I agree. I think that the Free Dinners Association has made a vigorous effort to get funds, in fact it is within my knowledge that great efforts have been made.

1197. So far as you know you think that their present accounts show all that is likely to be obtained?—I will not say all that is likely to be obtained. The subject has recently become one of much more popular interest, and I think a good deal more could have been done before the issue of the Local Government Board Order; but to multiply it by ten or fifteen I think quite impossible. It might perhaps have been doubled.

1198. You are aware that as a committee that we are only concerned with the voluntary provision of meals?—Yes, I am.

1199. Can you make any suggestions for better organisation in the City of Birmingham in this direction. For instance, what part could the local authority take which they do not take now?—So far from thinking that there will be any improvement or extension of the present free meals system in Birmingham I think that the recent order of the Local Government Board will probably destroy the charitable organisations. It is against nature for anyone to subscribe money in relief of the rates, and I think that within quite a short time the charitable effort will be destroyed. There can really be little doubt about this.

1200. Have any steps, to your knowledge, yet been taken in Birmingham towards putting into operation the Local Government Board order?—Yes. I have seen some of the more influential of the guardians. What they have done has been to appoint a sub-committee of the Birmingham guardians to meet sub-committees of the Aston and King's Norton guardians, whose territory really almost overlaps. There is an in and out boundary. They are to report to their respective boards of guardians and they have asked me to meet them and talk the matter over. That is as far as I know.

1201. That is as far as, up to the present, the matter has gone?—Yes. They have not had a meeting. I expect to hear of a meeting next week.

1202. (Miss Lawrence.) Is this breakfast served in a class-room of a school as a rule?—As a rule it is served in a class-room, but sometimes the Free Dinners Association have rigged up a sort of room which is not a class-room. It is just under cover, and that is all.

1203. In the playground?—Yes in the playground. As a rule in cold weather they have it inside in a class-room.

1204. At what time do they have it, as a rule?—There are two breakfasts. The first is at a quarter past eight, and I think the second at half past; at any rate, that is about the time.

1205. Have you had any complaints from the teachers or any as to its affecting the work in the class-room afterwards, if meals are served there?—Never, not the slightest.

1206. There has been no trouble with regard to cleaning up the room afterwards?—No there has been no trouble at all.

1207. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do you think that the census you took of the number of children was really a fairly accurate one?—I think that it was fairly accurate.

It is just possible that some teachers may have asked for more than was absolutely necessary, but I thought that some asked for too few.

1208. Did you get, for instance, a large difference between the returns from each of the schools?—About two schools were abnormal, one or two asking for a great many more than I expected, and one asking for fewer. As a rule they were pretty much what I expected.

1209. You know the schools pretty well, so that you have an idea?—I know the schools that I have to do with pretty well, and they form a standard by which I can judge the others. On the whole they fall into line pretty well.

1210. The teachers seem to be fairly unanimous with regard to the breakfasts. At the same time they take a good deal of pains with regard to the dinners, do they not?—Yes, but as I have already said in my evidence in answer to the direct question, practically they are all strongly in favour of the breakfasts as against the dinner, for the reasons that I have given.

1211. One of the teachers, at any rate, to whom I was talking seemed to think that the provision of dinners was sufficiently large to enable any child to get a dinner who wanted it. Do you think that that is so?—I should not have thought so. I do not speak from very perfect knowledge, but I am strongly under the impression that they have had to cut down certain schools in some centres owing to the want of funds. I am quite clear. That I have from officials of the society.

1212. It is very difficult to judge of the matter, but this letter which I have here says: "As regards the provision of dinners I am of opinion that every destitute child in Birmingham has the opportunity of having a free dinner such as I have described."—Apart from the question whether a meal supplied at the rate of a penny for five ought to be called a dinner, I am convinced there is some mistake. The teacher referred to is in agreement with me that about 4,500 on the average require free meals throughout the year. This gives at least 900,000 meals. The Cheap Dinner Society has only about £150 a year to provide the food for these, giving about 25 meals to the penny. Clearly there is some mistake.

1213. Do the teachers themselves think that they are able to point out the children, or do they ever suggest that they would like to have enquiries made to help them with regard to that?—I have never heard any suggestion of that sort. They always say with the greatest confidence that they can find out the children one way or another, and that they are very little imposed upon. I have some answers to questions here. Would you like to hear what any of them say on that subject.

1214. Questions which you asked?—I sent round a number of questions bearing on the subject.

1215. (Chairman.) Is this paper which we have a specimen?—Yes.

1216. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do the teachers do more than ask the children themselves?—They visit the homes as well.

1217. Do they do that frequently. It is rather hard work for the teachers?—Some do more and some do less. It is a great deal to expect.

1218. It is too much to expect?—Yes. I do not expect it but some of them do it for all that.

1219. You feel very strongly that you are not pauperising the parents?—I do feel very strongly that I am not pauperising the parents, but I should not like to say that if you really gave adequate maintenance you would not pauperise. I have had the opinion strongly expressed to me by several who have answered my questions, that whereas breakfast alone would not make the father less anxious to get work, very likely breakfast and dinner would, by taking the child entirely off his hands.

1220. I suppose many of the children get both breakfast and dinner under the present system in Birmingham?—They do. Without meaning anything like hostile criticism of the Birmingham Free Dinner Association, because I am sure they do all they can with very limited funds, the dinner is not very attractive.

1221. (Chairman.) That is part of the principle on

which the dinner is supplied, as I understand from Dr. Airy's evidence?—Yes, I quite agree with that.

1222. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) There are a certain number who would have both?—Yes. I should think that a large proportion of those who have breakfast have dinner also.

1223. You would not wish to make any change in that respect. You would not wish the children who have breakfast not to have dinner, would you?—If I were to give an opinion on that subject, I should say that what seems to me to be the rational method is for the breakfast to be supplied out of public funds, leaving the dinner alone. If you left that to private charity as now, you would avoid the danger which I have already indicated, of destroying charity altogether. You would leave the charity for the dinner untouched and there would not be the feeling that those who subscribe money for free dinners were simply giving money in aid of the rates. I think that you would get the best out of the two principles by having breakfast alone given from public money, leaving the dinner to private charity.

1224. Supposing that the guardians do not give any food, and that there is no other public fund provided, is it better for Birmingham, if as you say about one third of the children who need it are getting breakfast, that the third should not be on the dinner fund, so as to save the dinner fund for others?—It is a very difficult question. The dinner fund would supply comparatively few breakfasts, the breakfasts costing four or five times as much as the dinners. I should not like to give an opinion on that.

1225. You do not think that the dinner as it is given in Birmingham is a very useful meal?—I think it a very useful meal, but I should not think that a medical authority would consider it an adequate meal in the way that breakfast would be thought an adequate meal. The bread alone in the breakfast costs more than the whole dinner. At dinner they give soup and bread and jam, but of course they cannot afford much.

1226. Lentil soup with bread, and a slice of bread spread over with jam is about what they get?—I have exactly the same bread from the same mills and everything the same. In fact it was the manager of the dinners who helped me to get this thing to work, and, as I say, the bread in the breakfast is more than the value of the whole dinner meal. They cannot have very much bread.

1227. (Chairman.) In their returns they say that the meal consists of lentil or pea soup with cut bread without stint followed by bread and jam?—I can only say that they eat very much more bread at breakfast, but perhaps that is because of the long fast.

1228. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) With regard to the schools which you have selected for your breakfasts, are there any left out that you would have liked to have put in?—Yes.

1229. There are?—Yes. I cannot name them from memory, but if I could afford more there are several schools I should very much like to include.

1230. Were those you chose the poorest, or those that you happened to know?—They were recommended to me as the poorest.

1231. You think that you have fourteen of the poorest schools?—I think so.

1232. What other schools are very poor?—I have not gone into that. That was not a practical question for me to go into. I really feed about a fourth to a third of those whom the teachers say need feeding.

1233. Do you often see them yourself at breakfast?—No, I do not. It is a long way out and a quarter past eight is a very difficult time at which to get there.

1234. Do others visit it?—I have people from my factory who visit them and report to me. I go occasionally, but I will not claim that I go often. I went more often in the early days.

1235. When it was starting?—Yes.

1236. (Dr. Parsons.) Cocoa was recommended by Dr. Simon as one of the ingredients of the breakfast?—I think I suggested it, and he approved it, but I am bound to say that the amount of cocoa in the cupful is not very much. It does not amount to very much more than flavouring. The milk is the important thing, but the children like very

much the flavour of cocoa. You can see from the figures that cocoa is a very small item in the cost. It is only 5d. for 100 meals. Of course Fry's essence of cocoa is a very strong form of cocoa. It is the most expensive essence, and I have found the most expensive is by far the cheapest.

1237. Is it liquid?—No, it is a dust.

1238. It has to be stirred in?—Yes. It is stirred in at the last sterilisation heating.

1239. It is deprived of the natural fat of the cocoa, is it not?—Yes, I should think almost entirely. I should think there is very little fat in it.

1240. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) The largest item is for milk?—The largest item is for milk, and bread runs it very closely.

1241. 32½d. against 28d. for bread?—Yes. Jam is a bigger item now owing to the increased price of sugar. Shall I give the details of cost.

1242. (Chairman.) Yes, please?—The average school dealt with requires on the average almost exactly 100 meals per day of the school year of 220 days. It is therefore convenient to take the school as a unit giving the cost of a single meal for one whole school. The figures come out as follows:—Milk, 32½d.; bread, 28d.; butter, 12d.; jam, 11d.; cocoa, 5d.; sugar, 3d.; or a little over 0·91d. per head.

1243. (Dr. Parsons.) Are there no other agencies in Birmingham that provide dinners except the Free Dinners Association?—I know of no other.

1244. Are there no parochial agencies?—I do not know of any. There may be.

1245. There are none from which a dinner may be got by children on payment of a halfpenny or a penny?—Not now. What is practically now a Free Dinner Association is called the Cheap Dinner Association. It started on the principle of those children who could afford it paying a halfpenny for their dinners, and those who could not having them free. The experience with regard to that is the experience that we have had all along—that the paying part gradually tends to drop out. Those who will come to these dinners or breakfasts at all want to come free.

1246. Supposing that a more attractive dinner or breakfast were given, would they not then be willing to pay for it?—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 children 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.

1247. (Mr. Watrou.) Is there anybody else doing the same kind of work as you in Birmingham?—No, I think not. Perhaps I am travelling outside of the scope of my evidence, but the effect of the Local Government Order in my breakfasts will be that I shall continue giving the breakfast to the children of widows, and to those who are deserted by their fathers; but I shall probably discontinue it with regard to children residing with their fathers.

1248. (Chairman.) On the ground that the latter are covered by the Order?—Yes. I do not give that as a settled determination, but that is the way in which it strikes me at present as the logical outcome of the Order.

1249. It is open to the Guardians now without the Order to provide for those children who are not within the scope of the Order, but they cannot do it by loan?—It is only a very limited provision surely. I think in London it is 3s. a week, and a loaf of bread per head per child? Half of the children who come to my breakfasts are the children of widows and deserted children. After they have got all they can from the Guardians they are still the class who most require the free breakfast.

1250. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do the children of widows never get taken into the workhouse school or the parish school, or whatever there is at Birmingham?—I cannot tell you.

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1251. My point is that the widow has another opportunity, by sending one or two of the children away, of feeding the others properly, I presume. That is why I asked the question. I know that in London, if a widow is left with a large family, she generally sends two or three away to whatever cottage home or parish school there is, and keeps the others?—Yes. It still remains that it is the children of widows who, out of all proportion, require relief, however much the guardians may relieve the situation by the means that you have mentioned. I am told that widows will not send their children away as is the practice in London.

1252. I did not know what was the practice in Birmingham?—I do not know. Please do not take it from me. I only know that when I mentioned what I thought was done in London our Guardians said that we did rather more in Birmingham.

1253. (Chairman.) Have you anything to add to what you have said?—I do not agree with the Local Government Board Order, that adequate provision should be made, if by adequate provision is meant the entire maintenance of a child. You will get on the one hand great danger of pauperisation, and on the other you will get rid of what I think is the main safeguard against imposition, and that is, that there are more children wanting meals than can get them. You will lose the evidence which the children give against one another when imposition takes place, which I think is the most valuable of all evidence; and even the teachers would be less strict, if there was plenty for all. It is a choice of evils, but I think pauperisation and imposition the greater evils.

1254. Is the evidence of the children invariably trustworthy?—It is very seldom needful because the children know what will happen, but where it is given the teachers look after those cases and see that the informer has not said what is not true.

1255. It is useful as a danger signal to the teacher?—Yes.

1256. The spirit seems to be one which it is undesirable to encourage in a school?—It is not necessary to encourage it. The children do it quite automatically. Of course it is only nature. If a little girl who has had no breakfast and whose father is out of work sees another little girl going in to a breakfast whose father she knows is in work, it is only natural that she should say what she does say.

1257. That method might be used by a child who was simply anxious for a breakfast and who thought that was

a means of obtaining it?—It might, but it would be an extremely dangerous thing to do, because it is so easily tested. One other point which I lay great stress on is that whatever system is adopted, either public funds or charity, the teachers must be utilised as the inspecting officers and therefore, although perhaps I am travelling outside the scope of the evidence which I ought to give, I think that if the work is carried on with public funds it should be carried on under the education authority, and not by the Board of Guardians. That is not because I think the Board of Guardians would be unsympathetic. I have no reason to say that, at any rate of the Birmingham Guardians. It is because I think that the teachers will work more energetically their energy will flow in more accustomed channels when they are working under their own, rather than under a foreign committee.

1258. Where possible you would like to see the *prima facie* opinions of the teachers tested by some further investigation?—By all means.

1259. As for instance a relief committee established in connection with the schools whose duty it would be to investigate the cases which the teachers brought to their notice?—Certainly. In any cases of doubt it would be most valuable to have a visiting officer who could assist the teachers, but the bulk of the ordinary work is best done by the teachers. It would be a very great advantage to be able to examine into suspected cases and test them.

1260. (Miss Lawrence.) Do you not consider that that is imposing rather a heavy addition to the teacher's duties?—I can only say that they most willingly and eagerly accept it. When I have talked to them about it they have said, "We will do it for the sake of the children but we will do it for our own sakes too." It lightens our work enormously in other directions." One question which I asked was whether any improvement in the children was observable. The answers to that question given by the various teachers are most instructive. You can see that the effect of the breakfast is really to lighten their work, and if they did not do it simply from a good heart they would do it from a sense of their own interest.

1261. What is the average number of children in the schools at Birmingham?—A thousand children would be a large school. The Rea Street School holds about 1,600 if I remember rightly, and that I think is the largest.

1262. (Chairman.) We are very much obliged to you for coming here.

Mr. ALFRED E. FOSTER, called; and Examined.

Mr. A. E.
Foster.
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1263. (Chairman.) You have been honorary secretary of the Birkenhead Children's Relief Committee have you not?—Yes.

1264. Is the committee one which has had a long existence?—It was called into existence in November last, and it began operations in December.

1265. Is it in existence still?—It is temporarily suspended. At our meeting of March 9th the committee sat for the last time, and they proposed then as evidenced by the minutes to arrange if possible for a town's meeting to be called to consider the matter of underfed children and to take action if necessary; but the mayor of the town does not seem to be particularly anxious to do anything, and the thing is hanging fire.

1266. At present the committee's existence is suspended?—Yes, that is so.

1267. Are you head master of a school in Birkenhead?—I am First Master, that is head assistant master of a Council school.

1268. Would you give us the name of it?—Cathcart Street Council School.

1269. Would you tell us how the Birkenhead Children's Relief Committee was constituted?—To begin with, the members numbered fifty, or fifty-one. I think, to be more exact. It contained clergy of the Established Church, clergy of the Free Church, Roman Catholic clergy, five members of the Birkenhead Education Committee, and

several ladies and gentlemen who are interested in philanthropic effort. The remainder of the committee which was by far the larger proportion were correspondents nominated to represent each school, mainly the head masters and mistresses.

1270. That committee was a large one and presumably there was an executive committee who did the work?—It called itself an executive committee, and it very soon dwindled down to an executive in reality, because only fourteen or fifteen were regular attendants.

1271. That is to say, that fourteen or fifteen carried out the work of the committee?—Yes; fourteen or fifteen was the average attendance. The collective attendance was on occasions very much in advance of that.

1272. Did this committee come into existence at the same time as the Birkenhead Distress Fund?—Not exactly. That needs some little explanation. Things were in a very bad state commercially in the town sometime in the early part of November of last year, and it had come to the knowledge of the Birkenhead Education Committee that there was a very great amount of distress existing among the school children. They then deputed four of their number: Councillor Russell, Canon Barry a Roman Catholic clergyman, Mrs. L. Mesurier a Roman Catholic lady, and Miss Annie Laird a Church of England lady, to inquire into the matter. From the Education Office at their suggestion was issued to every school in the borough a form of inquiry asking for particulars of

children who were presumably underfed. The returns appeared in due course before the committee. They went into the matter, and from the evidence given it was found that there were 1,400 odd suffering from malnutrition. The four then instructed the clerk to the Board through the Education Committee to issue an invitation for a meeting of school managers, clergy, school teachers and others, and to that collective meeting our committee owed its existence. It was a very widely attended meeting, I direct there were some 250 present.

1273. The committee was financed entirely by the Birkenhead Distress Fund?—Yes, but early in our history the Birkenhead Distress Fund had received all the moneys collected on our own behalf. Those sums were not earmarked. I have not any acquaintance with the exact sums, but I think that practically all the money that we spent had been thus subscribed, so that we have not trespassed on the Distress Fund proper for any monies other than our own. It was thought wise not to have two funds going in the town, so that our own was sunk in the larger fund.

1274. How many centres did your work extend to?—Six official centres, which we financed, and another centre under our own direction, but privately financed by Mrs. Leigh Oakshott of Rock Ferry, who for years has made a point of feeding the poor children in that district. She was a member of our committee, but she would take no financial help.

1275. Were there other agencies at work at the same time in connection with schools at Birkenhead?—Yes but only to a very small extent as far as I can learn. Two or three clergymen had parish soup kitchens, using special church funds for the purpose. How many they relieved we could not get to know. One or two of them looked upon our organisation with rather jealous eyes.

1276. You satisfied yourselves as a committee that there was very little overlapping going on?—Yes, very little indeed. I cannot say really, but I do not think there was any.

1277. In what way did the local Education Authority assist you?—They allowed the circulars to go out from the Education Office calling our inaugural meeting from which we were elected. Again they proffered the use of their own School Attendance Officers to add cases to our list which otherwise we might possibly have missed. Then again five of their members were on our Executive Committee, and finally when we wound up our own business the invitation calling the concluding meeting was sent out from the Education Office.

1278. It was generally well understood in Birkenhead that you were working with their full cognizance and approval?—Yes.

1279. Did they assist you with the use of rooms and coal and gas?—They granted us the free use of a school-room weekly for a committee meeting. They granted us in two cases the use of council school premises because they were centrally situated, and possibly they would have given us anything else we asked for in the way of premises had we found any council school fortunately situated or with premises that were suitable. They allowed us in the case of the two council schools the free use of firing.

1280. Of the six centres which were worked by your Committee, how many involved the giving of meals at the schools?—One only, and that was the case of Laird Street Council School, where the meals were given in the laundry room. In the case of the Woodlands' School the meals were served in a temporary iron structure which had been used as a pupil teachers' centre class.

1281. Would your opinion be adverse to the use of schools for this purpose?—Yes, I should say so, because it would upset to a certain extent the organisation of the school, and schools are not specially adapted for the purpose.

1282. Were the meals in every case free?—Yes, in our own case every meal was free.

1283. No opportunity was given to parents to obtain meals for the children at a limited charge?—No. That was threshed out early in our history and it was definitely decided that all meals were to be free.

1284. Would it be unlikely in your opinion if Birkenhead had a system under which parents might pay a small sum for the children's meal that it would be taken advantage of?—I fancy it might be largely taken advantage of, but that is only a private opinion. I cannot say.

1285. Your committee existed only to meet the special need at the moment?—Only to meet the special need.

1286. How were the children selected?—Almost entirely on the nomination of the teachers of the several schools. In instances where the School Attendance Officers found cases which had somehow or other escaped the notice of the teachers, they brought the cases to the notice of the superintendent of a centre, and they were put on our list forthwith.

1287. Was the superintendent of a centre generally a head teacher?—Yes. In all six of our centres the superintendents were head teachers, except in the case of Victoria Street Mission, where the head teacher had to forego the work and was succeeded by Mrs. J. M. Marples, who in turn had to forego the work and was succeeded by Miss E. M. Cook and Miss E. M. Waters, all of whom were lady helpers.

1288. Did more schools than one make use of a centre?—Yes. Three or four were linked together and the necessitous cases from the several schools were sent to that particular centre.

1289. How many schools altogether were dealt with in connection with the centres?—About twenty.

1290. Were schools selected or were all schools dealt with?—Several schools were in such a good state that they did not send any children, for instance Higher Grade schools and schools that called themselves such.

1291. The teachers took a very prominent part in administering the fund?—Yes.

1292. The teachers in fact took the main part?—Yes. They were the backbone of the Committee.

1293. It involved great expenditure of time on their part did it not?—Yes. In nearly every case the centre was worked somewhat on this line: the head teacher organised a rota of duties for his own staff, and the staffs of the schools sending children to the particular centre. He usually took upon himself two days duty as superintendent, and the other heads successively took days of duty. The staff of assistants also took days of duty.

1294. The teachers took the main part in selecting the children and superintending the work?—Yes.

1295. Was it found that this demanded more time than they could properly be called upon to give?—It was a free-will offering for the whole period during which meals were given. Towards the end the teachers began to think that possibly there might be no further need for their services as the numbers fed were dropping and they felt that if we were to go on permanently this might possibly be looked upon as part of their duties, and to a very great extent it was that feeling which brought about our early closing.

1296. So that if eventually it was decided to have a permanent organisation it would probably be felt that the teachers should not be called upon to take so prominent a part?—That is a very knotty point. 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.

1297. Did you feel as a teacher yourself that attendance for the purpose of superintending between school times somewhat interfered with your efficiency in the afternoon?—No, I did not find it so. I was in charge one day a week, and I never felt it was any tie or any burden; of course that was in addition to my duties as Secretary. I was rather hardly worked during the winter months, but I did not mind it. I knew the need was sufficiently great. I think that that was the feeling of nearly every head and assistant who helped, but there was the lurking

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1298. If the work could equally well be done by some one else it might be well that the teachers should get the time in the middle of the day to themselves?—Yes, but I do not see any reason why, if invited to volunteer, they should not volunteer. Teachers, by their very training, are, I think, the best persons to organise such work. Their controlling influence over the children is good. There would be no disorderly behaviour, for instance.

1299. Were there large numbers attending some of these centres?—The largest in our own case was a centre numbering about 300 daily. Our other centres were much less in numbers owing to lack of accommodation.

1300. Did the 300 sit down together?—Yes, in one sitting. That was the case at Woodlands, where a P.T. centre was used. It had been vacated before we began operations, the pupil teachers being removed to another building.

1301. In all cases was the meal a sitting-down one?—Yes. We made a special point of that. Our committee wished the meals to be as educative as possible. They would not allow anything like happy-go-lucky arrangements. Grace was sung before the meal and after the meal was finished desk by desk or trestle by trestle the children were quietly dispersed.

1302. The principle was that no necessitous child was refused a meal?—Never to my knowledge.

1303. In some cases were enquiries made after the child was fed as to the necessity of the case?—Weekly our tests were revised by the sub-committees and children were struck off or put on according to their home circumstances. In some cases the child would say, "My father is working at present and I think we might be able to get dinner at home. Will you take our case off?"

1304. Had you a good many cases of that kind?—I cannot say a good many, but to my knowledge that occurred several times in our centre.

1305. Were enquiries made through attendance officer or district visitors by the teachers?—Only through attendance officers, not through district visitors.

1306. Is it your experience that the attendance officer usually know the home circumstances?—Almost invariably.

1307. Of all children or only of the irregular children?—Only of the irregular children. They have scarcely any knowledge of the regular children who give them no trouble.

1308. And a good many cases of necessity would exist among that class?—Yes. Those are the ones that we found out by enquiry.

1309. Do you wish to say anything about the size of the units through which these agencies should be worked?—If the members were circumscribed to suit the particular centre, well and good. In one case we could accommodate 300, but no more, owing to the fact that we could not seat any more in that centre.

1310. Is there any difficulty in having one or two or more relays?—Yes, in our case. Our centres were worked by the voluntary help of teachers. They must have some time during the interval between morning and afternoon school for their own meal. In no case had we sufficient help to work two meals in the interval.

1311. So far as time goes, having sufficient staff there is no difficulty in having a relay. Not if you have sufficient utensils, basins, spoons, and so on.

1312. And staff to wash up?—A staff to wash up and staff to cook. With regard to the enquiries that are made, you have not lost sight of the fact that we sent out a form of enquiry about halfway through our session, asking for particulars respecting each child.

1313. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) To whom did that form go?—It was sent to every head teacher sending children to the centres.

1314. Did they fill it up in every case?—They did not. The matter of the Enquiry Form was threshed out by the committee. It was beheaded to a very great extent almost before birth, to use an Irishism. Originally we drew up a form containing questions such as question 6 which was afterwards cut out: "Is the child ill-clothed, badly clothed,

or unshod; wearing clogs provided by the Distress Fund; persistently dirty in clothes, body, or hair. Do you consider the child neglected in any of these respects, and in which?" That raised a storm particularly from the Roman Catholic clergyman and some head teachers. They alleged that it was altogether too inquisitorial and as they were backed up by one or two other members it was cut out on a vote. Questions 12 and 13 were cut out: "Are either or both parents of drunken habits or dissolute character?" "What is the approximate weekly income of the family?" Our object in sending out the circular was to discover, if possible, to what extent the poverty of the child was due to what might be called criminal negligence, but, the form that was finally sent out was much milder. Those three searching questions were cut out. Although 1,200 of the second and milder forms were sent out only 641 were answered.

1315. (Chairman.) Those forms were sent out in the middle of the association's operations?—Yes, in the last week in January.

1316. What action was taken when the 641 replies were returned?—They were analysed and the return was tabulated. You will see a summary of it in our Official Report on page 6. In many cases the answers were very perfunctory, and the form, to a very great extent, failed of its purpose owing to the very great opposition that was offered.

1317. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Why was there opposition to the second form?—For a variety of reasons. First and foremost, several heads protested because they were then called upon to do extraneous duties. They urged that the Local Education Authority had made a rule to the effect that no clerical work whatever was to be done in school hours, and that if the Education Authority would not give them time to do it in school hours they would not use their own time for it. In a great number of cases I think the real reason was that it would reveal such a state of misery in several parishes that the heads of those parishes wanted to draw a discreet veil over it, and hence they forbade their own teachers to answer the form.

1318. (Chairman.) So that practically the answers that you obtained dealt with cases of less urgency?—Yes.

1319. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You did not get any Roman Catholic Schools?—In only one case, and that was the best Roman Catholic school of the lot. They only sent in thirteen answers, although to my knowledge they sent a great number of cases to the centre for relief.

1320. I suppose that the Roman Catholic schools sent a great number of children to the dinners?—Yes.

1321. (Chairman.) The total amount expended was £225 18s. 7d.?—Yes, but in that account we are charged by the Borough Treasurer, who is the Treasurer of the Relief Fund with one or two items that ought not fairly to be charged against us. A vote of £25 was made to provide clogs and stockings. That £25 was paid to the superintendent of the School Attendance Officers. It did not come into our hands at all. Then again we are charged with office and general expenses, £15 0s. 9½d. I cannot quite understand what the office expenses are charged against.

1322. The expenditure was for food material £129 odd?—Yes.

1323. Preparation and distribution, £42 odd?—Yes.

1324. Apparatus about £11?—Yes.

1325. And office and general expenses £15. That does not make up the £225?—No.

1326. The difference is accounted for in the way that you explained?—Yes. Printing reports, £2 5s. 6d. should be charged against us I believe, but clogs and stockings, £25, ought not to be.

1327. It is practically the £25 which makes the difference?—Yes.

1328. The cost per head of the meals supplied works out at what?—About 0·98d.

1329. Inclusive of the charges here?—Yes.

1330. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Does that include Mrs. Leigh Oakshott's centre?—I have not included her centre in money or in numbers.

1331. (Chairman.) Your figures relate only to your own centres?—Yes. Mrs. Leigh Oakshott's centre relieved something like 260 per week during the whole time that the business was going on.

1332. The number of meals supplied by your association was 48,496?—Yes.

1333. The income was derived entirely from the Birkenhead Distress Fund, but the funds were paid to it by persons desiring to subscribe to you?—Yes, and I think practically the whole of our expenditure was subscribed from time to time, that is to say, that we did not trespass upon the Birkenhead Distress Fund proper for anything.

1334. Was any record kept by the several teachers at the schools as to the individual children relieved?—Yes; in every case the register was marked daily as to the children relieved and their attendance.

1335. So that you could at the end of the season state which children had been relieved and how many times each had been relieved?—Yes.

1336. Do you attach great importance to that?—No. I do not, except that you have a record of the children most in need of dinners, to a certain extent. You learn from it that in one or two cases the demand for dinners is spasmodic and in other cases fairly regular.

1337. Were meals supplied every school day?—Yes, every school day; but not on Saturdays or Sundays. We found that on Saturdays and Sundays the children could manage to get a meal.

1338. There was no rule preventing a child from receiving relief every day?—No.

1339. The meals given were different on different days?—Yes.

1340. Perhaps you will shortly state what they were?—On Monday, cocoa and milk with bread and syrup or jam. Tuesday, pea soup with bread. Wednesday, Irish stew with bread. Thursday, Scotch broth with bread. Friday, lentil soup with bread. That was arranged to meet the religious scruples of the Roman Catholics.

1341. As a rule was the food enjoyed by the children?—Yes, I think they enjoyed it very much indeed, particularly the Monday meals for some strange reason—the cocoa and milk. I suppose that it was most like their normal food—tea and bread.

1342. You would not put it down to the fact that they had been on short commons on Saturday and Sunday?—I should say not. Perhaps it was that not having been on short commons on those two particular days this was somewhat in the nature of a mild meal, but that is only my own private opinion. They certainly enjoyed the cocoa and milk very much. With it they received bread and syrup or bread and jam.

1343. Were any breakfasts given?—No, not under our own arrangements, but in the infants' school of a certain church they gave to the infants milk in the morning. That was a private venture on the part of the vicar.

1344. Have you any opinion as to the relative advantage of breakfast and dinner where one meal is supplied?—If it were tied down to one meal I think perhaps dinner is the more essential. From my own experience I did not find that very many came without breakfast of some sort, if it is only a piece of bread, but I am very sure that in many cases there would have been no dinner forthcoming, had the child been forced to go home.

1345. Did you find the morning school a difficult time for children?—No, I cannot say that I did. The proportion of children relieved in each school was not very great, so that whatever distress was evident in the several classes would only be patent in the case of a few individuals in each class. The class work as a whole would not suffer.

1346. The meals were continued during the Christmas holidays?—Yes. We found that the number of children coming dropped off very greatly. I know there were

hot-pots given away at Christmas time and New Year time. Whether that affected the demand for meals on the part of the children or whether there was more to eat at home I cannot say, but our numbers dropped nearly a half daily during the Christmas week.

1347. How long were the holidays?—A fortnight.

1348. You resolved that the meals should be continued?—Yes.

1349. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Did the teachers continue to superintend during the holidays?—Yes. We did not give a meal on Christmas day nor on Boxing day, nor on New-year's day.

1350. (Chairman.) I see that there was a large balance left in hand to the credit of the Birkenhead Distress Fund when the provision of meals ceased—£397?—Yes.

1351. Was the reason for discontinuing the meals that the need for them apparently had ceased?—Not wholly. It was felt by the superintendents that there was not the same great and acute distress present as there had been during the colder weather, and that pending definite arrangements for a further continuance it might be wise to cease operations. I find on reference to my records that even in the last week of our existence we gave 3,737 meals.

1352. That would indicate that there was a good deal of necessity still in existence when the relief ceased?—Yes.

1353. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Could you have got more money if you had wanted it?—Yes. I do not think there is any fear on that point, but I think if the thing were ever to be done again, seeing that voluntary contributions are of so spasmodic a character, it ought to be organised and financed from some central authority, that is to say, you never could depend from year to year on voluntary contributions being forthcoming.

1354. (Chairman.) We as a committee are confined to considering voluntary contributions?—Yes, so I see, according to your terms of reference.

1355. What notification did the parents or the children receive of the possibility of obtaining a meal?—In the first instance notice was widely given by the head teachers announcing in school that the meals were about to begin on a certain day, and that they would be continued from that time onward without fail, so that no further notification was needed. Every child in the school knew that meals would be given on Monday down to Friday during the winter season.

1356. Were the children's names placed on a list?—Yes, not so much by voluntary request. To take any particular school, as an example the system was that the head teacher would go round to his assistants and say: "Have you any necessitous cases in your class, Mr. so-and-so." The assistant would say: "There are so-and-so, and so-and-so cases that might very well be enquired into, and possibly so-and-so and so-and-so." The head teacher then would call for the children at the play-time interval, or at the close of the morning school, and interview each privately, and ask the circumstances of the father and mother. He would ask the children whether they thought that their father and mother would object to their being supplied with a meal at school. In some cases the fathers and mothers did object; in other cases they were only too glad to allow the children to come.

1357. What notice was given that the child's name would be taken off the list?—Very little. If a child volunteered the information that the father was working, or if the school attendance officer brought information that such-and-such a family were at work, the child would be told on the morrow, "Your name will go off." That was the only notice given. We did not wish that the various centres should be made use of for cases that were not properly qualified.

1358. I see that you mention that there was a system of dinners in connection with the School for defective children at Birkenhead?—Yes.

1359. In that case do the children pay for their dinners?—I may explain that the education authority are not

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connected with that matter officially. It is an organisation started entirely on the responsibility of the head mistress. The school is recruited from children coming from widely distant points, so that in many cases the child could not go home to a meal. On interviewing a parent on the first admission of a child the head-mistress points out that the system is in vogue, and that if the child has no friends living near the schools to whom it can go for a meal, it may very well avail itself of dinner at school. It is a two course dinner of fish or soup followed by simple pudding. The maximum charge is a shilling weekly. If the father or mother says, "That is altogether beyond me," the mistress may get tenpence from them, or, failing that, eight-pence or sixpence, and in some cases nothing at all. The meals really do not come to a shilling, and the small balance in many cases helps to pay for those who pay nothing at all.

1360. Could such a system be extended with advantage to other schools?—I very much doubt it. They have only there thirty odd children to cater for.

1361. Do you imagine that if there was a school dinner offered at cost price it would be largely taken advantage of at Birkenhead?—That is introducing a very debatable point; I really do not know. Perhaps I had better not venture an opinion.

1362. (Miss Laurence.) I think you said that the centres were mostly rooms outside the schools?—In two cases they were on school premises, but not in the school-rooms. One was a laundry room, and the other was a vacated pupil teacher's centre. The others were mission rooms.

1363. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Were the rooms given free?—In every case they are given free.

1364. (Miss Laurence.) In the case of the one where there were 300 children fed daily, how many servers or supervisors or helpers of all kinds did you have there?—I could not give exact details, but I should say in addition to the superintendent about ten assistants.

1365. Would all of those be teachers?—No, not all. We had various ladies volunteering their services from the better part of the borough.

1366. Would more than half be teachers?—Yes, three-fourths.

1367. How long would it take to get through the whole thing?—Speaking with regard to my own centre, the meals were served as a rule at about nine or ten minutes past twelve and they were over and children dismissed by about a quarter to one.

1368. That is very quick. Did the children gain admission by ticket in every case?—Yes. In every case the child was supplied by its own head teacher with a card stamped with the rubber stamp of the school, and that was a sufficient guarantee that the child was necessitous.

1369. Did you ever come across a case of that ticket changing hands?—I do not recall any such case. It might be possible, but rather improbable. A teacher representing the particular school was on duty and brought the children.

1370. And he would know?—He would know.

1371. There has been no attempt to use the cookery centres for the preparation of the food?—No, they were altogether too small.

1372. It has been suggested by some of the witnesses that the food could be prepared by the cookery centres?—It could not in our case because the numbers were too great.

1373. I conclude that every Monday the children had cocoa and milk with bread and syrup or jam, and every Tuesday pea-soup with bread and so on?—Yes, but a certain amount of latitude was allowed to the superintendent of the centre. He might vary that at his own will, but I do not think it was varied frequently throughout the whole season.

1374. Did you find that the children ever attempted to select and say they did not want to go on Wednesday because they did not like Irish stew; but would wait until Thursday, and that sort of thing?—No, I do not think so. If they said so it was not because of the meal.

1375. They did not wish to choose?—No, I think not. They were very glad to get whatever was going, I think.

1376. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) With regard to the inquiry form that you spoke of, why was that thought of at all; was it because you thought there were reasons for inquiring into the children's home circumstances?—It was thought wise to send out such a form, partly because we wished to gather information that might be available to any Committee that succeeded us in our efforts. It was thought even at that early date that possibly official action might be taken, and that therefore it was advisable to accumulate evidence for the assistance of any local Committee. We thought that if we sent an enquiry out we might accumulate material that could be analysed, particulars being extracted from it.

1377. It was not filled up by some of the people, for the reasons that you gave us. This paper is a return of those who did fill it up?—Yes, that is the analysis. It is a synopsis of the full form.

1378. You said that a great many children got five meals a week?—Yes.

1379. One or two of the particular forms which I have here do not seem to bear that out?—I cannot give any reasons why that is. The form that you have there is the form belonging to the south end centre.

1380. You had no control over that?—No, I have a similar one here. I find that the number of meals given to each child works out on the average to about four.

1381. Your committee wished the meals to be given daily to the same children?—Yes. If the children stayed away it was in nine cases out of ten their own fault.

1382. Their tickets would have taken them in every day?—Yes.

1383. Would that have been the case at Mrs. Leigh Oakshott's too?—Yes.

1384. When we have gaps it is because the children did not choose to come?—Yes. The tickets were distributed at the head teacher's room at the close of morning school and if a child did not come it got no ticket.

1385. They all had the opportunity?—Yes.

1386. Did the committee make any inquiry at all into the home circumstances of the children?—Not as a committee, but the individuals composing the committee were entirely in touch with the home circumstances of their own schools. Our committee, as I said, was largely composed of head teachers and others, and the fact of every school nominating a representative practically guaranteed that the committee as a whole knew the whole of the circumstances of the various school units.

1387. I suppose that some teachers know more about the home circumstances than others do?—Yes; the personal equation comes in.

1388. You cannot expect the teachers to visit the homes, because they have not the time or opportunity; but was there nothing besides the individual opinion of the teacher?—That, corroborated by evidence given by the school attendance officer. In many cases he did not merely corroborate the head teacher, but gave information of which the head teacher had no knowledge.

1389. Did the school attendance officer supply facts which led to the cutting out of some children occasionally?—Yes.

1390. Did the returns which you got in January lead you to cut any children out of the list?—I cannot say that they did.

1391. They did not give much information?—No.

1392. Mrs. Leigh Oakshott visited the cases herself?—Yes, and distributed the tickets, and raised her own funds. She has a very intimate acquaintance with her own cases.

1393. (Mr. Walrond.) I should like to know a little more exactly how you select the children before you begin to make these inquiries?—To begin with, 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, "Johnnie, 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 a proper meal 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.

1394. The teacher, as it were, starts the ball?—Yes.

1395. 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.

1396. We were told just now that children were rather fond of showing each other up and saying, "That boy's father is in full work and mine is out of work"?—That might be so.

1397. Have you come across any cases of that kind?—No, not in my own experience. This may occur. A child goes to centre and some unfeeling schoolmate says, "So and so is getting free food. He is a mean sort of fellow," and so bring pressure to bear in that way, but I did not find that that obtained.

1398. You did not have to select. You had as much money as you wanted?—Yes. We had no need to select some and reject others.

1399. Anybody you thought looked a deserving case you were able to relieve?—Yes, if it was wished.

1400. (Dr. Parsons.) Would the way in which the children were dressed be any guide to you in selecting?—Not exactly, but to some extent the dress and general neglected appearance would go hand in hand, would they not.

1401. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You did not make any difference because of the parents being neglectful or otherwise?—No we did not, but I think that a difference ought to be made in any future organisation. Undoubtedly in many cases children are sent to the centre owing to the fact that the mother is too lazy to prepare a meal, or the father is too lazy to go to work to earn money, although I must say that during last winter Birkenhead was in a most distressed state. In the depth of the winter it was most acute. Lairds' Shipbuilding Yard, a

great source of employment, were not busy; in fact they were doing very little and many of the engineering shops in the town were doing little or nothing.

1402. (Miss Laurence.) Do you think that your organisation covered all the cases of distress?—Yes. I do not think that any were missed. If they were missed it was not from any fault of ours. It was either from undue modesty or any other cause you like to name.

1403. What proportion of children on the average would there be?—It would vary from school to school. In some schools it might be as much as 10 per cent.; in others not more than 5 per cent.

1404. In no case would it be more than 10 per cent. you think?—In one or two it might be more than 10 per cent. In one or two it might be 15, but that is all.

1405. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Did you find that some of the schools had a larger proportion than seemed fair?—No, not considering the class of school from which the children came. As I said some time ago the greater numbers were from the slum areas. Where the schools were poorest there were more children to be fed.

1406. Mr. Lee Jones offered to give you assistance, and I think he said that he did give some meals in Birkenhead?—Not this winter to my knowledge.

1407. He did not give any meals in Birkenhead this year?—No. When our preliminary meeting was held a letter was read from him to the effect that he offered the assistance of his organisation and he quoted rates. The offer was not accepted. It was said first of all that we could manage the thing ourselves to better advantage, and one or two said that they had had experience of his organisation and did not care for it. I do not know why. At all events it was felt at the preliminary meeting that it would be well to go on our own lines.

1408. He did not do anything independently as far as you know?—No.

1409. On the whole you think that your organisation covered the ground, and there was no other organisation working?—It covered the ground. With regard to no other organisation working, as I point out in the report, one or two organisations were run not altogether counter to ours, but to a certain measurable extent counter, in one or two church parishes, because they had funds to work upon. They gave, as I said, in one case milk to the infants and in another case a measure of soup daily.

1410. That would be in schools that you were not helping?—Yes.

1411. There was not any chance of Mr. Lee Jones's help or yours getting in to the same schools?—No. In one case soup was distributed through a trap door in the building, and the children ate it in the streets.

1412. (Chairman.) Without any educative effect on the children?—Yes. That is one of the things which we very much objected to, but we could not stop it.

1413. Have you anything further to add?—No; I do not think I have anything further to say.

1414. (Chairman.) Thank you very much for coming here.

FOURTH DAY.

Tuesday, 6th June, 1905.

PRESENT.

H. W. SIMPKINSON, Esq., C.B. (in the Chair).

H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE.
Mr. R. WALROND.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (Secretary).

Sir CHARLES ELLIOTT, K.C.S.I., LL.D., called in; and Examined.

Sir Charles
Elliott,
K.C.S.I.,
LL.D.

6 June, 1905.

1415. (Chairman.) You were, for many years, a member of the London School Board, were you not?—Yes, I was.

1416. And you are now a member of the Education Committee of the London County Council?—Yes.

1417. You were also Chairman of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children?—Yes.

1418. You have been in contact with the question of the feeding of school children almost ever since you returned to England?—Even since I went on the School Board.

1419. Nine years ago?—Yes.

1420. We propose to take the *précis* which you have kindly sent in as your evidence in chief?—Certainly.

[The following document was handed in.]

1. The London School Board attempted to centralise agencies and prevent overlapping, first by the creation of the London Schools Dinner Association in 1889, which, at one time was the chief organisation of the kind, and has worked in connection with the London School Board throughout; secondly, by the creation of the Joint Committee for Underfed Children in 1899, which was intended to supervise the work generally, to obtain information as to what agencies were in existence and what schools they supplied, and to assist schools which were in want of funds by placing them in communication with associations able to supply funds or meals. But no power exists and no attempt has been made (except in the case of the L.S.D.A.) to "centralise" agencies which spring up from time to time as the result of benevolent impulse, and find a field for their exertions in schools with which the promoters are in some way connected. The Joint Committee receives periodical reports from the schools as to the number of children fed and meals supplied, but it sometimes only hears at the end of the year what the source of supply has been. In order properly to organise public charity the local authority ought to know of, and to sanction all communications passing between agencies and schools as regards the offer and acceptance of help. There are, however, many agencies, chiefly connected with parish churches and chapels which supply meals not through the staff of the elementary day schools, but by establishing soup kitchens to which adults sometimes, and also children connected with Sunday schools and local clubs are admitted in a more or less promiscuous manner and over these the local authority has not and cannot, have any control.

2. The local authority assists in London—

(a.) By the appointment of the Joint Committee above referred to which supervises operations, and tabulates statistics.

(b.) It has supplied, in a few cases without charge, coal or gas, coppers or boilers, for cooking meals, and has allowed the use of trestles or tables and benches in covered playgrounds, halls or classrooms for the distribution of food.

(c.) It has given the use of its office and clerks for the purpose of the Joint Committee, and has printed their reports. Caretakers of schools are sometimes employed to cook the children's food, receiving remuneration for the work from the funds which supply the food. Also to lay out the tables and distribute

the food. But in the great majority of cases the food is cooked and distributed outside the schools. The services of the teachers have been given voluntarily to a very large extent, in all branches of the work.

3. The meals are, in most cases, given free, but efforts are made to induce the children to bring halfpence or pence to pay a part, or the whole, of the cost of the meal. These efforts have not generally been very successful.

4 and 5. The selection of underfed children is the work of the Relief sub-Committee appointed in every necessitous school, consisting of the head teacher of each department, two or more managers, possibly some co-opted members, who may be district visitors or Children's Country Holiday Fund managers or Charity Organisation Society visitors, and these sub-Committees are, or should be, assisted by the attendance officer. There is no arrangement to bring them into connection with the relieving officer, and this is an omission which should be cured, as it might happen that children are being provided with meals though the parents have already received a grant from the guardians intended to meet the wants of the children. No distinction is made between the children of the three classes of parents mentioned under subhead 4 (a) (b) and (c)—except that in case (a) inquiry once for all is sufficient while in the other cases it ought to be repeated from time to time to see if distress continues.

6. Meals are served in some cases at the schools, but more generally outside in halls or rooms provided for the purpose by local agencies. A good deal of information is given on this point in Appendix D. to the Joint Committee's Report just issued.

7. The school must be the unit for purposes of selection and organisation, but where numbers are small, children from two or more schools can be fed at the same place, and this would naturally tend to economy.

8. Mainly from year to year, though from time to time some become moribund and some new agencies are started. For instance, in the list in Appendix E. of the Joint Committee's Report (b), (4) the London Vegetarian Association and Children's Dinner Fund was started two years ago; all the rest have, I believe, been at work since the school board's inquiry in 1899 or earlier.

B. SUMS EXPENDED.

1. I am making endeavours to ascertain approximately the total amount expended on meals, but it is difficult. The receipts of the three main societies, the Referee Fund, L.S.D.A., and Destitute Children's Dinner Society (see A (1), (2) and (3) of Appendix E) may be put at £7,000. The greater part of this is distributed direct to schools, but a good portion is granted to local agencies, such as the E.L.T.A., the Holborn School, the North Lambeth, and other Associations, which subsist partly upon these grants and partly upon local subscriptions.

2. I have not been directly concerned with these details, which can be ascertained by tabulating the expenditure figures contained in the reports of the different societies which collect funds and distribute meals. I happen to have the Report of the Children's Dinner Fund, Vegetarian Association for 1903-4 before me as I write. There, out

of an expenditure of £515, £263, or 43 per cent., went for food, £15 for fuel, £144 for wages and carriage of meals. £151 for rent, repairs and gas; and £35 for stationery, etc. I expect that in larger and older societies the share expended on administration would bear a smaller proportion to the cost of food.

3. The cost per head of a reasonably full meal is generally put at 1½d.; but a good meal of lentil soup and currant bread, such as is given by Canon Horsley at St. Peter's, Walworth, costs only ¾d. I have arranged for dinners at the Merton Road Cookery Centre for, from 1d. to 2d. varying according to the quantity of meat given and averaging 1½d. I have also arranged for dinners at the "Red House," Commercial Street, E., with the kind help of Mr. Wilson, the Vicar of St. Augustine's, and his staff, to be given to children from the special schools of Berner Street and Cable Street, at 1½d. apiece. These embrace a menu varying for each day of the week, consisting of soup, meat pie, Irish stew, suet pudding, bread and butter, chocolate, etc. I believe that a substantial meal can be given at this price, and a meal to forward a valuable supplement to a scanty supply of food from home, at ¾d.

4. The sources of supply are private subscriptions and payments by parents. There are no endowments available for provided schools. I believe they do exist in voluntary schools, and it has been suggested that in framing new schemes for these schools the Education Department might allot some of the funds to the purpose of feeding the hungry.

5. Only the usual difficulties of having to send out appeals and whip up subscribers. The joint committee has reported that there is no case on record where a school has applied for funds and it has not been possible to supply them. On this fact I build up the argument that it is not likely that in future there will be any deficiency in the influx of subscriptions—and that there ought to be no talk of placing the charge of this kind of relief on the rates until such a deficiency is found to exist.

C. RELIEF GIVEN.

1. (a.) Breakfast is sometimes given—but not very commonly. Milk is sometimes given at the recreation hour in the middle of the morning session—but the Joint Committee decided that this should not be treated as a meal and that statistics about the giving of milk need not be submitted. By far the most common form of relief is the giving of dinners between 12 and 1 o'clock.

(b. and c.) All kinds of food are given: soup is the most predominant element—generally made from lentils, and with it or after it bread or cake, or sometimes a slice of pudding, sometimes cheese with the bread. In many cases meat is given in the form of stew or pie; a cup of cocoa is not uncommon; there is great variety of food, and it is generally relished, though some children are found who turn up their noses at soup.

(d.) The average number of meals given in the week is two and two-thirds. Sixteen of the council's schools gave only one meal during the last winter, ninety gave two, sixty-one gave three, forty-one gave either four or five. It is impossible to say on how many of these days each child receives a meal, because the practice varies so much, perhaps as a rule it may be said that the children in greatest distress receive meals every day that dinner is provided while those in less distress receive ones or twice a week. In many cases teachers who have a large number on their list and think the funds are running short find it easier to diminish the number of meals given to each child than to make efforts to replenish their funds, but this is an error in procedure which should be guarded against. On Saturdays and Sundays and during holidays no meals are provided. Children can generally find some work on those days for which they are paid.

4. It is usual to begin providing meals in October and November and to continue them till Easter. Last winter the average duration of the feeding was thirteen and a quarter weeks, rather a longer period than in previous years, because of the lateness of Easter. The severe pressure of unemployment is generally over by Easter, but cases of individual distress from sickness, accidents and other causes must continue throughout the year, and it is desirable that provision should be made for feeding such exceptional cases. The Joint Committee for the Underfed have recommended in their last Report that cookery centres should be more largely made use of for this purpose,

as it is generally possible to provide food for from twenty-five to thirty children at these centres, though not for larger numbers.

2. Parents ought to be notified beforehand that it is intended to treat their children as underfed and to give them meals, but I doubt if it is often done.

3. The total number of meals given in the provided schools during the last winter was on an average 66,487 weekly, or for a duration of thirteen and a quarter weeks about 881,000.

4. The number of individual children relieved in the provided schools during the last winter was 40,432. The average number relieved weekly was 26,951.

5. A record is kept showing what children were relieved and on what dates in all schools in which the system laid down by the school board is faithfully carried out.

D.

1. (a.) There is no special class of children set apart as retarded on account of malnutrition. There has been at times an attempt to create a class of backward children—but these classes have generally before long slid into classes for defective children and I know of no evidence clearly connecting retardation in study with malnutrition.

(b.) For physically defective children a special Committee exists which has organised a system of dinners in which the cost of the food is mainly supplied by the parents themselves and the balance by voluntary subscriptions, but the cost of the cooking and administering the food is borne by the county council.

(c and d.) With regard to mentally defective, blind and deaf children, the Special Schools Sub-Committee is, I believe, still considering the establishment of a system for supplying them with dinners.

2. As children of these classes do not come under the purview of the head teachers of ordinary schools I doubt if they would ever put the names of children belonging to special centres upon their register of underfed children. For this reason it is better that the children of the special schools should be separately dealt with.

E.

My suggestions for improved organisation are partly contained in the Joint Committee's Report for last year (1904-5) and are more fully set out in an article in the *Empire Review* for May. Briefly stated they are as follows:—

The backbone of the system should be the rules laid down by the London School Board which postulate—

(a.) That no relief need be given from the rates, but that private charity if properly organised is sufficient to deal with the whole of this class of distress.

(b.) That a relief sub-committee should be appointed in every necessitous school consisting of the head teacher of each department, the attendance officer, and one or more managers, with power to co-opt outsiders for the purpose of making local inquiries. On this sub-committee devolves the duty of drawing up the register of underfed children, of making all necessary inquiries to make sure that the children are really in want, of procuring funds for the provision of food and organising the preparation and distribution of meals.

(c.) That there should be a permanent Committee appointed for the purpose of supervising the work of organising relief which should receive reports from the sub-committees as to the progress of the work, draw attention to any defects in the arrangements and assist sub-committees when in want of funds by placing them in communication with one of the Charitable Associations which collect funds. This Committee, known as the Joint Committee for Underfed Children, has carried on the work for five years, and in its last report has stated the result of its experience to be that the following defects exist in the system and ought to be remedied—(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 days; (5) the Joint Committee should be invested with sufficient

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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.

There are two other suggestions which were not unanimously approved of by the Joint Committee and were dropped out of the Report. One is that if the work of feeding the children is more thoroughly organised the teachers ought to be remunerated for the share they take in it. The other is that we should accept the classification of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration in paragraphs , where they divide the municipal areas into three classes, and should say clearly that London ought to be treated as belonging to the second area, in which, while the cost of food is defrayed from charitable sources, municipal aid is allowed to be given towards administrative purposes. There is certainly no necessity for placing London in the third class, where voluntary help has broken down and the cost of the food must be charged to the rates. At the same time I am of opinion that London is too big and the work too multifarious for the duty of feeding the children to be carried on (as in the first class) by voluntary agencies with only a general supervision exercised by the local authority. This is the system which we have been endeavouring to work and which has not been thoroughly efficient but needs tightening up and developing in the various ways which I have suggested.

1421. Will you tell us how the Joint Committee is constituted?—It consists of a certain number of members of the County Council and myself, I being a co-opted member of the Education Committee, four representatives of the Committee of Representative Managers of Schools, and a representative of the London Schools Dinner Association.

1422. And one representative of each of the large supply associations?—Of two of them.

1423. The London Schools Dinner Association and the Referee Fund?—Yes. We used to have a member of the Destitute Children's Society, but when the Committee was reconstituted after the County Council had taken things over that society said that it did not see any use in sending a representative.

1424. How often does the Committee meet?—As a rule, once a fortnight during the winter.

1425. Is the attendance large at the meetings?—Yes, pretty full.

1426. The object of the Joint Committee is not to provide funds, but to organise the work?—Yes, and also to organise the working of the charitable societies which supply the funds.

1427. You say in your *précis* "No power exists and no attempt has been made (except in the case of the L.S.D.A.) to centralise agencies which spring up from time to time." Would you explain that reference to the London Schools Dinner Association?—The London Schools Dinner Association was created in 1889 (if I recollect rightly), or thereabouts, in order to centralise all the subscriptions that were at that time rather sporadically given for the benefit of the schools. It carried out that work to a certain extent. Its operations have embraced, roughly, about 200 schools. There were many associations then existing which did not affiliate themselves or did not allow themselves to be merged in the L.S.D.A. and since then others have sprung up from time to time. I say that no power exists to centralise. That means that these agencies have sprung up, and are still springing up, without our knowledge and without any control on our part. A number of benevolent people are suddenly struck with the idea that over a certain portion of London, or in connection with certain schools, there is a good deal of poverty; they create a small association of their own, collect subscriptions, and send word to the head teachers, "We are ready to provide you with funds for meals," and the head teachers, if they are not already attached to other sources, or do not get a sufficient supply from other sources, accept the funds thus offered. There is at present no control over that. No one has ever said to the head teachers "Do not accept these funds without reporting it."

1428. You would not deprecate the creation of local interest to provide funds. You would rather wish to create it?—I would wish to create it and to direct it into the conduits where the money would be most valuable.

1429. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) All local assistance could be reported to the Council?—It could.

1430. And the Council could insist on that by saying that the teachers were not to accept any assistance except from what had been reported upon?—They could do that. I have advocated that that should be done.

1431. (Chairman.) The Committee receives periodical reports. How often does it receive them?—They are sent in by weekly postcards from each school. Those weekly postcards are collected together every fortnight, and a return like that which you have in your hand for the whole year is presented fortnightly.

1432. The return in your report is compiled from those weekly postcards?—Yes, that is so.

1433. To pass to the assistance which is given now by the County Council in this matter, we have heard the evidence of Mrs. Wilton Phipps as to the Cripple Schools. In that case the assistance given by the County Council is very active?—Yes.

1434. As regards the general question of feeding, it allows the use of schools where necessary?—Yes, it allows the use either of class rooms or halls for distributing the meals, and, very rarely, the use of the apparatus for cooking the meals. In most cases I should say, where it is done in the schools, the cooking is done by the caretakers in their own houses, and at the expense of the fund; and where this is done the food is generally distributed in covered playgrounds, which are turned for the time into refectories, benches, and tables being provided. In two or three cases cooking stoves are provided and cooking is done by means of the school gas.

1435. The Council would not be curious as to the use of gas in those cases?—The Council would rather not be asked about it. I am not sure what the legal position is at the present time, but under the School Board there was an impression that it was illegal, and that the auditor might object if he found it out, and I have heard that in the case of a Greenwich school he did find it out, and the sum was surcharged, and the managers had to pay. I have only heard of one case of that kind.

1436. Are the cookery centres at present used to any extent in this matter?—Only to a very small extent. You will find in the Joint Committee's annual report some information about that. I found on looking at this return, Appendix D, beginning at page 17, more cookery centres referred to than I expected to find. I had only known of three or four myself up to that time. Here and there there are some, but not very many; nothing like so many as I should like to see.

1437. Would they be on a small scale in those cases?—They must be on a small scale.

1438. Are there dining rooms in connection with the cookery centres in which the meals can be served?—There is no separate room, but the desks at which the children sit during the demonstration lesson serve as desks at which they can sit to eat their meals.

1439. With regard to utilising the cookery centres, that matter is before the county council now, we understand?—Yes, it is, I believe.

1440. Have you personally had any experience of the application of the cookery centre to that object?—I have had personal experience, because I have been doing it myself with regard to two schools in Wandsworth, belonging to the group of which I am one of the managers. We had about twenty to thirty children on the necessitous list, and we utilised the cookery centre there by giving the children tickets, in return for which they got whatever the instructress could provide from the day's cooking. As a rule she was able to provide an extremely satisfactory dinner, with a good deal of variety in it, at a cost of from a 1d. to 2d. We had rather a set-back on one occasion, when we found that for a whole fortnight she was going to do nothing but bake bread, but even then she found that she would be able to provide some fried potatoes and small things of that kind, which she could give to the children along

with the bread, charging a halfpenny for it. She, of course, was very glad to have this demand placed at her door, because one very great difficulty in the cookery centres is to get a market for the food. As you know, they provide teachers with dinners, and whatever food is over, the children who bring their pennies are allowed to come in and buy. What is not bought in that way has to be sold at a considerable loss.

1441. The cookery centres might, in fact, be used as permanent centres for feeding, during those months when the need is not so acute and the numbers are smaller?—Yes. That, I think, is the most important use that they could be put to.

1442. But you do not anticipate that any very large numbers could be fed by that means?—They could hardly feed more than thirty at each centre. There are altogether about 200 centres, so that they would supply 6,000 meals a day; but a great many of those centres would probably be found in quarters where there would be no demand at all. You could not reckon on the whole of them being utilised.

1443. You say that the meals in most cases are given free. Is any direction or indication given to the relief committees as to what line they should take as regards requiring payment?—No; we have issued no instructions about that. I think it is generally understood that attempts should be made to get the children to pay.

1444. When the returns of these payments are made, have you any means of knowing whether they are really made by the children or their parents, or by benevolent persons who give them the money?—No, I have never, myself, inquired into the matter. The only return that I know of that we get, is the return of the L.S.D.A., in their annual Report. I might mention my own experience on that particular question, perhaps. In the case of the Southfields and Merton Road Schools, we made it a rule that, if possible, the children should be induced to bring a halfpenny towards their three-halfpenny dinner. In most cases they did bring it, and in those cases I know that in every instance it was provided by the parent, it was brought from the home. Then again a similar set of dinners has been started for the Berner Street and Cable Street special schools in St. George's in the East, and there most of the children either bring a half-penny or a penny. In one or two cases they bring the whole three-halfpence. A good deal of verbal pressure has been put on them. They have been instigated to do it, and told that if they possibly can do it, they ought to do it; but during the hardest season we did not go to the extent of refusing them dinners if they did not bring it.

1445. The experience of the Cripples Dinner Association, and the experience which you now tell us of, would point to the fact that money can be collected from parents?—In many cases it can, or a certain portion of it.

1446. How would you regard the proposal to extend the plan of giving a paid-for dinner to an ordinary school? Do you think that the parents would, as a rule, take advantage of it?—I do not like the system. I would not encourage the idea; because I am afraid it would be opening a door which would be used for other purposes afterwards.

1447. Would you view an experiment in that direction with favour, in an isolated and selected school?—I do not quite see what the dinners would be intended for.

1448. Mostly to insure a good meal for children, in the middle of the day, whose parents have to be out?—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.

1449. If the children could be induced to spend that penny on such a dinner as suggested, it would be all to the good?—Yes, it would be all to the good for them.

1450. Then we come to your relief committees. The relief committees, I understand, are really the key to the whole position?—Yes.

1451. The proper organisation and constitution of the relief committee and the genuine working of that form the basis upon which the work should rest?—Yes, the relief committees of the schools.

1452. You mention that they should be assisted by the attendance officer. What part does he now take in the administration of the relief committee?—Under the rules laid down by the School Board, he was to be a member of the committee. The committee must consist of the head teacher of each department, two or three managers, and the attendance officer; and there may be co-opted members. As a matter of fact he has hardly ever taken up that position. In a good many cases it has not been thought that he was quite of a social standing or official standing to be on a level with the other members of the committee. There has been, I think, a good deal of feeling of that kind. As far as I know, it is only in the East Lambeth Schools that the attendance officer's information has been really fully utilised.

1453. Would your Committee still suggest his being a member of the committee?—I can hardly say whether my committee would; they certainly would not unanimously. Some of the members have strongly expressed the view that I have just been expressing, that his information should be used, but that he should not be allowed to have an equal vote and to be of equal weight with the other members.

1454. The information given by him would be presumably mainly concern irregular children?—Those are the children with whom he is most brought into contact. But we maintain that, besides that, he knows a good deal of the neighbours; 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 ask him to enquire. 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.

1455. His visits would be less resented, presumably, by parents than those of the relieving officer?—Yes, I think so.

1456. You would suggest the acquiring of information from the relieving officer?—Yes, I would.

1457. You say, "There is no arrangement at present to bring them into connection with the relieving officer"?—Yes, 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

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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.

1458. Would it be possible to obtain the representation of guardians on relief committees?—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.

1459. This is specially important in view of the recent order of the Local Government Board?—Yes, it becomes more important in consequence of that.

1460. Have you any opinion as to the relative advantages of serving the meals at school and elsewhere?—There are two points to consider. To serve them in a class room or in the hall is very disagreeable to the teachers. The smell of the dinner is not a pleasant thing when you re-open the school at 2 o'clock. If you have a covered play-ground which serves the purpose, or a special refectory as has been proposed, that objection would not occur. On the other hand the objection to serving them outside is that, generally speaking, the halls in which they are served are crowded and the meal is very frequently not served in a way that some people advocate as a means of teaching them how to behave at table, and what the comforts of civilisation may be.

1461. But *ceteris paribus* you would prefer the meal being served away from the school?—Yes, I think so, on the whole. If it can be served equally well and fairly handy to the school, it is rather a good thing to give the children a walk there and back during the recreation time.

1462. As regards the part which the teachers are to take, would you deprecate the attendance of teachers during a meal?—Not at all. On the contrary, I advocate it very strongly. 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.

1463. Your only reason for considering their presence advisable is that nobody else could do the superintending. If you could find an equally qualified superintendent, would you prefer that he should not be a teacher?—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 Johnnie or Tommy who got the ticket at school is the same Johnnie 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.

1464. In regard to the teacher's part of the arrangement, do you consider that the teachers are the proper persons to select the children?—In the first case they are, necessarily. They see most of the children: they get the first *prima facie* evidence. They see the child is looking white and sickly and continues so for some time and is not thriving in other ways, and their suspicions are aroused. They feel that probably he has not food enough. They see the parcels which the children bring with them to eat during the ten minutes' recreation, or which those who stop at school for the two hours bring with them for their dinners and they are able to judge in that way whether a child brings a sufficient amount or not. They are the first people to whom these indications are presented: therefore I think we should start with them in drawing up the list of those who *prima facie* are necessitous.

1465. But you would not expect them to carry the investigation into the homes?—No, I should not expect them to do that; and yet to a certain extent they are able to do it. We have a great number of old and experienced teachers who have been for twenty or thirty years, sometimes, in a neighbourhood where the children

are the children of parents who have themselves been under them as children in the schools, and they keep up very close and kindly relations and are constantly visited by the parents of the children. In that way they can obtain a good deal of information. I would not expect them to go to the homes and visit them, but they get a great deal of extra-scholastic knowledge of the condition of the families, or most of them do. I am sorry to say that in many cases we cannot say as much of the younger teachers.

1466. You say that the school must be the unit for the purpose of selection and organization. That does not mean that you object to the grouping of schools for the purposes of going to the same centre, does it?—No, not where the numbers are not too great.

1467. Is it necessary to have a separate relief committee for each school?—It is very much better. The school board started by allowing a relief sub-committee for a school or a group. In many cases they are made for groups only, and in a good many cases, although they are nominally sub-committees for separate schools, they consist of the same members. Very much depends upon the amount of work to be done. If it is a poor neighbourhood and there is a group of three schools with 200 or 300 children each, it is far better to have a separate committee for each school. It is beyond the power of one committee to deal with three such schools.

1468. Might there be friction between the teachers in the case of a joint committee for more than one school?—That has not occurred to me.

1469. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) How many committees are there. Does the number 246, on page 5, of the Report of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children, mean the number of working committees?—That is more than I should like to say. It is the number that is reported to us. When they form committees, they send in the names of the members and of their corresponding secretary; but we have no means of seeing how much work they do, and we know that a good many of them do no work at all.

1470. Are those dealing with separate schools?—Yes.

1471. You do not know how much they are working?—No, except in a casual way. In individual members of the Joint Committee may have some personal information about certain schools, but we have no official knowledge. We have no means of finding out. One of my chief complaints against the existing system is that we have no inspecting power to go round and see what the committees are doing.

1472. On page 7 of your report you say: "The duty of the managers in respect of visiting the homes of the children, and procuring information regarding their home conditions has been, in the majority of cases, imperfectly fulfilled?"—Yes.

1473. So that taking these committees, a good proportion, the majority I suppose, would not be doing that visiting?—You certainly might say that in the majority the work is being insufficiently done. I would not say that nothing at all is being done, but there are all sorts of grades and degrees in the efficiency with which the work is being done.

1474. (Chairman.) Would it be useful to constitute any intermediate unit between your central committee and these joint committees, such, for instance, as a borough committee. Take the analogy of the Holborn Association, which we are going to hear evidence about this afternoon, which purports to cover the whole borough of Holborn. It might be useful to interest the municipalities in the work to some extent?—It would be very useful if it was useful at all. If you could get these bodies to work on definite lines, any delegation of power would be useful. A point very strongly borne in upon me is that even if the joint committee were to receive from the county council much more power than it has, it still would be hardly able to cope with the enormous amount of work; and whatever central body is created must act either through inspectors or by giving over the supervision to small areas; but how far it would be possible for borough committees to be constituted by the borough councils, not under the orders of the county council, I hardly see.

1475. I was not pointing so far as that, but I was merely pointing to some organisation which might set up a connection with the borough council, organised for the geographical borough. London is sadly deficient in

local interest, but there seems to be a little local interest now arising in some at any rate of the boroughs, which might be taken advantage of?—Interest is being shown on the part of the new borough council members in certain cases as managers of the schools. They have appointed a large number of their councillors as managers, and in some cases those managers have been taking a very considerable interest in the question. I have not sufficiently thought out the suggestion that you make, and I should not like to give a definite answer about it.

1476. You attach great importance to the permanence of any organisation?—Yes.

1477. There are many in England which come in'0 being first to meet a particular need of one winter and then die away?—That is so. You require a continuing series.

1478. With regard to the sums expended in London it seems to be a most difficult matter to arrive at what really is spent year by year in London on the provision of meals for children?—It is.

1479. Have you any further information which you could give us beyond what you have put down here and what is in your report?—No, I have not. We are now setting measures on foot to try to find out what all these smaller organisations have spent from their own resources in addition to what they have spent from grants given to them by the large supply associations, but we have not obtained the information as yet.

1480. You do not as a Committee receive any account from the schools?—No.

1481. Could you suggest any means by which we could obtain this information. Would it be of any use to send a form of account to the several units mentioned in your report?—I think no doubt it would.

1482. There are a good many mentioned both in your report and in the Destitute Children's Dinner Report and in the L.S.D.A. report, which might be able to supply us with information?—Yes.

1483. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) We should get no information in that way about the little parochial funds, should we?—You would if you applied to them. The schools could tell you what associations provide the dinners, and if you wrote to those associations they could, and I should think, would, tell you where they got their fund from.

1484. I see on page 4 of the printed report, that when the enquiry was made in 1895-9, there were said to be 287 local agencies. Have you any idea how many there are now?—I have no idea. I have never compared any more recent list with the old list.

1485. That was besides the large funds?—Yes. You will find the list in the printed report of 1899.

1486. The list of those 287?—Yes.

1487. (Chairman.) Shall you have any further figures in the course of the summer?—Yes, I hope so. We are sending out to obtain just the information you are asking for. It occurred to me, when you mentioned it, that they might be more willing to give it to you than to us.

1488. No doubt the bulk of the money comes from the three associations which you especially mention?—I should say so—yes.

1489. When we get returns from the smaller associations the bulk of the money always seems to come from one or other of the larger associations of which we have already heard. As regards the sources of supply, you mention the possibility of obtaining money from endowments. Have you thought that matter out at all?—No, I have not thought it out. It has been merely a floating idea. The Board of Education is dealing now with a number of endowments, which are more or less obsolete in their original application, and it has to re-apply them to useful objects: and it has occurred to me, and to some other people also, that it might be possible, where these endowments belong to schools where no educational need exists for them, that part of the money might be allocated not to the feeding only, but to the general relief of children—books and clothes or anything of that kind.

1490. There are still no doubt in London a good many endowments which are applied to doles of food. Have they, so far as you know, been used for helping voluntary agencies in any way?—I do not know of any.

1491. I see amongst the subscribers to the L.S.D.A. is the City Parochial Foundation £100?—Yes, I remember that now.

1492. Has your Committee, or so far as you know any of these large associations, approached that body for larger help?—No, we have not, certainly. We have made no attempt to collect money in any way, or to send out any appeals for money.

1493. I see you say that there is no case on record where a school has applied for funds and it has not been possible to supply them?—Yes.

1494. And a statement to the same effect is made in the report of the L.S.D.A. for this year. As regards the relative advantages of breakfast and dinner have you any opinions?—I should like to see both. Breakfast is very valuable and dinner is valuable also. It is really hard to say which is the more valuable. If you have a higher standard of what is wanted for a dinner than for a breakfast, then the dinner is the more important. They can generally get bread and butter at home before they start, and weak tea very often or something of that kind, and they very often get the same for dinner; and it is more important to supplement the dinner than to supplement the breakfast.

1495. Returns show that in London on the whole the dinner is the more popular?—Yes, or I should hardly say more popular. It is more popular with the givers at any rate, but I do not know that there is anything to show that it is more popular with the recipients. There is this fact: that in many parts the children get up very late and only just in time to come to school. The mothers get up still later; and to get the children to school for breakfast at half-past eight is harder than to get them to attend between twelve and one for dinner.

1496. You think it more likely that a child in want of food would miss breakfast by being late than dinner?—Yes.

1497. At the same time breakfast would be a valuable meal in securing early attendance?—Yes, it would be valuable for that purpose.

1498. Do you consider that variety of food is important?—No doubt it is, within a certain limit. Children are very peculiar as to their likes and dislikes in regard to food, and their tastes and appetites ought to be consulted.

1499. Appendix A to the Report contains an interesting Table which shows, amongst other things, the weekly average number of children fed, a total being given for 1903-4 and details for 1904-5. How do you get at the average weekly number? Would you tell us how the table is compiled. Is it the average number of children, or the average number of meals given to children?—Both are given. The return shows the number of children and the total number of meals.

1500. The return for this year shows for the first time the actual number of individual children?—Yes.

1501. That number has not been given before this year?—No; I got that added in consequence of evidence given by Dr. Eichholz before the Physical Deterioration Committee, in which he found fault with the figures we supplied as to the average number, and said that they gave no index as to the real number of children, and that he thought the real number fed was about three times the average. I felt pretty sure that he was mistaken in that, and I secured these figures, which show that it is about one and a half times the average number.

1502. May the figures in this column be accepted as trustworthy?—I think they may.

1503. Are they based on returns kept from week to week of individual children?—Yes; they are based on the register of necessitous children. I have gone through these registers in some cases to test these figures myself and see if they were correct.

1504. May we take it that a register of individual necessitous children is kept?—In most of the schools, not in all; but in all the well conducted schools which follow the instructions—in roughly I should say nine-tenths of the schools.

1505. You consider the keeping of such a register to be a very important matter?—Very important for future record, and for comparison year by year when you have to select the children for the next year.

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1506. Do you consider that the period over which the meals at present extend is on the whole the right period?—It extends over the worst period of the year, but I do not think that it ought to stop completely at Easter. There are cases of necessity and want throughout the year, and provision ought to be made for those cases; but there are so many fewer as a rule in other times of the year than in the winter, that I think the cookery centres could take the place of the large feeding halls and feeding arrangements which exist during the winter.

1507. You do not think that the provision of meals should stop altogether at any time?—No.

1508. How far do your Committee recommend that parents should be told of the provision of meals, that is to say, that parents should know beforehand whether the child is going to receive a meal or not?—The Committee have several times laid down the importance of telling the parents, but I am afraid it is a duty which is very much neglected. Whenever an inquiry is made like that Johanna Street Inquiry the other day, we have found the parents saying that they did not know their children were receiving food. I think there ought to be some more formal means taken. There should be a printed form of letter sent to the parents saying "Your boy" or "Your girl is placed on our necessitous list, and is being fed or is going to be fed," in order to give them the opportunity of objecting if they wished to object.

1509. On the other hand, we understand that in some cases the parents assume that the children will be fed and then find that they are not fed?—That also happens. It necessarily happens under the system which many relief committees adopt, of not feeding the whole number on the necessitous list every time, but giving only a certain number of tickets. Mr. Libby stated that in some cases a child got only one ticket in the week. The parent does not know when that one ticket will be given, and it is possible that in the expectation of its being given no food may be ready for the child when it is not given.

1510. In a very large number of schools there are only two meals or even one meal provided during the week?—A very large number. On page 6 you will see that sixteen gave only one meal, ninety gave two, sixty-one gave three and forty-one gave more than three.

1511. You state that the average number of meals given in the week is two and two thirds?—Yes.

1512. Is that average taken by schools or by centres?—By schools.

1513. Have you any figures at all showing the proportionate number of children fed to the total number of children in the schools?—You can get that at once from columns 2 and 3 of the Appendix A, on page 12 of the Report. Column 2 shows the average on the roll.

1514. This contains only necessitous schools?—Only necessitous schools.

1515. It does not contain voluntary schools at all?—No. That table refers only to the provided schools. There is a reference to the point in the Report. I think we worked out that the proportion of the underfed children to the whole child population in Provided Schools was about 7·7 per cent.

1516. Are any steps taken through the medical inspection conducted by the county council officer to find the ill-nourished children who are in need of food?—I do not think that any special steps are taken. It may come under observation from time to time, but the main body of the medical staff is entirely occupied in inspecting the eyes. There are casual visits by two or three whole time or half time medical officers, for many purposes, and underfeeding might occasionally come in under that; but as far as I know there has been no special enquiry in any school or in any way on this subject.

1517. And no special attempt has been made to deal with what are called retarded children as a class?—It depends on what you call retarded children.

1518. We have a definition of retarded children in the reference by which we are bound—"Children who, though not defective, are from mal-nutrition below the normal standard"?—I rather dispute that.

1519. We have a special direction to find out how those children are dealt with?—There has been no enquiry

whatever to ascertain in the case of children who are retarded, what the cause of the retardation is.

1520. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) It might be anything but food?—Yes, undoubtedly there are many more causes than food. Far more than anything else, it is employment out of school hours. That is the great reason why children do not take proper advantage of the instruction. They come to school tired; they have been distributing milk or newspapers, and all that kind of thing, out of school hours, and are unfit for learning.

1521. (Dr. Parsons.) Does retarded mean in educational or in physical development?—Educational.

1522. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) It may come from want of sleep or want of fresh air at home, and that sort of thing?—Yes, in very many cases.

1523. Bad clothing, exposing to chills?—Yes.

1524. (Chairman.) Would you wish to see these children collected into special classes?—The Board of Education some years ago required that there should be room set apart for backward classes as distinct from defective classes. To the best of my belief that order was never very largely or widely acted upon. It was carried out in one of the schools under my supervision, which Mr. Jackson knows so well—Northey Street, L'mchouse; but before very long the backward class became a defective class. It is extremely hard to discriminate. Our school management report gives extremely valuable information on the subject. It shows the average age for the whole of the children in each standard. Standard I ought to be 7½ or something of the kind, and Standard II, 8½, and so forth. It shows from the figures of each school what the actual age is, and from that you can see whether in any particular school the children in that school are of greater age than they ought to be, taking the average. I tested the Johanna Street average in that way, and I found that Dr. Eichholz's opinion, that the fact that the children did not get on, was due to mal-nutrition, was a mistaken opinion. They began badly. The children in Standard I were on an average quite a year older than they should have been, or more. But starting from that Standard I, they got on fairly well and the great majority got more than the annual promotion, one standard for each year, which is what we expect as the usual rate of progress.

1525. They rather made up for lost time than lost time after they came?—Yes; they did not lose any further time.

1526. We may take it that no special provision for feeding these retarded children exists at present in London?—No, none. No special enquiry has ever been made into the causes of retardation.

1527. (Miss Lawrence.) The periodical reports which you refer to are always filled in by the teachers, I believe, are they not?—Yes, by the head teachers.

1528. In no case by the Relief Committee, if such a thing exists?—No; they come straight from the head teacher; they are made up every Friday and sent in.

1529. Referring to the matter of the selection of the children by the teachers, do you come across much disparity in a school, the heads of departments recommending a rather different class of children, or do you think they act mostly in uniformity?—You find a good deal of disparity; you see cases where in one department they feed 100 children and in another department they feed only twenty, and that kind of thing.

1530. There are a certain number of those cases?—Yes, a considerable number. You will see at once by Appendix A, the great variety between the number of boys and girls in some cases. In some cases they are very uniform. We made special enquiry in Johanna Street on that subject. Mrs. Phipps went down to look into it, and her opinion apparently was that the larger number of boys was due to greater liberality.

1531. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) They come from the same families, do they not, generally?—Yes, generally.

1532. There was a statement the other day that there were a very small number of children in Johanna Street which come from the same families. I believe that was only got from a casual statement of the head teacher?—Yes.

1533. When I went to the other head teacher, I got about six times the number as the normal number?—Yes. When I was informed of that, I consulted Mrs. Phipps, who was the authority for the other figure. We thought that as Johanna Street had been so harried by inspection, and was so brought under the public eye, it was better not to make any further inquiry.

1534. (Miss Lawrence.) With regard to the cookery centres, in most cases can they provide the dinners, and keep, broadly speaking, to the syllabus which has been arranged for, or does it necessitate altering the course of instruction?—I do not suppose it necessitates that at all.

1535. Do you think in actual practice it happens?—So far as the cookery centres are used, they are used as at Merton Road, by giving the children whatever happens to be cooked on that day. I do not suppose that any instructress would take it upon herself to vary the syllabus.

1536. With regard to serving the meals in the cookery centres, do the teachers do that?—The instructress and the kitchen maid.

1537. Is that sufficient?—Yes, it is sufficient for a small number.

1538. Then it does not involve any of the children who have prepared the meal staying to assist at its distribution?—Not so far as I have ever seen; and I have seen what is done at Collingwood Street, at a street which used to be called Church Street, Kennington Road (it has a different name now) and at Merton Road. It has been entirely done by the instructress and the kitchen maid.

1539. I wanted to ask you with regard to Jewish children—I know that you have had some experience of those children—do you agree with what has been lately stated in an article by Canon Barnett, calling attention to the fact that Jewish children are rarely, if ever, underfed, because the first care of the parents is to feed their children?—I should have agreed with that yesterday but I cannot say quite the same to-day. I attended yesterday, on the basis of my experience of the Jewish Provided Schools in Whitechapel, where the necessitous children are most carefully provided for by Jewish managers dealing with Jewish funds, for the first time, a meeting of the managers of the Great Jews Free School of which I have been appointed a manager. They have never had a Relief Committee; they have never done much on the subject. The head master spoke very strongly about the very large number of underfed children that he had in his school, and the necessity for doing something. It is difficult there to find members for a Committee to make home enquiries or to do anything practical in the matter. It is a vast school of 3,000 children, and not one of the managers had been in the habit of visiting the homes, or has had such training as to enable them to make any useful enquiries.

1540. (Mr. Walrond.) The managers are mostly the richer Jews of London?—Yes.

1541. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Did you get the numbers who were fed in the free school?—I think that a figure was mentioned. There is, as you know, a large dining establishment close by, which is used by the old Castle Street and the Chicksand Street children. I have often been to the place, and it has never occurred to me before that there were hardly any free-school children there. I think the head-master said he sent about fifty.

1542. They give an odd ticket to the children, so that a child in each class gets one dinner a week, or something of the sort. Did you find out anything about breakfasts?—No.

1543. I understood from the master when I was there that, in addition to the dinner, there were something like 400 breakfasts given?—I do not think that breakfasts were mentioned.

1544. The head-mistress took a rather opposite line to the head-master as to the need of more meals. She said she had sufficient knowledge of the children to be sure that they were all properly looked after. Did you see her about it too?—No, I did not see her, she was not there; I believe she was not well.

1545. (Dr. Parsons.) Would not there be special difficulties in feeding in the case of a Jewish school? A Jew may not eat any kind of meat?—Their meals must

be provided by Jewish cooks. It must be a Jewish association altogether which takes charge of the matter.

1546. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Provided by the Jewish Association?—Yes.

1547. There is no difficulty with regard to that?—No.

1548. In Appendix A the Jewish schools show very small numbers being fed compared with those in the other districts, considering the size of the schools and the poverty of the undesirable alien, as he is supposed to be. Old Montague Street, for instance, is a very poor school?—Yes.

1549. And there are only thirty-seven children?—Yes.

1550. That is a very small number indeed, if you compare it with Johanna Street, which has seventy more on the roll, the number is enormously larger?—Yes.

1551. (Miss Lawrence.) Would you prefer to see fewer children receive more dinners, or the work being done as it is now, with an average of two dinners a week?—I would prefer to see more dinners and a full number of children.

1552. But supposing that could not happen?—I deny that it could not happen. 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.

1553. In cases with which you have to do, does the Joint Committee give advice to the Relief Committee or not?—Where we find that the number being fed seems abnormally small or excessively large, judged by the knowledge we may happen to have personally of the school or previous figures, we sometimes make inquiries.

1554. (Dr. Parsons.) What is the assigned reason why so few dinners as two a week are given?—The difficulty of organisation, I think, is mainly the reason, and the belief that the dinner is not the sole source of supply but a supplement to what the children already have. It is thought that if you can give two good dinners a week that is sufficient, and they have enough to go on with.

1555. Is it that they cannot get the funds?—It ought not to be.

1556. Or is it that they cannot get a sufficient number of people who are willing to give up their time to organising the dinners?—There is always a certain amount of difficulty about getting voluntary help, but there is an immense amount of voluntary help to be got if people set about it in the right way.

1557. (Miss Lawrence.) With regard to Wimbledon, is anything of the sort done there?—No.

1558. Is it necessary?—No, it is not necessary. I have never known a case of a necessitous child in Wimbledon.

1559. Have you any experience about any other part of the country?—No.

1560. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) The principal suggestion which you make, it seems to me, with regard to the future, is that more use should be made of these relief committees and that they should be made more active in their visits to the homes?—Yes.

1561. I see on page 7 of your memorandum "making all necessary enquiries to make sure that the children are really in want;" and then on page 2 "enquiry once for all is sufficient in some cases, while in other cases it ought to be repeated from time to time, to see if the distress continues." Are repeated enquiries made by any of the committees?—I think so.

1562. Would that account for the difference in some of the schools in Appendix A?—That would account for a variation of the total number fed and the average number fed. If you put fifty children on at the beginning of the season and then after a month or two the parents were in work and you struck them off and added

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forty or fifty more children whose parents were out of work, and so forth, there will be variation in the figures and the more enquiry there is the more variation there would be.

1563. You say on page 6 of the printed Report: "Every child on the register of underfed children was fed on the average for eight or nine weeks of the period during which meals were provided. No doubt there are certain schools in which a more efficient system would send in fresh children to swell the number." How would you send in the fresh children. Would that mean that you would find out changes in the circumstances of the families?—Yes. A man may be in full work in November, and out of work in January.

1564. That would be a reason for repeated enquiry?—Yes.

1565. Then you say that that would eliminate some children that are not really in want?—Yes.

1566. You say that the managers of two schools declined to appoint a sub-committee, on the ground that the teachers were able to select the children?—Yes. That is a survival. When the joint committee came into being at first, that objection was an extremely common one. Sixty or seventy schools absolutely refused to appoint sub-committees, on the ground that they already knew enough and did not want any further enquiries. Gradually we were them down with persistent expostulations and personal visits and occasionally getting the school managers absolutely instructed to appoint a committee.

1567. These two are the only survivals?—Yes. Those schools appointed committees before, but under the new influence, with the borough council managers, I am afraid they have taken up a rather hostile attitude.

1568. At Johanna Street is there a working committee?—A fair working committee. There are two members upon it who have been active in making enquiries.

1569. There is very great discrepancy between the numbers of boys and girls fed—137 boys and 39 girls?—Yes.

1570. Does the same Committee visit both of these departments?—No doubt.

1571. There seems to me such a tremendous discrepancy between a school like that and another school which you and I both know very well. "Northey Street" where there are nearly the same number of children; Johanna Street has 348 as its figure, and Northey Street has 96. Are the two schools the same in poverty; do you know Johanna Street well enough to compare them?—No, I do not know Johanna Street well enough for that, but I have been astonished at the small amount of relief at Northey Street.

1572. It is due largely to the influence of the managers, I suppose?—It is due to the views of the managers against giving relief of that kind.

1573. I found that the head mistress of the infant school at Johanna Street had lately been transferred from the infant school of Northey Street, and she informed me that the poverty of the two schools was much about the same; and the discrepancy was therefore all the more striking. You have no reason to suppose that Northey Street is not sufficiently fed, have you?—I should myself like to see more relief given in Northey Street.

1574. That is a case, then, where further inquiry might find fresh cases for the list?—Yes. Take Gill Street. For years they never fed a single child. The opposition has been rather broken down by the outcry about physical deterioration and increasing poverty. Last year they began to feed, and this year, they have 102 children. Dalgleish Street appears here for the first time as feeding.

1575. They used to feed in large numbers about 1894. Then we held an inquiry and eliminated nearly all the children, because we found they did not really need it. They are much better off than Northey street?—Much better.

1576. Collingwood Street I should have thought was just as poor as Northey Street or Johanna Street?—It is very poor, but not as poor as Northey street, I should think.

1577. The result of the examination that one can make of the lists is that at present we have not arrived at anything like an accurate gauging of what really ought to be done in each case, have we?—We certainly have not, and I think we never shall.

1578. The committees might do more?—The committees might do a great deal more; but there must be a large margin left for the personal equation of the people who distribute the relief.

1579. (Mr. Walrond.) When we see hot bread and milk in the list, does that mean for breakfast, or is it given in the dinner hour. Take for instance, Northey Street—"hot bread and milk prepared by the head teachers at the school." That is on page 20 of the printed report?—For a long time there has been a system in Northey Street, which I daresay existed in Mr. Jackson's time, of giving the head teacher tins of milk and boxes of biscuits, these being distributed according to his discretion.

1580. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) But that is in addition to such dinners as are given at Northey Street?—I cannot say. I had not noticed this before. I have not been to Northey Street lately. I did not inquire into the system on which the dinners which are reported are given.

1581. Grants are received from the London School's Dinner Association. That would not be for hot bread and milk, but for dinners?—The London Schools Dinner Association gives money, which the head teacher might expend on milk.

1582. (Chairman.) Only £2 15s.?—Yes.

1583. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) I see in this report on page 20, "Collingwood street—dinners at cookery centre." There used to be breakfast in the school. Are they still given?—No.

1584. Have they been dropped?—I do not think there have been any breakfasts since I have known Collingwood Street.

1585. A Manager used to give porridge every morning?—There was porridge at the Highway, but I do not remember porridge at Collingwood Street. It is quite possible that it is given.

1586. It was given in years past; I should not have thought it would be dropped, because it is the school in which he was greatly interested?—I could not say with regard to Collingwood Street.

1587. (Mr. Walrond.) The Joint Committee get weekly postcards from the teachers, you said?—Yes.

1588. Do these postcards report individual cases of special starvation or neglect?—No; they are merely printed forms sent to the head teachers, which they fill up every Friday afternoon, showing the number fed in the three departments during the week.

1589. How are those cases dealt with which are, or should be, reported to the society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children?—They might be dealt with by the Relief sub-committee. If the head teacher knew of such a case, he would very possibly bring it before the sub-committee, and they might decide to refer it to that society. It is extremely rarely done.

1590. In such cases, do you think it would be better that the report should be made to the Joint Committee, and that the Joint Committee should take action?—No. I do not think so. During the first or the second year of our existence we got some reports of the kind sent in. It is rather hard to recall the story now, but I know that we decided not to intervene in the matter ourselves.

1591. Do not you think that any representation made by your Joint Committee would have more weight than that made by a sub-committee?—Not more weight than from the people who know the local circumstances.

1592. You said that you saw considerable objection to any general system of self supporting dinners. Could you say, roughly, what those objections would be?—I think the objections would be the same kind of objection as exist against the Paris Cantine Scolaires. The self supporting dinners would gradually slide away into free dinners.

1593. At the present moment you try to charge a ½d.?—That is the arrangement in the particular case that I was mentioning. I organised that system for two schools.

1594. Only for two schools?—Yes.

1595. I think you told us that you found in some cases the payment of the ½d. made the parent think that he was paying for the dinner?—The parent said he thought so. I am sure it was not true, but he said so to the relieving officer. Dreading any intervention on the part of the relieving officer he gave that as his excuse for having allowed the child to get the dinner.

1596. Do you think it is a good thing to encourage that state of mind in the parent for the sake of getting the ½d. Would it not be better to have the dinner free?—No. I think it is very much better, if they cannot pay the whole, that they should pay a portion if they can.

1597. But, supposing that where they pay a portion they think, or pretend to think, that they are paying the whole?—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.

1598. Have you ever found that a well fed child has come with its ½d., and appeared to think it had a right to a dinner, because it brought a ½d.?—That could not happen in this case, because we put the children on the list, after careful individual enquiry. But well fed children go to all the cookery centres with their pennies or their halfpennies and buy whatever the instructors can give them for that price.

1599. Then they get the money value?—They get the money value.

1600. They do not get a 1½d. meal for a halfpenny in that case?—No.

1601. Do you think that people who now subscribe to Parochial Associations would be willing to subscribe to a central fund, administered by a Joint Committee?—I am afraid there would be great difficulty in getting the Parochial Associations to allow themselves to be absorbed.

1602. Do you think their objection would be mitigated in any way if you made the parish the unit instead of the school?—No, I do not think that would be the case.

1603. If you had a Parochial Sub-Committee instead of the school Sub-Committee?—It would be very difficult to have a parochial organisation hiring a hall or using a church room to supply dinner; allowing on'y those children from a neighbouring school to come who belonged to the parish. That would be a very invidious distinction and would be very difficult to carry out.

1604. What do they do now in these parochial associations? Do children from other schools come?—They generally send fifty or 100 tickets to the head master to distribute. The great difficulty has been to get them not to send in batches like that, but to send in reply to indents. We say, "Let the teacher send you an indent saying 'I have fifty' or 'twenty-five children who want to be fed: will you give me that number of tickets?'" It is an invidious position to put the teacher in. He may have fifty children on his list and only thirty tickets; and a mother says: "Tommy got it and my Polly did not." All sorts of nasty quarrels arise in that way.

1605. From that point of view it would be a great advantage if the parochial subscribers were willing to pay into a central fund?—It would be, undoubtedly; but my fear is they would not have the same enthusiasm and the same interest about a central fund as they would have about a local fund.

1606. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You were speaking just now of the country holiday fund. There they pay into a central fund through local committees?—Yes.

1607. Could not something of the sort be done with regard to the dinners?—Certainly it could be done if we had a *tabu'a rasa* to start with: as the country holiday fund had. The existence of old funds which are unwilling to be absorbed is the great difficulty.

1608. But still from the point of view of the advantage of organisation it is no doubt right?—Yes.

1609. With regard to the country holiday fund, that originally amalgamated with several old societies, and gradually took others in. We had not exactly a *tabu'a rasa*, but we had a much freer field than this?—Yes.

1610. (Mr. Walrond.) As a general rule when meals are cooked and provided on the premises, where are they cooked?—Generally speaking by the caretaker in his house, or in a shed adjoining the house.

1611. Are they served by him? Does he supply the cups and plates?—They are served by the caretaker with the help of the children in many cases, I think.

1612. (Chairman.) Your lists here are not quite exhaustive, I should imagine, as to the schools in which relief is being given. We went through the Referee Fund Books the other day and found six council schools mentioned there as receiving grants, the names of which I do not find in your list. They came in later in the year or late in Mrs. Burgwin's book. Possibly they may have come in since your returns were made. Then there were nine voluntary schools?—The list of voluntary schools does not profess to be complete. The list of provided schools would be if the head teachers carry out the council's orders, that they should report. I have always known that there were cases where they fed, and did not report, and every year we have caught up two or three. I am surprised to hear of such a large number as you state.

1613. I have the names here?—Would you give them to me.

1614. I will send them to you?—Thank you. I will have enquiries made about them. We do all we can to make the lists as complete as possible.

1615. (Mr. Walrond.) There are one or two cases where a school is returned as only serving one meal a week, in Appendix A; and in Appendix D it is put down as two?—I noticed that myself. We are making enquiries about it.

1616. (Miss Lawrence.) With regard to the associations which supply funds, how do you get them all to communicate with you?—We do not, I am sorry to say.

1617. With regard to those that you have got, is it voluntary on their part?—We get no communications except from the L.S.D.A. and the Referee Fund, who are represented on our committee. We get all the published reports like the East Lambeth and so forth, but no other communications.

1618. With regard to the Destitute Children's Dinner Society, in their report there are ten or fifteen apparently minor societies to whom they subscribe. Would you be likely to communicate with them, or would you take it from the main report?—The entries here are taken from the head teacher's reports.

1619. (Chairman.) The entries in Appendix E, which Miss Lawrence has before her, are taken from the large association's report?—Yes. There is a considerable amount of feeding of school children which is not done through the schools. Dinners are given, not in direct connection with any school, under what were referred to just now as parochial institutions.

1620. The children would not come to the meal with tickets given them through the school?—It would not be through the school at all.

1621. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) A child might get two tickets I suppose, one from each?—Yes, that happens occasionally.

1622. (Chairman.) It would be a question in fact whether some of these are "voluntary agencies for the provision of meals for children at public elementary schools" within the terms of our reference?—Yes. In one sense all children must come from the elementary schools. Mr. Bray, of Shadwell, feeds about 100 children every day, and that is not done in connection with any school. The Highway school closely has its own feeding arrangements.

1623. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Would he send tickets to the schools; or would he give them only through his district visitors?—The children there are admitted without tickets.

1624. Can any child come in?—There is someone standing at the door who is supposed to know the faces of all of them, and who sometimes refuses admission.

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1625. If a boy, having refused a dinner at the Highway because he did not want it, chose to go to Mr. Bray he would very likely get one?—Yes. He might possibly get a dinner at both places.

1626. (Mr. Walrond.) With regard to the Local Government Board order, you say "Where no school organisation or sub-committee exists, the order might be taken advantage of by the teachers, but we trust that in future no such case, which is tantamount to a defiance of regulations, will be permitted under the council." What ought the teachers to do in a case of that kind?—There ought to be a relief sub-committee. There ought to be arrangements in every school where there is a single necessitous child.

1627. You do not mean that where there is no sub-committee he ought to report to the guardians, instead of to the joint committee, leaving the joint committee to take action?—If he thinks there are necessitous children and no sub-committee has been formed, he ought to state his opinion to the joint committee.

1628. You think he ought not to communicate with the guardians himself?—Under present arrangements it would be better for him to do that than that nothing should be done; but I hope that we shall get to a state of things in which the case will not arise and that there will always be some organisation.

1629. (Chairman.) Has your report been received and considered by the county council?—It has been received and has received as much consideration, I expect, as it is going to get.

1630. In your recommendations at the end of your *precis* you say: "The joint committee should be invested with sufficient power to see that the system is properly carried out." Is that dealt with in the printed report? No; with great fulness, but among the seven forms we advocated, the fifth is that more power is required. The position of the joint committee under the county council is a very delicate one. I do not think it has been clearly understood, and I hope that it will be more clearly defined.

1631. (Mr. Walrond.) You have referred to the point under defects of the present system, on page 7 of the printed Report?—Yes.

1632. (Miss Lawrence.) With regard to members of your committee not appointed by the London County Council, is their appointment ratified by the council, or do they take no notice of whom you elect?—It is ratified, no doubt. At any rate, it is reported to the council that they have been appointed. It appears on the Education Committees' paper.

1633. (Mr. Walrond.) Could we be furnished with a copy of the minute of the 14th June, 1904, appointing joint committee?—No doubt that minute is available. I do not remember the exact form that it took.

1634. (Chairman.) Supposing that the county council as the education authority, made regulations giving effect to your suggestions, that would go a long way?—It would go a long way, so long as they appointed an executive body to see that the regulations were carried out. It is no use telling 1,500 head-teachers that they must do so and so. Some will misunderstand and some will

forget, and some will be lazy. Somebody must go round to whip them up.

1635. Then there is the recommendation "Power should be taken to regulate the connection between charitable associations and the schools." That means, in other words, that regulations should be made forbidding teachers and managers to accept aid in the schools without the permission or knowledge of the executive committee, or whatever it might be?—Yes.

1636. Do you anticipate any difficulty in incorporating the voluntary schools in the system?—I do not think there will be any difficulty, except that at present they are rather undisciplined and you cannot get the work done so thoroughly and so immediately as by the more disciplined head teachers of the provided schools; but they would fall into line in a short time.

1637. In that case the majority are not the appointees of the council, so that it would be more difficult to get the regulations carried out, presumably?—Yes, it is very hard to say how that would work out. The relation to the council of all the teachers in non-provided schools is rather obscure.

1638. Has any organised effort been made to bring the voluntary schools into line in appointing relief committees?—No; except that early last year we sent round to them the same instructions which had previously been sent round to the provided schools, and we asked them to fall into line and carry out the same principles, to appoint sub-committees and to send reports.

1639. (Dr. Parsons.) Are the voluntary schools represented on the joint committee at all?—No. In the school board's time there were representatives of these voluntary schools, although the school board had no authority over the voluntary schools. Now there is no representative of the provided schools as such, or of the non-provided schools as such. They are all under the council's authority.

1640. Would not you be more likely to get the co-operation of the voluntary schools if they were represented on the joint committee?—I would hope that they would come under the system of representative managers and be represented in that way, taking the schools as schools.

1641. (Mr. Walrond.) You would not like to have foundation managers represented as such?—I hardly think so.

1642. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Are any of the managers of the non-provided schools among the representative managers?—I have never enquired about that.

1643. (Chairman.) Have you anything you wish to add to your evidence?—I should like to add something on the subject of the *Cantines Scolaires* of Paris. The work done there was very highly praised in the School Board Report of 1889; and before the Physical Deterioration Committee it was spoken of in very high terms by Sir John Gorst and Dr. Macnamara. I do not know whether you would care to hear anything more about it. I do not know whether it comes within the scope of this inquiry.

1644. (Chairman.) I am afraid that it is beyond the scope of our inquiry. We are very much obliged to you, Sir Charles, for your evidence.

Mr. T. E. HARVEY, called in; and Examined.

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1645. (Chairman.) You are a member of the London County Council?—Yes.

1646. And one of the council's representatives on the Joint Committee on Underfed Children?—Yes.

1647. Have you any further special qualifications for forming an opinion upon the question of the provision of meals for children?—I have been engaged in university settlement work for more than five years, and have taken a good deal of interest indirectly through that work, in this and kindred questions.

1648. You are now resident at a University Settlement?—I am now deputy warden of Toynbee Hall.

1649. In the short *precis* which you have sent us you have indicated a few points in which you consider the

existing London system is defective. Would you briefly tell us about those points?—I feel, in the first place, that the system suffers very much from lack of adequate control by the central committee. We have no staff at the disposal of the committee for inspection or for carrying out the wishes of the committee, and no means of controlling the action of managers with regard to forming sub-committees. If they do not form sub-committees it is extremely difficult to compel them to do so. We depend to some extent on the actual work of members of the committee in going down to see a school where difficulty has arisen; and sometimes there is inevitable delay through not having any official channel of communication.

1650. How would you remedy this first defect?—I think that it should be made a statutory duty of the

managers to form sub-committees, and, I think, that the Central Committee should have some adequate permanent staff at its disposal for carrying out its wishes.

1651. With regard to any statutory change, it would certainly be beyond our powers to consider any such proposal. The question of providing your Committee with a staff might, I suppose, be dealt with by the County Council?—It might be. No doubt a recommendation by this Committee would strengthen the hands of the Council.

1652. Do you feel that at present the absence of any visiting officers is a great drawback?—I think it is a very great drawback indeed.

1653. What form should the appointment of those officers take in your opinion. Should they be women or men, and should they be half-time or whole-time officers?—I think it would be necessary to have one or two whole-time officers, certainly, for the actual work of inspection; and I should like to have them connected with the medical officers of the Council.

1654. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) What inspection do you mean?—They would have to see that the sub-committees were really working. They would be in touch with the teachers to see that the committees were existing in more than name. I think that sometimes committees are simply appointed and do nothing. I should like also to see the medical supervision extended to actual personal inspection of the children.

1655. To see whether they were underfed?—To see whether they were underfed.

1656. (Chairman.) At present, as I understand, nothing at all of that kind is done in London?—Nothing at all.

1657. Except sporadically?—No, we are extending the medical service, so that it is hoped that in the near future once a quarter every department will be visited, or rather every school will be visited. But I am afraid it will be some time before that is actually done, and it will only be a brief visit, not sufficient to help materially.

1658. Something could be done if the teacher called the attention of the medical officer to any cases which seemed to show mal-nutrition?—Yes, undoubtedly, a good deal could be done.

1659. Have you personally worked on any relief committees yourself?—Yes, in connection with Baltic Street School, of which I am a manager.

1660. Do you think that volunteer help is at present inadequate?—Very inadequate, I think. In this particular school we were very fortunate in getting a lady manager. We induced her to become a manager on account of the work, and got her to undertake investigation. If we had not had that help, most of the managers would have been quite unable to give the time to do it, and would have been really incompetent to do it properly. The lady is a trained and very capable social worker.

1661. Given equally capable persons, would you prefer the paid officer to the volunteer officer?—I should prefer it to be done by volunteer work.

1662. It is in consequence of the impossibility of getting sufficient volunteer help that you suggest the other?—That is the great reason; but I should in all cases try to get volunteer help to visit the homes. I think that the school attendance officers should be used very sparingly in that way.

1663. Would you prefer ladies to men for that purpose?—I think that ladies would be very much more fitted for it; and that is one reason why I should like them to be co-opted members. It is difficult at present to induce those who appoint the managers to appoint a sufficient number of ladies.

1664. The statutory provision at present you think is adequate for the purpose?—I think it quite inadequate. I think it very important that there should be co-opted members on the sub-committees of the managers, which deals with under-fed children.

1665. You find that there is a great difference in the mode in which the different relief committees conduct their work?—I think there is a very great difference both in regard to the managers and the teachers. You

get in the same school extraordinary differences in the point of view of the head teachers of the boys' and girls' departments.

1666. What functions would you assign to the teacher in this connection?—I should think that the teacher should in the first place draw attention to the cases needing help; and if the sub-committee does not meet, the teacher should always be able to give help in urgent cases at once without waiting for investigation. But when a child is permanently helped there should always be investigation, not merely by the teacher but by the managers.

1667. Would you associate the school attendance officer with that work?—I think that the committee might ask him to be present if necessary and ask him for information; but I should not like the parents generally to know that the school attendance officer had much to do with it.

1668. The school attendance officer would be a less disagreeable visitor in the home than the relieving officer, I presume?—I think so.

1669. Would you leave the relieving officer altogether out of account in this matter?—I am afraid that I have not really considered that. I think it would be very difficult indeed to work, because there is so much prejudice against bringing in the relieving officer. It would only complicate the work very much.

1670. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Would you ask the relieving officer for advice?—I think I would get his advice, without getting him to do the visiting; that would be more valuable.

1671. (Chairman.) You would make use of any information in his possession?—Yes.

1672. Without sending him round to inquire?—Without sending him round to inquire. I think that that should be done as in the case of the school attendance officer. I would use him for information rather than for anything else.

1673. Would you also welcome the presence of representative guardians on the joint committee?—I think that would be specially valuable. We have on this particular committee a manager who is also a guardian.

1674. You have found his or her presence useful?—Yes.

1675. What do you say with regard to the irregularity of the present system of food supply?—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 most cases where help is really needed I think it is needed right through the year.

1676. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do you say in most cases?—Perhaps; "most cases" is a little strong; but in very many cases. Of course there are seasonal trades.

1677. It is not merely the want of employment in the winter or the hardship of cold, but it is general depression?—I think it is the general circumstances of the family that are responsible as a rule; but there are always cases of out-of-work, and cases where illness in the family, or an accident to the bread-winner, creates the need. They might occur just as much in the summer—and very often do.

1678. (Chairman.) Take the case of a committee which is carelessly administered; does the list of relieved children diminish automatically as the year goes on towards Easter?—I think that the conventional practice is to stop all help at Easter; the committee automatically ceases to meet at Easter.

1679. Taking Easter as the terminus, would the number of children taking advantage of the meal fall gradually from the end of January to the end of March, say?—I think until very near Easter there is no considerable falling off.

1680. At present the termination at Easter is a sudden termination, then of a large organisation?—I think it is an arbitrary termination. There is a little break at the Easter holidays that makes it simpler.

1681. Do you feel that the meals should be supplied daily?—I think that they should be supplied on every

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Mr. T. E. day but Monday, and I am inclined to think that there should be some provision on Monday.

6 June, 1905] 1682. You mean every school day?—Yes; not on any other day.

1683. Not on Saturday?—We cannot do it. No doubt it would be desirable if the managers could arrange for it.

1684. It is, I suppose, in some cases done on Saturday?—Yes, in some cases it is done on Saturday, and in some cases on Sunday also by outside help; but really that is not the rule.

1685. There are cases in which where a special class meets for religious instruction on Saturday, the feeding is continued?—I believe so, but I have no personal knowledge of such cases.

1686. Have you any views as to where the meal should be served whether in the school or a neighbouring centre?—I think it entirely depends on the district—I think that in all cases where there is a cookery centre available if there are a small number of children to be fed the cookery centre is the natural and proper place.

1687. The objection to using a cookery centre would not be the same as the objection to using the school?—No.

1688. The smell of the cooking of the meal would be inseparable from the cookery centre?—Yes.

1689. (Miss Lawrence.) The only difficulty is the ventilation in the interval. If they are cooking all the morning, and dinners are being served between twelve and one and beginning again at two, there is not much opportunity to ventilate?—It means sacrifice at present, but it has been done. At Collingwood Street School the cookery centre has been used for some time very effectively for feeding children.

1690. (Chairman.) For what sort of number?—For quite a small number, thirty or so. And in special cases where the head master has found out, for instance, that a boy has had no meal at all, he has usually arranged to pay the price of the food, and the teacher in charge of the cookery centre has prepared a rice pudding or some suitable meal.

1691. That would be consumed at the cookery centre?—Yes, in the dinner interval.

1692. Would you prefer a sitting meal in every case?—I think so. In cases where midday meals are provided it is desirable.

1693. Have you any opinion as to the comparative advantages of breakfasts and dinners?—I would like to see a general supply of milk to all the schools in London, but I should not call that either breakfast or a meal.

1694. Would you develop that answer a little further?—I think that would meet a good deal of the difficulty with regard to mal-nutrition as well as the difficulty of under-feeding. A great many cases of children apparently badly fed are simply cases of children having been fed on improper material. Certainly in the east and north-east London, school children have very few opportunities of taking milk as a drink, and such milk as they take is too often bad or merely skimmed, or tinned milk.

1695. Would you provide the head teacher with so many gallons?—I think that would be the best method. To take Collingwood Street again, I think one of the managers for some years has provided about twenty-four gallons a week, half of it to the infant school and the remainder in equal amount to the boys and girls. Milk has been given to all the infants, and the head teacher in the boys department (and I suppose it is the same in the girls department) has given glasses to the delicate boys who have been picked out, calling them aside at eleven o'clock. A little group come to the head teacher's room and get the milk there. I should like to see that extended generally to all schools.

1696. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) To schools of a better class than Collingwood Street, which is a very poor school?—It is a very poor school. I think it might profitably be done even in better class neighbourhoods.

1697. (Chairman.) There is nothing I suppose to prevent that now if the relief committee chose to adopt it?—It has depended on an excellent manager who is inter-

ested in the work and willing to sacrifice himself to see it properly done. They have not been officially recommended to do it.

1698. (Mr. Walrond.) Is nothing but milk given?—Milk and a biscuit are given. I think that light solid food is desirable for physiological reasons, as well as the milk.

1699. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Would milk cost as much as a dinner?—Not if you take into consideration the preparation and subsidiary expenses. If it were supplied in large quantities we should have sufficient control over the quality of the milk to get over the difficulty of impure milk, which is one of the difficulties at present.

1700. (Chairman.) You would not give more than half a pint to a child?—No, not more than half a pint to each child.

1701. Does experience show that the children who need it will take it?—Yes; they appreciate it very much. The milk is warmed, and I think it desirable to have the milk slightly warmed.

1702. (Dr. Parsons.) Boiled?—Not boiled, but warmed.

1703. (Chairman.) Is that all the year round or only in winter time?—All the year round.

1704. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Have you any idea what it costs in Collingwood Street?—I do not know the cost, but I could find out and let you know, if it would be of any use.

1705. Would you extend it to all the schools in London, and all the children?—I would extend it to all the schools in London. 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.

1706. (Chairman.) Would the Relief Committee consider that a child who had half a pint of milk at eleven o'clock was fed?—No, I do not say that. Half a pint would help in the case of a child improperly fed. In the comparatively small number of cases of children who have not had enough to eat, I should think more could be given.

1707. Do you consider that the school meal can do more than enable the child to profit by the instruction?—I think so.

1708. Could the school meal take the place of home feeding?—I do not think it is desirable that it should in any way, and I do not think that it could ever remedy improper home conditions; but it would certainly make the child less unhealthy and give it a better chance.

1709. One of your points is that up to the present time the question of the ill-nourished child has not been considered?—It has not been dealt with at all really, and the whole matter has been left without any strong guidance from the central body to the individual managers. It has very much depended on the individual managers.

1710. And without guidance from any medical opinion?—There has been no guidance from medical opinion. I should very much like to see it connected with the medical service. I think that is very important.

1711. (Miss Lawrence.) In the cases where the joint committee do not quite approve of the action of the relief committees or of the managers, do they give them definite advice, or do they merely note it?—Where there is no sub-committee they give them advice and urge them to form a sub-committee. Usually, after it has been sufficiently urged, they form one.

1712. The joint committee take an active part in trying to get their own views enforced?—Yes, as far as they can; but they have no power; they have only the power of influence.

1713. Have you any special views as to the amount of assistance it is advisable that teachers should give, either in the matter of selection or in helping the serving of the meals?—I think the teachers must help in the selection, but I think that when a child is permanently helped the responsibility should not rest with the teacher. The managers' sub-committee should take the responsibility of deciding in cases of that sort. In the matter of serving meals I think it is a very serious strain to put upon the teachers if there is any large number of children helped. In the case of milk, it could easily be done without

difficulty by the teachers, but if you give meals to large numbers than 20 or 25 or 30 children who can be served with meals from the cookery centre, it is too much strain on the teachers.

1714. With regard to the milk, would you suggest that the children should all have it in the class rooms before they disperse, or when they arrive?—I think they should have it in the class rooms or the halls. In one school the children get cocoa given in the hall on coming in, in the winter.

1715. Is that organised by the teachers?—That is organised by the sub-committee. The actual work is done by the teachers and the school keeper in this case, who prepares the cocoa without any remuneration at all.

1716. Do the teachers come a little earlier?—It is actually done in the first few minutes of school.

1717. (Chairman.) Would you give this milk to all the children without inquiry?—I should give it without inquiry to all the children. There may be a few cases of specially delicate children, who might not be able to assimilate it properly, but I think they would be the exception. I think it might suitably be mixed with hot water in some cases, especially for young children.

1718. You would not discriminate with the children as to which were to have the milk and which were not?—No. I would encourage them all round to take a small quantity.

1719. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Is that to be paid for from charitable sources?—If possible.

1720. In the case of people who are well enough off and merely do not nourish children with milk, which you think a good food, ought the charitable public to subscribe that help?—I think that an effort should be made. If we made a sufficiently large appeal, I think that the public would respond. I do not think that the resources are by any means exhausted. It is a mistake to suppose that we have reached the limit.

1721. But do you think we could raise money for milk for 800,000 children in London?—I should be prepared myself if necessary to make it a charge on the educational authority.

1722. (Chairman.) That is beyond our scope?—I think it could be done without bringing in the question of provision of meals.

1723. (Dr. Parsons.) Would your recommendation apply to every school, or only to schools in the poorest parts?—I should like to see it, at any rate in the first instance, in the poorer schools and ultimately in all schools.

1724. (Miss Lawrence.) You say refectories should be supplied where necessary in certain districts. What do you mean by that?—I was thinking of the contrast between the East Finsbury schools, which I know best, where we have the Alexandra Trust within easy access, and schools south of the river where there is no convenient place of that kind to which children can go. It is very simple in the case of the Baltic Street school.

1725. Would you suggest that these refectories should be established by the managers, or by the committee, or by whom?—That should be done by the Education Authority. We have done it in one or two cases already, I believe, but it is not at all part of the general scheme. In one case south of the river tables and urns have been supplied for preparing the meals.

1726. That is rather different from supplying a place?—In one case I think there is a refectory inside the school building.

1727. (Chairman.) A room specially intended for the meal?—A room specially intended for the meal. That should only be done where there is no suitable place outside and where the cookery centre cannot be used. I should not make it a general rule to have a refectory in the school.

1728. (Miss Lawrence.) You say "Where large numbers are fed at school, provision of paid supervision by Education Authority;" therefore you would have an outside officer altogether?—I think so, when you have large numbers. It is possible to pay the assistant teachers, allowing the head teacher to decide which teacher should attend, according to rota.

1729. In the matter of large numbers it would necessitate their being fed in the large hall?—Yes.

1730. Is there any objection to the school hall being taken up for that purpose, rather to the exclusion of its use as a playground for the children, which it is in wet weather?—Yes; it would be regrettable, but I should be willing to allow it if it were necessary in cases of large numbers.

1731. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You feel strongly that these relief sub-committees are the proper method of making the selection and of finding out the need?—Very strongly, I think it is very important that you should get them properly at work, especially if you have co-opted members.

1732. You say that at present it is difficult to get a good sub-committee because the managers are not appointed for that object?—Yes.

1733. The managers are appointed by the various bodies, borough councils and county councils, and are not appointed with that intention and are not trained people?—That is so.

1734. At Tower Street one of the best managers has ceased to be a manager and therefore is not available?—Yes.

1735. Is there any rule against co-opting?—Under the present regulations of the Education Authority a co-opted member would have no right of entry into the school; and I think that is very important.

1736. Selection, you say, should be in the first instance by the teachers?—Yes.

1737. And then you wish the committee to investigate?—Yes.

1738. How far can they investigate?—In the case of this particular school, on the committee of which I have served, visits were paid to the homes and enquiries made as to the family circumstances, and sometimes a second or third visit was made.

1739. By one of the members of the committee?—By one of the members of the committee, and also by a helper.

1740. You were fortunate in getting a good member of the committee to do it?—We got a good member of the committee to do it.

1741. That was mere chance, I suppose?—I induced the member to join, with that object.

1742. Baltic Street is a very small school, is it not?—It is a comparatively small school.

1743. The average number is only 500?—Yes; it is in a very poor neighbourhood.

1744. It is one of the smallest schools in London, practically?—Yes, excluding non-provided schools as well as temporary and special schools.

1745. All the children were able to be visited by this one lady?—Yes, with the assistance of two friends, possibly.

1746. At Baltic Street you gave breakfasts at the school as well as dinners at the Alexandra Trust?—Yes.

1747. What did the breakfast consist of?—Cocoa and bread and butter.

1748. Did the same children get dinners and breakfasts?—Yes, I think so in some cases. A larger number got breakfasts than dinners.

1749. (Dr. Parsons.) Milk in the morning, too?—No. In a few cases the head mistress has given milk to the children, but it has not been general.

1750. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Did the committee decide whether the child was to have both breakfast and dinner or only one meal?—I think the committee practically confined its work to the question of dinners.

1751. The breakfasts were an extra thing?—The decision as to breakfast was left to the teacher.

1752. The breakfasts were not under the relief committee at all?—Technically I suppose they were, but in practice they were under the teacher.

1753. The families of those children who had breakfasts and not dinners were not visited?—I think that that is so. They might have been visited.

1754. But not necessarily?—Not necessarily.

Mr. T. E. Harvey.

6 June, 1905.

Mr. T. E.
Harvey.
6 June, 1905.

1755. You said just now that a comparatively small number of the children had not enough to eat, when you were on the question of mal-nutrition as opposed to under-feeding. What do you mean by a comparatively small number?—I could not mention any figures, but my impression is that there has been a very large exaggeration of the number of children actually under-fed.

1756. Mal-nutrition you think comes from other causes?—Yes. I do not want to deny the existence of actual underfeeding. I think it does exist.

1757. But you think it is comparatively small?—I think the other is wider.

1758. Are we to understand that in Baltic Street, for instance, you made any distinction between the underfed and the ill-nourished?—No, I do not think that has been done.

1759. In making the inquiry, would the inquiry be directed to seeing whether the children were underfed or to seeing whether their parents were able to feed them?—I think to both. In one or two cases where it was thought to be better that the family should go into the workhouse, no help was given.

1760. Did you find on inquiring into these cases, that there was any appreciable number taken off the teachers' lists after inquiry?—Yes; a number of those that were originally suggested for inquiry by the teachers were not helped.

1761. Did they not want the help?—In some cases the parent wanted the child to be helped, but when it was explained that the funds were really charitable funds, and that the mother could provide food if she wished, she recognised that at once and did not press the claim.

1762. You did not find that there were any children who were not on the teachers' lists who ought to have been fed. You did not make any further inquiry?—We did not have any further inquiry; and there I think the importance of medical supervision would come in. I think that if we had more frequent medical supervision with this object in view, other children would be selected from time to time.

1763. Supervision to see whether they were ill-nourished or not?—Yes.

1764. You said something about the opinion of the masters and mistresses varying very much?—Yes, I can give an instance of the difference in one school between one head and another, from the report of the School Board 1898-99, a school near Goswell Road. Under the present headmaster there is no sub-committee, and no children are fed at all in the school.

1765. That applies to this year?—That applies to this year. The report in 1898-99 at page 47, is, that there must be much painful privation among the children, the teachers supplying a list of 124 children as underfed. That district has not altered for the better, I should say, in this interval.

1766. Six years ago there was said to be great need?—Yes.

1767. There was said then to be a great deal of privation, and now there is said to be none?—Exactly. I was there in the early autumn; I asked the headmaster about it, and he said that he did not think there was any need. But I felt that probably if there had been medical examination of the children, there would have been some who might have been found to be ill-nourished and even underfed. I think it very important that questions as to the sufficiency of food should not be put in open class. In the case of Baltic Street too, there is a remarkable difference. There we have just the reverse. In this case it is the managers who report. They say, "There are very few children who can be classed as underfed. The organizations are at present quite sufficient to supply the necessities." I do not think certainly we could say that now. I think we should find that there are a number of children who are underfed.

1768. You have been feeding the children this year?—Yes.

1769. (Dr. Parsons.) What do you regard as the cause of mal-nutrition apart from under-feeding?—I think possibly to some extent mal-nutrition is one of the indirect results of bad home conditions. It is also very

largely due to the unsuitable food that is given to children by their parents. They are given solid food very early and they get into the habit of liking highly seasoned food. Rice pudding is not at all a popular thing, or a good simple soup. The children like such things as fried fish and potatoes.

1770. And pickles?—Pickles are very popular.

1771. To deal with mal-nutrition as opposed to under-feeding, you would consider medical examination necessary in each individual case?—Yes.

1772. Each child should be treated as an individual patient?—Yes. I think that possibly inspection by a nurse, under the supervision of the medical officer would meet the need very largely; most of the difficult cases could be dealt with in that way.

1773. Would it be advisable to have periodical weighing and measurement of the children?—I think that would be very desirable indeed. Some standard should be adopted which could be applied to all the schools throughout the county.

1774. A standard is an average; but a particular child might naturally be below the standard?—That is possible.

1775. If you found that the child was gaining in weight that would show that it was being nourished?—Yes. I think that periodical weighings and measurements are very desirable.

1776. What do you mean by suggested improvement 6: "If the question is to be dealt with on a physical basis it will be necessary to establish a standard upon which the various physicians supervising the work are agreed." Would you mind explaining that?—I think that if you did not have a working average agreed upon, you might have in one district a physician saying that the child was undergrown and of improper size and weight for its age and an entirely different view taken by a physician in another part.

1777. But people do not always conform to the same standard. The average height of children at seven years may be a certain figure, but you cannot say that because a particular child is not of that height therefore it is ill-nourished?—No, not necessarily.

1778. I do not quite understand your suggestion. You cannot say that there is a standard of height and weight which every child ought to conform to; and I do not see what else your suggestion means?—I think that there ought to be definite correlation of the work of the different divisional doctors under the superintendence of the chief medical officer of the Board of Education.

1779. Do you consider breakfast or dinner the more important meal of the day, if only one is given?—I think that if only one is given, dinner is the more important of the two.

1780. You would rather have it given five days in the week to the children who are most in need of it, than a few days in the week to a large number?—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.

1781. (Mr. Walrod.) Your remark as to your wish to see certain children carefully and systematically fed as compared with giving relief to a large number of children, does not apply to the milk?—No, I should like to see that universally given.

1782. You base that on your wish to improve the general physique?—Yes. It can be done without lessening the home responsibility in any way.

1783. You do not suggest it to relieve distress?—No.

1784. One of the objects in proposing that milk should be provided in a school is that a parent, even if he wishes it, can hardly get really good milk?—Yes, at present it is very difficult to get good milk in the poorer districts.

1785. At the cases where you at present feed are the meals given free as a rule?—Yes, they are given free.

1786. There is not even a small sum charged?—No.

1787. What is your opinion as to the wisdom of charging something?—With regard to Baltic Street, for instance, the dinners are given outside the school. I think that if the dinner is given in the school it is desirable to make a charge where the parents of the children can afford it. We only give tickets where the parents cannot afford it.

1788. You do not think that there is an invidious distinction between the child who brings his halfpenny and the child who gets his dinner free?—I do not think so.

1789. You do not think that the payment of a small sum tends to make the parent think that he is buying the dinner?—I think they feel that they have a right to it if they pay anything for it. They do not realise that part of it is paid for by others.

1790. You think that they generally do not realise that?—I think so.

1791. (Chairman.) Would you like to see a system of school dinners at a price, say of one penny or two-pence, tried as an experiment?—I should not like to see it done generally for all children in the schools. I think it would be very disastrous to home life to have the home dinner done away with.

1792. Would it not ensure that the children who attended school received wholesome food?—Yes. But I think that the ultimate harm from the breaking up of home life would be greater than the amount of good done by the food.

1793. You mention in your *precis* the part taken by divisional clerks in the work of Relief Committees?—It is a suggestion for future organisation. I do not want to extend the functions of the divisional clerks. We have not any complete system of inspection under the Joint Committee. The correspondent is used to communicate with the managers.

1794. You are not in your *precis* referring to anything that now takes place?—No.

1795. You are rather putting in a caveat for the future?—Yes.

1796. Do you see any difficulty in dealing with the voluntary schools?—One of our difficulties is that we have no authority at all to communicate with the voluntary

schools. We simply ask them to send in returns if they will be good enough to do so, and where they are willing to they are then put in communication with funds. But we have no means of compelling them to send in a return and no means of compelling them to form sub-committees.

1797. When you say "We" you mean the county council?—I mean either the county council or the Joint Committee.

1798. Have you considered whether any intermediate organisation between the Joint Committee and the schools could be constituted, such as, for instance, in connection with the area of a borough, which could enlist local help and stir up local interest?—I think it might be possible to get a certain amount of funds from local sources in that way, which would not be available to a central fund.

1799. Does that strike you as a possible means of obtaining more money?—I think that money might be raised in that way. If the local body consisted very largely of co-opted members of managers sub-committees and people of that character, it would be very useful.

1800. There are one or two associations which seem to work more or less on borough lines?—Yes.

1801. Holborn and Southwark, for instance?—Yes.

1802. Have you anything to add to your evidence?—Nothing beyond perhaps a point with regard to the managers, sub-committees. I think that the sub-committee of managers should be made the centre for a good deal of other work closely connected with this, such as the supply of clothing and the care of families in illness.

1803. That is outside our reference?—It may be indirectly connected, but I think it is very closely connected.

1804. You consider that it would stir up more interest?—Yes. I think that the country holiday work should be connected with the sub-committee. They would know most about the lives of the children.

1805. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) There would be further information?—Yes, they would all help each other.

1806. (Chairman.) You would bring into focus all the philanthropic work that is done in this connection?—Yes at present you may get overlapping, and you do get overlapping, through the work being done independently

Mrs. EUGÉNIE DIBDIN, called in; and Examined.

1807. (Chairman.) You were for many years a member of the London School Board?—Yes—for six years, I think it was.

1808. You are the founder of the Holborn Schools Dinner and Aid Committee?—Yes.

1809. And you have, from the foundation in 1899, continuously administered it?—Yes.

1810. What was the original area over which the Committee was intended to work?—The Parliamentary area of the Holborn division, which is now practically the Borough.

1811. At present the work of the committee is confined to the Borough of Holborn?—Yes.

1812. You have rather a large committee. Does the committee actually meet?—Yes.

1813. Periodically?—Once a month.

1814. I have your report for 1903-4 before me?—I have the last one if you would like to see it. It is only just type-written.

1815. You will let us have a copy of the latest one in the course of the next few weeks perhaps?—Yes. I thought you might like to see this. It shows the food that was given to the children in Drury Lane.

1816. A mentally defective class is being worked at the school?—Yes.

1817. It has no connection with the day industrial school as such?—No. The paper gives a fair idea of what the children are being given to eat.

1818. You had five schools on your list in 1903-4. Are there the same number at the present time?—I think so. There may be one more.

1819. Five schools and the mentally defective class?—Mrs. Eugénie Dibdin.

1820. It is the same number as before?—Yes.

1821. I think that we might take your *precis* as giving us your evidence in chief, and we will ask you questions upon it?—Certainly.

The following *precis* of evidence was handed in.

A.

1. Agencies are centralised, and overlapping impossible.
2. The Borough Council has for the last two years granted the free use of the Town Hall for a concert organised by the committee for raising funds.

3. The meals are free.
4. All children in want of food, who attend the schools in the Borough of Holborn, both L.C.C. and voluntary are fed by the committee.

5. The children are pointed out by the teachers, cases are investigated by the school visitors, members of the school sub-committee, who are managers of the school, and who visit the homes of the children to ascertain the parents' position, means, etc.

6. The meals are served, at two of the schools, on the premises. Others are catered for at Lockhart's and parish soup kitchens, the committee paying expenses.

7. Central committees are more useful for the direction of the work. Large numbers of children are cheaper to feed than a small number.

8. The committee is a permanent one.

B.

1. About £200 a year roughly. The working expenses are very small, all the money being spent on food. (See Reports.)

- Mrs. Eugénie Dibdin.
6 June, 1905.
3. The cost varies according to the number of children, but an average of one penny halfpenny is a fair estimate of the cost of each meal.
 4. The *Referee*, London School Dinners Association and local efforts.
 5. No difficulties in raising funds.

C.

1. The meals given are dinners—In special cases milk is given by the teachers to children requiring it, paid for out of the funds allotted to the particular school. (For B. C. see Report for 1899-1900.)

D.

2. Three days a week, in some cases four days.
3. Parents generally manage meals for Saturday and Sunday.
4. From the first touch of cold weather to Easter. A few children require to be fed longer, but the majority from various causes, do not seem to need it.

E.

1. There is only one mentally defective centre in the Holborn Borough, lately established at the Drury Lane Day Industrial School. The children were fed during the winter by the Holborn Schools Dinner and Aid Committee.

I cannot suggest a better arrangement than the organisation of the Holborn Schools Dinner and Aid Committee, which has been at work for the last six years and has been found satisfactory.

1822. I see that you say that overlapping in Holborn is impossible. That is a very satisfactory thing?—We have done away with all the small feeding committees that used to be there, and have placed the entire question of feeding upon the committee. There is no small body which gathers funds for that purpose.

1823. Have you succeeded in absorbing all the little parochial agencies?—Yes; but we use the premises in feeding the children who are paid for by the committee.

1824. You have brought together on your Committee all the clergy and ministers of other denominations?—Yes.

1825. So that you can really say that the threads are all in your hands?—Yes, they are.

1826. Are any of your meals given in rooms belonging to the county council?—Only in one case, and that is Saffron Hill, where the old authority, the School Board, allowed me to have a room at the top of the school fitted up as a kitchen.

1827. Is it the rule of your Committee that all meals should be free?—No; in some cases we encourage the children to give small sums, and we do that by means of a box, in which the children can put in whatever they can afford at the time. Nearly all the local subscriptions, certainly those at Saffron Hill, are mostly given in half-pennies.

1828. The payments of the parents and the children would appear in your account under the head of "local subscriptions."—They would.

1829. You do not have any system under which parents, who wish it, can obtain a meal for their children by payment?—Yes; but it is not taken very much notice of by the parents. Those who can feed their children generally do so.

1830. They prefer to feed them at home if they can afford to?—I think so. Generally we charge them a penny.

1831. It is possible for parents in Holborn, if they desire a meal for their children, to obtain it for a penny?—Yes, and the children have it at the school or wherever the others have it.

1832. They have it with the other children?—With the other children.

1833. To what extent is that taken advantage of?—Not very much; there are very few cases.

1834. Where would payments made in that manner appear in your account?—A child would bring its penny to school and put it in the box.

1835. That would appear as "local subscriptions"?—Yes.

1836. How are the children selected in order to obtain the benefit of your meals?—The teachers notice the children who require it most, and they inquire. Whatever the children may say, the whole thing is revised. A visitor generally goes to the home and finds out whether the child's tale is true, and if it is the child is put on the list.

1837. There is at every school a regular feeding list kept?—There is a regular feeding list kept, which is revised every week. Sometimes a man may be out of work on a Monday, and for that week the child will be fed. Very often the child on Friday may say, "I shall not want the dinners next week." That child is then taken off the list, and a new child may come on.

1838. Would the provision depend on the report given by the child in answer to inquiries by the teacher?—The cases are always inquired into by one of the visitors.

1839. Can you inquire weekly into every case?—Generally so.

1840. Have you a large army of school visitors?—We have the official school visitors, to begin with.

1841. The attendance officers?—Yes, they only deal with the very difficult cases that we cannot get hold of. We have a sub-committee of managers, and two of them are generally told off to visit the homes—those who have a liking for the work; and then of course the teachers do a good deal themselves.

1842. How far do you think teachers could go in that direction. Do you expect them to do more than indicate who the children are who *prima facie* want help?—I think that generally of their own accord they do a great deal more than that. They visit the homes a good deal.

1843. Do the teachers, in the case of Holborn, live near the schools?—No, they live at a distance, but they go after school hours, or from 12 to 2.

1844. Would they be head teachers or class teachers?—I find that the head teachers do it in Princeton Street.

1845. In the case of each school you have a sub-committee?—Yes.

1846. How is it constituted; is there any hard and fast rule?—The head teacher and some of the managers, generally about six, are on each sub-committee.

1847. Do you get ministers of religion and district visitors from the parishes to work on the Committee?—A good many of the managers are people working in the parishes, and the clergy.

1848. The meals are in two cases served at the schools, and in others elsewhere. Have you any preference for one system over the other?—I much prefer meals served on the premises, because Lockhart's at best is rather rough-and-ready. We like to teach the children manners as well as to feed them, and we cannot do that at Lockhart's, as there is rather a rush.

1849. Do you consider that there are obvious drawbacks to having the meals at the school?—We do not find it so where meals are served at the school.

1850. Do teachers prefer the schools?—In most cases I think they do, because it prevents the necessity of children turning out on a wet day for instance, and getting wet clothes and wet shoes. They prefer by far having meals served on the premises.

1851. But there is a certain amount of mess and difficulty in ventilating the rooms?—As soon as the school is cleared, the windows are opened. The girls lay the dinners. At Saffron Hill it is so. We have imported table-clothes, which the girls themselves wash, and they all help in clearing up.

1852. Where is the food cooked?—In the kitchen at the top of the building.

1853. There happens to be a kitchen there?—There is a kitchen there. We pay the school-keeper for cooking the food, and he buys all that is necessary.

1854. He acts as purveyor?—Yes.

1855. In the other cases some go to Lockhart's?—Yes.

1856. Have they special arrangements made for them there?—They are generally all in one room. Children from the Roman Catholic school of the Holy Family go to Lockhart's. The priest supervises the arrangements.

At Great Wilde Street the same thing is done. There is a lady visitor who generally goes with the children to see that the meals are properly served and that the children get enough.

1857. Do the teachers go with the children in either of those cases?—No. Generally somebody pays surprise visits to make sure the children are being given what we expect them to have.

1858. How do they know at Lockhart's which are the children who should be supplied?—They have a list and we supply tickets.

1859. The ticket might possibly be changed by the children on the way?—I do not think that is done.

1860. Do you think it is reasonable to ask teachers to give their time to superintending a meal in the middle of the day?—I should not ask for it as of right, but I find they do it willingly on their own account.

1861. And without impairing their work?—I do not think it impairs their work. They do not do too much, and so impair their work or their capability of starting again after dinner.

1862. There would not be more than one relay of scholars feeding in any case?—That is all.

1863. It would only occupy about half an hour?—About that. The only big school that is fed is the Italian school, and they have nuns there to undertake the whole work.

1864. Are they fed at the school?—Yes, at the school.

1865. Do you find that you are able to get up regular local interest in this matter?—Up to now we have not tried. We have had the two sources of income, if I may say so, the *Referee* and the London School Dinners Association. I wanted to make it self-supporting. We have made a good beginning so far as local subscriptions are concerned now.

1866. Do you find that the borough of Holborn is too large a unit?—No, I think it is just about the right size to work comfortably.

1867. Are these schools the only schools in the borough?—There are others, but they do not require help.

1868. In no other school besides these six in Holborn is it necessary to have any special provision of meals?—No.

1869. There are four council schools in this Report: Great Wilde Street, Princeton Street, Saffron Hill, and Tower Street?—Yes.

1870. You attach great importance to the permanence of the organisation?—Yes.

1871. Many organisations die, and may not come to life again?—I think that when they die they do not come to life again.

1872. As to the sums expended, the account for 1903-4, which I have before me, shows receipts about £80, of which £50 came from the *Referee* Fund, £15 from the London Schools Dinner Association, and £22 from local subscription, that is to say from concerts and donations. Does the account for this year show some difference?—It shows a balance on the concert fund of £21, I think.

1873. You did not get anything from the London Dinners Association?—We did not ask them, because they are rather hard up.

1874. You were able to carry on this year without the help of the London Dinners Association?—Yes.

1875. Do you look to increasing your subscription list?—I hope so, certainly this year.

1876. Do you anticipate any difficulty this year in getting such money as you want?—I do not think so. We had to make the Committee known before we could ask the neighbourhood. Now that it is getting much better known, we expect more local help than we have had up to the present.

1877. Are you able to interest the borough council in the matter?—I hope to do so. They generally attend the concert. The last time the mayor came in state, which of course pleased the children very much.

1878. You would get the imprimatur of the mayor and corporation to your appeal for funds?—Yes, I think

so. The mayor this year, for the first time, subscribed a guinea; but his name as mayor is not put down.

1879. (Mr. Walrond.) When you spoke of making this self-supporting, you meant by public subscriptions?—Yes, to release the *Referee* Fund and the London School Dinners Association altogether.

1880. You do not mean by making the parents pay?—No; but later on, if I had space in which to cook the dinners, I would make the parents pay as far as possible. There is a section that is too poor to do so.

1881. By self-supporting you mean supported by Holborn itself?—By Holborn itself.

1882. (Chairman.) Are the meals you give mainly dinners?—In some cases the children have milk.

1883. I mean as opposed to breakfasts. Have you any system of giving breakfasts?—We found they would not eat them.

1884. You actually tried breakfasts?—We actually tried breakfasts. The children live in stuffy rooms as a rule, I suppose, and have no appetite. They enjoy their dinner.

1885. How did you try the breakfasts?—The teachers offered to the children bread and milk or porridge, and they would not have either the one or the other.

1886. For how long did that last?—It was just at the beginning.

1887. In 1899?—Yes.

1888. Experience showed you that it was not appreciated?—It was not appreciated at all.

1889. Is the milk that is given provided by the funds?—Yes.

1890. In what shape is it distributed?—They give every sickly child a tumbler of milk, and biscuit sometimes.

1891. Are the teachers empowered to send for milk?—They have a perfectly free hand.

1892. There is not an allowance of so much milk each morning?—No. We give them the funds and they buy what is necessary and report to us, with the vouchers.

1893. (Dr. Parsons.) Do they buy the milk as it is wanted, or do they have a certain amount each day?—As it is wanted. The schoolkeeper provides it.

1894. From a neighbouring shop?—From a neighbouring shop.

1895. (Chairman.) Is there any rule as to the number of days on which meals shall be supplied?—No. Some like to give it on more days. The defective children are fed every day in the week they are at school. Some find three days a week sufficient.

1896. If it is three days, which days are selected?—They generally choose Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

1897. We have been told by some of the witnesses that Monday is a day that can be dispensed with on the ground of the Sunday dinner?—It would depend a good deal on the neighbourhood. In Saffron Hill district they want feeding on the Monday quite as much as on the other days. They generally eat what there is to be eaten on Saturday and Sunday.

1898. Would your Committee as a rule be in favour of four days or even five days a week?—If they could afford it, I think they would.

1899. Would they prefer the giving of meals regularly to a few children rather than occasional meals to a larger number?—Up to now we have taken the very poorest who cannot get a meal at home; we have taken those in preference to those who go short because their mothers are too lazy to cook for them. We do not want to encourage that. We have brought down the amount of feeding from about 40,000 meals to about half that simply through the supervision brought to bear on every case.

1900. The 40,000 was at the beginning?—Yes. We took up the work done by other agencies and carried it on until we had time to weed out the cases.

1901. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Are you satisfied that you are getting all the cases?—I am satisfied that we are

Mrs. Eugénie Dibdin. getting all the cases. We are leaving, as far as possible, the undesirable ones outside. There are some who are perfectly well-to-do, but who like the dinner for the novelty of it; and it saves getting home to dinner, and leaves more time for play.

June, 1905.

1902. You think that the 20,000 represent all the need?—I think so. This year we had so many people out of work it was a very hard year, and that is the total.

1903. (*Chairman*) Your experience was that the winter was a very difficult one?—It was a very difficult one. It was difficult to get money; and for the parents it was difficult to get employment of any sort.

1904. For what period do you give the meals?—Until Easter. Sometimes we begin in October and sometimes in November. It depends upon the weather a good deal, and the state of local trade. If work is very slack, we begin to feed them then.

1905. You end at the Easter holiday?—Yes.

1906. Have you any provision for carrying on meals between those times?—Every school is left with a balance generally, and that is used in the summer for the children who require help.

1907. Does experience show that not many require help in the summer?—Very few. The parents are in work generally then, and many of the children go hop-picking and fruit-picking, and while they are away do not require to be fed by us, of course.

1908. The teachers would maintain careful observation of the children?—Yes.

1909. And would report any case of necessity?—I know they would.

1910. The Committee as such does not provide meals?—We leave it to the discretion of the teachers; that is partly why we leave a balance.

1911. Do you require the teachers to keep registers of the children who are fed?—They only keep a list.

1912. A nominal list?—They keep the name of every child who is fed.

1913. And also a register of the number of times it is fed?—We generally know. Each one has its own system. The only one that does it four days a week is the St. Peter's Italian School.

1914. Would they feed everybody on the list on each of the four days?—Yes, I think so. They have a great many children there.

1915. A defective class has recently come into your borough?—Yes.

1916. And there you have a system of meals for all the children?—For all the children. Very few do not stay for dinner.

1917. They come from considerable distances; that is one reason?—Not only that; they are as a rule very delicate children.

1918. From very poor homes?—Yes. At the end of the session they always look better. They look plump and well.

1919. Are special efforts made to get payments from the parents for the meals in those cases?—Generally the teacher tells me that she cannot get anything because the parents are too poor.

1920. In those cases I suppose the children are almost all fed free?—They are entirely.

1921. We have had evidence that in the cripple schools and in some of the mentally-defective schools there is a system under which a meal is provided, for which, as a rule, the parents pay?—I do not think it is the case at Drury Lane. Not many of them could pay. The children come from a wretched class of home, and it is very difficult for them to get food.

1922. There it is a very small class, is it not?—Yes, twenty-four.

1923. Is what is being done likely to be continued?—It depends upon the Board of Education.

1924. But as a committee you are contemplating going on with the work if the class remains?—Yes, if the class remains. They are very comfortable.

1925. (*Miss Lawrence*.) I see that the average cost in one case works out at a penny and in another it goes up to twopence. Is that entirely owing to the difference in numbers?—Yes. We send the Princeton Street children to the St. Alban's schools. There they have a soup kitchen, and they supply an excellent meal for a penny.

1926. At Saffron Hill, where you have as large a number as 3,000, it works out at a 1½d.?—Yes.

1927. Do you attribute that fact entirely to the difference in numbers?—I do not think we could possibly give the children a meal such as they have at St. Alban's for a penny.

1928. What do they have, roughly speaking?—Once or twice a week very good meat, soup, and fish; Irish stew; beef steak pudding and vegetables; and suet pudding when they have soup and fish.

1929. I suppose they do not have meat soup every time?—One day meat soup and fish, and next day Irish stew and vegetables, and bread and jam afterwards.

1930. Do you find that the visitors who make the inquiries are pretty uniform in their results?—Yes.

1931. You do not find that one takes a higher standard than another?—I do not think so.

1932. Have you any means of comparing?—We have the one north and the one south.

1933. Do members of the committee visit the homes?—Yes; but where the homes are too bad, as in Seven Dials and where we should not like to go, the school attendance officer makes inquiries.

1934. Have you any whom you call visitors outside your committee?—I think they are all managers.

1935. But not of necessity on your committee?—Not of necessity. Quite a dozen are not on our committee. A representative is nominated in each case. They are members of the sub-committee as a rule.

1936. The school as a whole sends a representative?—Yes.

1937. And you give that school a grant?—Yes.

1938. The initial inquiry is made by the teachers?—Yes, supervised by the managers.

1939. Have you taken into consideration at all the question whether the cookery centres could supply dinners?—I think it would be very much better for the cookery centres to supply them than for food to be wasted, as it very often is.

1940. You think it feasible for the cookery centres to supply them?—I think it feasible for them to do so, but not on a very large scale.

1941. What number would you put it at?—Forty. Take, for instance, Princeton Street.

1942. I was thinking of that. Would you suggest that the meal should be served in the cookery centre or sent to a big room in the building?—I think it better to have it in a big room in the building, if possible in the hall. If that is not possible we can generally clear a classroom.

1943. Would there be any objection on the part of parents, do you think, to the children who are learning cookery preparing these meals?—I do not think so; but you would have to revise your cookery. What is cooked now-a-days would not do for the children.

1944. Do you think there would be any particular objection on the part of the parents?—I do not think so. You always find parents who like to make themselves unpleasant, but I think they are in the minority.

1945. You say that roughly your expenses are £200 a year?—Yes. It varies. In some years it has been over that, and in some years it has been much less.

1946. I see that last year it was £148?—Yes.

1947. Although last year was an exceptionally bad year?—Yes.

1948. You allow yourselves a very good margin?—Yes. As I have said, there may be a necessity for feeding in the summer, and the balance is applied in that way. If it is a very bad summer, house decorators, painters and so on get out of work.

1949. This covers the whole year?—It covers the whole year.

1950. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson*.) Your visitors are drawn from the managers?—Yes.

1951. Do you find that in the Roman Catholic schools the sisters visit?—They do in every case there.

1952. Do you reduce the number of meals on the recommendation of the visitors?—We do not reduce the number of meals. We inquire into the circumstances of the family and the home, and if we find that the circumstances are such that the child certainly ought to be fed at home, we interview the parent and make him understand the position.

1953. It is on the recommendation of a visitor that you do that?—Yes.

1954. Great Wilde Street, I suppose, is not nearly so poor as Saffron Hill?—It is not to be compared with Saffron Hill. It is a different class of school.

1955. That is why you have such a small number with regard to Great Wilde Street?—Yes.

1956. When you took the work up were there many more fed at Great Wilde Street than there are now?—Yes.

1957. You found a lot of feeding going on which was not necessary?—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. It does not matter what the dinner is like, the children will go to school if they are going to get a dinner.

1958. (*Dr. Parsons*.) Saffron Hill is largely inhabited by Italians, is it not?—Little Saffron Hill is; but this is Great Saffron Hill, on the other side of Clerkenwell Road.

1959. Is any special cookery needed for the Italian children?—The Italians keep their children to St. Peter's, and there the menu is not nearly so heavy as would be required for an ordinary British school, because the children do not care for meat. They have cocoa, soup and fish, and macaroni of course.

1960. That is cooked by the nuns?—Yes, and served by the nuns.

1961. (*Mr. Walrond*.) Who decides the menu in the case of each school?—It is decided to a large extent by the workers in the parish, who know the children.

1962. It is not done by the Committee?—No.

1963. They have not a sort of rota with regard to the menu. I suppose there that is a change?—There is a certain amount of change. They do not get the same thing every time. I think there is a model menu which they ring the changes upon, mentioned in one of the Committee's Reports. They do not get the same thing two days alike.

1964. Have the menus been thought out with regard to medical advice as to what is the most nourishing food and best for children, and so on?—Yes. An officer of the Charity Organisation Society investigated the matter, and he objected to the Italian school because he thought they did not get enough animal food; but the children there will not eat much meat.

1965. Do the sisters besides cooking the food decide what is to be given every day?—Yes. We leave their sub-committee free to exercise its own discretion as far as possible.

1966. Some meals cost a good deal more than others. Have you no check on them in that way?—As long as the child is properly fed we do not mind much what it costs, if it does not cost over 3d. per head. If it went above that we should enquire why.

1967. You would not allow meat to be given every day, I suppose?—I do not think it is necessary if they have meat soup, for instance, to have a joint as well.

1968. If those in charge began to give a succession of meat meals, would the committee pull them up?—I think that the children would not stand it, because they are not accustomed to having it in their homes; you have to take that in consideration. Their diet is of the very lightest description. It is very highly flavoured, I believe.

1969. Do they like soup?—Yes, if it is nice and tasty. They do not like it if it is too much like beef tea. 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.

1970. (*Miss Lawrence*.) Do you often go yourself to these schools?—I pay surprise visits to know what kind of children are there and to check the lists.

1971. How often do you go?—About once or twice during the session, not more. I have found everything going on nicely, except in the case of Corpus Christi. There they had grown up people. We had to say that we could not go on paying for people who could get food otherwise if they tried. This statement was denied by the representatives, who subsequently resigned, on behalf of the school.

1972. (*Chairman*.) To whom do you pay the grants?—To the head teachers or whoever is the secretary of the sub-committee.

1973. The person would be designated by the sub-committee?—Yes, the cheques are in each case made payable to the person who looks after the money and has to answer to us for it. They have to bring a report once a month showing what has been done with the money—how it has been expended, and they have to produce the bills.

1974. (*Miss Lawrence*.) Who cooks at Drury Lane?—The school-keeper's wife. The county council pays for the materials, and lets the Committee have them at cost price, and we pay the county council back. That is the arrangement.

1975. (*Chairman*.) Is it passed through the county Councils books?—Yes.

1976. That is owing to the accidental connection with the Day Industrial School?—Yes. We have to be careful that the children shall not mix. They have to have their dinners before the others, and there are special arrangements in that case.

1977. Is there anything else which you can kindly tell us?—I do not think I have anything to add except suggestions.

1978. Will you make the suggestions which you have to make?—I am afraid it is rather a dream, but I should like Holborn to have two soup kitchens. We could send all our children to the soup kitchens if we had one at each end of the division, and the parents who were unable to cook the food at home because of being out at work, could buy the food for the children and it could be cooked there. I think that would be a great deal better than the cookery centre food. At present the food cooked there is much too high class, and is composed of what the children of working men would not get at home.

1979. (*Mr. Walrond*.) Who do you propose should provide the soup-kitchen?—I would propose that the borough councils should build them and run them.

1980. (*Miss Lawrence*.) Municipal soup-kitchens?—Yes, they have them abroad, and I do not see why we should not have them here.

1981. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson*.) Would you have the soup-kitchens open to all children who like to come there?—Yes, I would. In many cases the children do not get proper food because the mothers have not time to cook it or do not know how to. In many cases they are out all day and the child is sent to school, for instance, with a piece of sausage and a piece of bread and butter. That is all that the children get very often.

1982. (*Chairman*.) Do many of the children stay during dinner-time instead of going home?—Not very many. There are those who choose to have a light meal such as I have described, which does not take long, and then they run about the street till school hours.

1983. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson*.) With the soup-kitchen you would have to have a dining-room?—Yes, but it would not be difficult to arrange that. In Switzerland they have the kitchen near the school, and in many cases a building at the side as a dining-room. It is entirely done by voluntary contributions except that the municipality finds the building. Here, at most schools of course, there is a difficulty because of want of space.

1984. You would have the municipal soup-kitchens open not only to children, but to anybody?—Open to anybody. I think that would do away to a great

Mrs. Eugénie Dibdin.
6 June, 1905.

Mrs. Eugénie Diddin. measure with the underfeeding of school children. In many cases the homes are such that it is difficult to cook anything.

6 June, 1905.

1985. And cooking in small quantities is more expensive than cooking at a kitchen on a large scale?—Yes.

1986. (Dr. Parsons.) Would you suggest that it should be gratuitous?—No. I think that it could very well be made to pay. As far as we are concerned we could send the children; and on the other hand the parents could go there and buy their food.

1987. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Would you suggest that some of the food should be taken to the homes?—That would be a matter of organisation. It is not a recommendation I am making.

1988. Do you think that the shopkeepers would object? We have had evidence upon that?—I should say not. They would have to provide the things, just as they do now. There would be contract prices.

1989. It would be wholesale instead of retail?—Parish soup-kitchens are much the same on a small scale, and there is not any of the trouble with shopkeepers that you suggest.

1990. (Chairman.) Do you think that the borough division is a suitable one to follow?—I think it is much easier than any other.

1991. Have you any specially vivid local life in Holborn?—We know a good deal about the people's homes, but I do not think that we know more than is known in other divisions. The conditions are peculiar in Holborn. We have practically nothing but boarding-houses and hotels, where there used to be residences in the old days. In Lincoln's Inn, for instance, there are only caretakers at night. The life is difficult to get hold of in that particular neighbourhood. We are in touch with the clergy of the parishes and parish organisations.

1992. (Mr. Walrond.) How many parishes are there in the Borough?—Seven or eight.

1993. What would you make the unit?—I would have the arrangement that we have in Holborn. On the committee we have representatives of every shade of thought in the parish. They meet at my house every month; they are all good friends, and they have worked well for the last few years.

1994. It is in regard to the schools in the borough that you are really working?—Yes, you could not possibly keep a check on children coming from a distance. It is sometimes said that the size of the area that is covered is a difficulty. I cannot suggest a better arrangement than the organisation of the Holborn Schools Dinner and Aid Committee. I would cut London up into units and deal with it in that way.

1995. You think that would prevent overlapping?—Yes. I know that in some cases the children have come out of one place and rushed round and had a dinner at the expense of someone else.

1996. (Chairman.) That you found when you began?—Yes.

1997. Have you any other organisation trespassing on your domain?—No. Tower Street has held itself aloof for some time. It has a sort of charitable committee but most of the money is spent on treats. I do not call it a Relief Committee.

1998. Do you find that papers approach the schools with regard to getting up a fund, because getting up a fund is rather a favourite way of advertising?—No. We

have not been approached by any papers. We should hear of it at the meetings of the Committee.

1999. When you say that you would hear of it, you mean that the teachers would report it?—Yes.

2000. Do you make it a rule that teachers should not accept that kind of help?—I do not think they would do it. They are very loyal to the committee. It is really more theirs than it is ours. With regard to the concerts practically the teachers take all the trouble. The better class schools come and help at the concerts for the benefit of the poorer children. The entertainment is not entirely given by grown-up people. It is very representative of the schools.

2001. Do you think it likely to become an annual event?—I think so. The children are very fond of acting, and things like that, and look forward to it each year. I think the feeding sources should be brought into one big central committee, and that is why I suggest that the London Schools Dinners Association should be told off to gather in the smaller bodies, which in a way do a great deal of good; but I should call it misapplied charity. They do not cover the ground, but they overlap very considerably.

2002. Do you come into contact with the joint committee of the County Council for underfed children?—No.

2003. Some of the schools make returns to that committee, do they not?—Yes, I believe they do. They send the usual weekly card.

2004. Are the committees in your schools constituted under their rules?—My committees were all there when the memorandum was sent out.

2005. You mean that the ground was occupied already?—Yes. There was a slight modification. Managers were put on who were willing to take up that particular part of the work.

2006. You see no reason why the particular plan of which you have been speaking could not be adopted in other boroughs?—I do not see why not. The Referee and the London Schools Dinner Association would be willing to give the grants. Now the money is sent and a return is made of how it has been expended; but the kind of necessitous children who have been fed cannot be checked.

2007. Neither of those associations goes behind the word of the responsible persons?—No, and that is why an arrangement of the sort that I have described is more desirable.

2008. Any school in Holborn would receive its grant through you?—Yes.

2009. (Mr. Walrond.) Do you think that a borough committee is needed where there is a joint committee?—Yes. The joint committee cannot touch us.

2010. You want an intermediate body?—Yes, to take the trouble to report on the homes and find out the circumstances of the cases. I think if that was done generally the number would be greatly reduced. We found in Holborn that that was the case.

2011. (Chairman.) You would recommend a sub-committee in each school?—Yes, the school would be represented on the larger committee.

2012. You would not attempt to do the visiting work through the borough committee?—No, I would not; there are always volunteers to take up the cases. Anybody who volunteers to visit has to report.

2013. Have you any other suggestions to make?—No, I think not.

2014. (Chairman.) Thank you. We are indebted to you for your attendance.

FIFTH DAY.

Tuesday, 20th June, 1905.

PRESENT.

Mr. H. W. SIMPKINSON, C.B. (in the Chair).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.

The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE.
Mr. R. WALROND.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (Secretary).

Mr. JOSEPH R. DIGGLE, M.A., called in; and Examined.

2015. (Chairman.) You were for many years a Member, and for some years, Chairman, of the London School Board?—Yes, for eighteen years a member, and nine years Chairman.

2016. You are Chairman of the Council of the London Schools Dinner Association?—Yes.

2017. Will you tell us about how long ago that association came into being?—Sixteen years ago.

2018. What was the object with which the association was founded?—When I became Chairman of the Board I had many cases brought to my notice of insufficiency of food in the case of children attending schools, upon which we took counsel and formed a Poor Children's Aid Society. That would be 1886. That society was financed practically at the outset by contributions from readers of the *Globe* newspaper which provided us with the funds to carry on our work. We had for our aim not only the provision of dinners for underfed children but also the provision of boots for children who were shoeless and could not attend school on that account. That society worked for four years. We found that there were other societies practically doing the same kind of work, upon which I called a conference at the then School Board offices of representatives of all these societies for the purpose of seeing how far we could amalgamate. The result of that meeting was the formation of the London Schools Dinner Association. That association took over from the Poor Children's Aid Society the work of providing funds for the underfed children, and we handed over the clothing part of the work to a sub-section of the Ragged School Union, which undertook the work of providing shoes. At that time two societies held out from the combination; the one was the Destitute Children's Dinner Society and the other was the Board Schools Free Dinner Fund.

2019. Known as Mrs. Pennington's Fund?—Yes. They held out on two grounds. The Destitute Children's Dinner Society held out on the ground that our association did not propose to make animal food a constituent part of every meal. It is one of the rules of the Destitute Children's Dinner Fund that a certain proportion of the meal provided shall consist of animal food. We always left that an open question to those providing. The Board School Free Dinners held out on the ground of the payment by children for the meal. Since that time, I am glad to say that Mrs. Pennington's Society, that is the Board School Free Dinners Society, which was not only for free dinners but for children attending Board Schools, has joined the London Schools Dinner Association, and so practically all the societies existing when the association was founded have come in except the Destitute Children's Dinner Fund, which is outside.

2020. Have you since been able to absorb any other agencies which have come into being?—Only local agencies in detail as far as absorbing them by making practical use of them and financing them. The general result of a large association is to cripple small appeals. You see it in the King's Hospital Fund.

2021. Have you endeavoured to get help for the purpose by appeals through the local associations?—Only through the local committees. If the local committees

have found that they could not get the money, they have come to us for the money and they have been prepared to render service and to carry on the practical work of feeding the children.

2022. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) How many societies did you get in at first. What number actually were amalgamated at the start?—I have not the number in my memory. I can put in an account of the original meeting.

2023. That will be very interesting?

LONDON SCHOOLS DINNER ASSOCIATION.

At a Public Meeting held at the office of the School Board for London, on November 2nd, 1889, the following resolution was moved by the Right Hon. Sir William Hart Dyke, M.P., and seconded by the Right Hon. A. J. Mundell, M.P., and carried unanimously:—

"That it is desirable to form a central organisation to work with the existing organisations for the provision of cheap or free meals for the necessitous children attending the public elementary schools of London, with the object of ensuring a more economical and efficient system of making such provision."

A committee was formed to carry this resolution. It took steps at once to carry out the plan proposed in the resolution, and as a consequence the following communications were received:—

(i.) The Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, M.P., representing the Penny Dinner Council, stated that he was empowered to announce that the Council were quite prepared to hand over their balance and to merge their individuality into that of the Central Organisation.

(ii.) The Chairman read the following letter from Mr. Edric Bayley:—

"8th November, 1889.

"Dear Sir,

"I am desired to inform you that at a meeting yesterday of the Committee of the 'South London Schools Dinner Fund,' it was unanimously resolved:—

"That the South London Schools Dinner Fund unite with the proposed Central Organisation for the provision of cheap or free meals for the necessitous children attending the Public Elementary Schools of London."

"I was directed to write to the Press informing the public that the fund had united with the Central Organisation, and asking that contributors to the fund should send their contributions to the Central Organisation, and I was to make a similar statement and request on sending the Annual Report of the Fund to the contributors."

"(Signed) EDRIC BAYLEY, Hon. Sec.

"The Chairman of the Central Organisation for Cheap or Free Meals."

(iii.) The Chairman handed in and read a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Committee of the Poor Children's Aid Society, as follows:—

"34 and 36, Piccadilly Circus,

"6th November, 1889.

"Resolved.—That the Executive Committee of the Poor Children's Aid Society having been informed of the formation of a Central Council for

Mr. J. R. Diggle, M.A.
20 June, 1905.

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the provision of cheap and free meals for necessitous children, hereby authorise their Chairman to place at the disposal of the Central Council the whole of the organisation and property of the Poor Children's Aid Society, with a view to consolidating all the existing agencies for such purpose."

(iv.) Mrs. Besant forwarded a sum of £88 4s. 5d., balance in hand, on uniting her fund with that of the L.S.D.A.

(v.) Mrs. June's Fund
(vi.) Destitute Children's Dinner Society.
(vii.) The Board School Children's Free Dinner Fund.
(viii.) The Southwark Farm Home Dinner Fund.

These Societies, although not uniting with the Association, expressed their willingness to co-operate in their work.

2024. (Chairman.) The name of your society is the London Schools Dinner Association. Do you lay down any rule as to the meals which shall be helped?—No.

2025. Breakfasts will be aided just in the same way as dinners?—The local committee are left absolutely free to make whatever arrangements they think best.

2026. Will you tell us the working of the present association. You have an executive committee?—Yes.

2027. How often does that meet?—Once a fortnight during the session.

2028. Is it largely attended?—Yes.

2029. Would you describe the process by which a centre comes to receive your help?—First of all we communicate with every public elementary school in London. We work from the schools. In the old School Board days the forms used to be enclosed in communications sent from the School Board which saved us the postage. Under present circumstances a notice is put in the *London Education Gazette*. That goes to every school. They apply for a grant. We send them down a form, which I can put in, upon which they tell us first how many children they desire to make provision for, what local resources they have, how often they propose to give the meal, where, and what sort of meal they propose to give. Then follow the names of the local committee. There must always be on that local committee a teacher and a manager, and the committee must consist of never less than three.

2030. Would that committee as a rule be the same committee as is recognised by the Joint Committee of the County Council on underfed children?—I should think almost invariably in a Council's school it would be so. I do not know of any case where it would differ. Then on that we make a grant. The grant is sent down at once with a form which says that it is a fortnightly grant, which must be applied for as to its renewal before the end of the fortnight. With their application for renewal they send an account of what they have done with the money in the fortnight, how much they have spent, how much they have in hand, how many children they have fed, and whether there is likely to be an increase or a decrease. The executive committee deal with those at their fortnightly meeting, but at their first fortnightly meeting they give the chairman power to deal at once with the application. If there is a fraction of a fortnight coming in between the periods of the meeting of the committee I, as the chairman, deal at once with the application, make the grant and come up for indemnity with the list.

2031. Then every case is reviewed every fortnight?—Every case is reviewed once a fortnight.

2032. On what principle do you assess the amount of grant?—By what we know of the school, by what they ask, and by what other schools of a similar kind in similar places are doing. We trust the recommendation of the local committee. We do not profess to watch over every penny. Our principle is that if you get a local committee of substantial persons they ought to be trusted to spend two or three pounds in this way without a large number of rules and regulations under which they are to spend it. So far as we are concerned they are left absolutely free.

2033. Would you call attention, when a renewal application came up, to lack of payments by children or lack of local subscriptions?—Yes, if it was marked.

The cases are very rare where there is anything abnormal. In those cases one of our local committee, Mr. Gundry, will go down and visit the school and see what is going on.

2034. I see that he is described on the title page as Honorary Visitor. I was going to ask what that meant?—He goes down to the school.

2035. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Your own knowledge of the school is so large that you can see if there is any great and abnormal difference?—I use the knowledge which I have acquired in past years.

2036. You find it unnecessary sometimes to send a visitor because you know the circumstances?—Yes, because I know the circumstances.

2037. (Chairman.) We have before us the account for the year 1903-4 ending 30th September, 1904. I see that the available income for that period was £1946 odd, and the expenditure was £1902 10s. 6d. I am leaving out balances and so on. Would the figures for the year now closing be very much the same?—They would be very much the same. I think that this year you will probably find that we have written off a little of the balance due to the bankers, that is to say our receipts have exceeded our expenditure a little this year, but not to any appreciable extent.

2038. You did not get the £3,000 which you ask for on page 6 of the report?—No.

2039. Then in your appendix you show a list of the centres with the grants from the association?—Yes.

2040. Then local subscriptions. Have you in your possession any detailed items showing how those local subscriptions are made up?—No.

2041. We are very anxious, as far as possible, to find out what the resources available in London are, but we find it exceedingly difficult. With regard to the *Referee* Fund, for instance, it turns up at every imaginable point. I imagine that this total of local subscriptions coming to £1910 will consist very largely of grants made by the *Referee* Fund?—Some of it will undoubtedly; all of it does not.

2042. I hope that all of it does not?—That is one of our difficulties.

2043. Do you obtain from the different centres any detailed account at the end of the year?—Not showing how these items are made up, but some of them undoubtedly show the grant from the *Referee* Fund. They do not in all cases. That has been one of the things that I have often asked the *Referee* Fund about. I have asked them to join with us in giving us a list of their grants (they have not yet seen their way to do that) so that we may check as we go on fortnight by fortnight. Our only mode at present of exercising any kind of supervision is by checking from the Annual Report when we get a copy of it.

2044. The Annual Report of the *Referee* Fund?—Checking in that way you will see that whilst in some cases the *Referee* Fund may come into the local subscriptions, in a very large number of cases it is left out altogether. They stop asking for grants until the money is exhausted and then they come on us again.

2045. Is the amount of the local subscription as shown in the report made up from the fortnightly returns that you receive?—Yes.

2046. Is there a statement at the end of the feeding session from the centres showing what their resources were?—This is the addition at the end of the session of what we have received fortnight by fortnight.

2047. It is not a separate statement?—It is not a separate statement, but it is simply an addition of what has been given in detail all through the time.

2048. Is it sent from the local centre or made up in your office?—It is sent from the local centre with supervision at the office. We ask at the end of the session for a final balance sheet.

2049. What would lead them to exclude any grant received from the *Referee* Fund?—Because they exclude those weeks from our operations.

2050. For certain weeks they would be financed wholly from the *Referee* Fund?—Certainly.

2051. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) That is in some cases?—Yes.

2052. In other cases the *Referee* Fund grant is not excluded?—No, and then we do not make the grant.

2053. I see amongst your subscriptions 100 guineas from the *Referee* Fund, so that they subscribe centrally and locally?—In that way, yes.

2054. (Chairman.) The Lambeth Teachers Association is shown in your Appendix as having thirty-eight schools in its centre and receiving only £5 from you in grants and £374 in local subscriptions?—Yes. That is largely made up of genuine local subscriptions.

2055. We have an account from them. A very large part of the £374 is the *Referee* Fund grant?—Yes, but a considerable portion of it is actual local subscriptions. They work with us in this way—that just as in the case of Southwark they have their territory with which we do not interfere, so that there is no overlapping. The object of the London Schools Dinner Association was to prevent overlapping.

2056. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do you make a grant to Southwark? If they want it they come to us.

2057. (Chairman.) Do they send you any fortnightly statement?—No. They send us in a yearly statement. We do not do any work in their district.

2058. Could you let us have a list of the centres for the current year with the names of the secretaries?—Yes.

2059. Then in the Children's Payment column the amount reaches only £183 10s. You have, I suppose, no certain guarantee that the payments were actually made by children and not by others on their behalf?—No.

2060. You do not go behind the payment?—No, we do not go behind the copper.

2061. Those payments occur in comparatively few cases?—That is so.

2062. In one case they are very large?—Yes.

2063. St. Agnes?—That is the Notting Hill centre. That is very well worked.

2064. And St. Stephen's Hall is another comparatively large one?—Yes.

2065. Have the children's payments had a tendency to increase or decrease during the years you have worked the Association?—I think that they are fairly stationary.

2066. It is a comparatively small number of cases in which there is anything returned at all under that head?—That is so.

2067. As to your average cost in the last column, is that simply a question of arithmetic?—Yes, that is all.

2068. From the figures in this table?—Yes. You see they vary greatly.

2069. Some of us visited the Moffat Institute centre, which is put down at an average cost of a penny per meal. From inquiries made on the spot we gathered that the meal actually cost a good deal more, but there was some local fund behind which enabled them to give for the penny paid by the children, or on their behalf by the Association, a much better meal than could have been given otherwise?—You will find a considerable number of cases of that kind. That is what makes the averages that we find in all these papers rather delusive. I do not think there are any means available by which you can get an accurate statement. In the case of the Lisson Grove group in which every thing goes into the account I should not be surprised to find that it works out at 3d.

2070. That is the sum given here?—That contains everything. You get there a sample of what I should call the maximum cost exclusive of rent, which has not to be paid, because the hall of the school is used and the gas for cooking is not paid for, or if it is paid for it is a nominal amount. Outside of those two things you have the actual cost. The meal is extremely well served. The children sit down at long tables: they have table-cloths, and knives and forks. The dinner is passed round to them, and it is extremely good in quality and ample in quantity. So that you might put the maximum at 3d. where you have not to pay rent and for the fire for cooking. I think you might fairly do that. The minimum varies. May I add that when you work out the average you must

always remember that very much depends on the number you cater for. Take the Hexton centre, where you have very large numbers, 13,000; and the Homerton centre 32,000. They both work out at a penny. In both those cases I should be disposed to think that that was an under-estimate, because things are not charged for which enter into the cost of the meals and are paid for from other sources.

2071. This column, in the appendix "Cost of food, etc.," would vary in its constituent elements considerably from one centre to another?—Undoubtedly.

2072. In some cases it might be merely the provisions used, and in others it might include, not rent, but wages?—Yes, it might only include payment for the dinner; but the dinner, which may be provided by a local mission centre, may cost 6d. or 3d. the children only paying one penny for it.

2073. As to your contributions, how do you obtain those. Have you any special machinery?—No.

2074. Do you make an annual appeal?—We make an annual appeal. It used to be very fruitful, but of late years it has not been so fruitful, very largely owing to the existence of separate newspaper appeals. The *Daily News* started an appeal, undertaking at first, or suggesting first, that the money would be sent to the London Schools Dinner Association. Then they found that it came in more rapidly than they expected, I suppose, and they formed their own fund and gave us some and gave other people some. As soon as you get a newspaper forming a fund of that kind, it is necessarily driven to administer the fund. You have a *Daily Mail* Fund and you have a *Referee* Fund. For the most part, of course, those are funds which expire with the effort. The money is given out in lump sums here and there, but there is no permanent result from it.

2075. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) It leads to the very overlapping, I suppose, that the London Schools Dinner Association is intended to avoid?—Yes. Unless we are furnished with the details of where the money goes to we have no means of preventing the overlapping.

2076. (Chairman.) When you hear of such a fund do you systematically communicate with the newspaper which is raising it?—Yes, always.

2077. Pointing out to them what your position is?—Yes, but of course it is not a pleasant thing to do, and it has to be done very carefully.

2078. I see you get a certain amount of help from City Companies?—Yes.

2079. And something from the City Parochial Foundation?—Yes; we get an annual grant from the City Parochial Foundation of £100.

2080. You are able, in spite of this difficulty as regards money, to say that hitherto no application has ever been refused?—Yes, that is so. That is absolutely the case.

2081. Still, you would be able to make higher grants where you felt that they were going to the right people if you had more money?—Hitherto our difficulty has been in the earlier stages of the work every year. The money does not come in when the work is heaviest. Until we got a little fund in hand upon which we could get an overdraft from the bankers, we were always in difficulties in the earlier part of the year. We wanted to spend before we had the money to spend, and that is always the case when you make a public appeal. If we had more than £3,000 a year I do not know that we should increase our scale of grants. If all the other Associations were to collapse of course we should want much more than £3,000 a year to do all that might be required of us, but when we ask for the £3,000 we ask for the sum that we think, looking at the condition of things that are prevailing when the appeal is made, will probably be required for the coming session on the basis of our past work.

2082. (Mr. Walrand.) At what time do you generally make your appeal?—Generally about December. The real pinch in all these things comes in finding the money somewhere about February or March.

2083. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do you not make any grants before December?—In any case where a teacher writes up and says that there is special need in the school we look into it and make a grant, but as a rule work never

Mr. J. R. Diggle, M.A. 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.

2084. (Chairman.) The bad weather of which you speak will, while bringing in money, very much increase the need?—Yes, but the funds come in better to supply the want.

2085. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do you issue several appeals in the course of the winter?—Yes. I nearly always had one signed by myself and one signed by the Chairman of the School Board for the time being. That was the practice in the old days. This year there was one signed by myself, and one by the Chairman of the Council, and one signed by the last three Chairmen of the School Board, so that we had three separate appeals this year.

2086. (Chairman.) Do you find that there is any impression on the part of the public that the money for this purpose comes from the rates?—Yes, there has been a great impression in some of the council schools that because we were working from the School Board Offices the School Board found the money. I have come across that in a considerable percentage of new applications.

2087. The change of office may possibly prevent that in the future?—Yes, it may.

2088. (Miss Lawrence.) With regard to local centres, when they write to you for a grant do they report to you on their methods of enquiry or not?—No.

2089. They do not?—No, unless we ask them to.

2090. Do you often ask them to?—No, very rarely; we only interfere if we see something on the face of the return which calls for observation.

2091. What sort of form is it that they fill in?—Shall I put in the two forms?

2092. Yes, I should like to see those?—Certainly.

2093. With regard to the £74 for salaries, whose salaries were those?—That was for the secretarial work. A fortnightly return means a good deal of secretarial work. That is why the postage is so heavy.

2094. How many officers would this refer to?—This refers to two.

2095. As to Appendix I, would you be likely to take any notice of this sort of thing. In All Saints', Lambeth, they supply 6,750 meals at a cost of £26 odd, and in Bath Street they only feed 100 more children at a cost of £34. That is a considerable difference?—The average is not very different, is it? It is a 1½d. in the one case.

2096. No. I rather wondered how it was arrived at, because it is only 100 more children and nearly £10 have to be accounted for. The total expended was £34 in the one case and the cost 1½d. All Saints', Lambeth, is £26 11s. 1d. and there were 100 less children. That is worked out at 1½d.?—There may be a clerical error.

2097. That is a sort of thing that you would ask for and report about?—Yes, we should. We do not see it in the total like this; we see it in the smaller figure. If you divide the £34 by ten it is only about £3 10s. 0d. a fortnight. That is how we watch it.

2098. Supposing that at Bath Street they were spending £4 10s. a week and only feeding the same number of children as All Saints', Lambeth, do, and who do it at £4, would you enquire?—No, we should not enquire with regard to 10s.

2099. You would not?—No, it would have to be something much larger. They are responsible people in both cases, and as long as the difference is not an abnormal difference we throw the entire responsibility on the local people.

2100. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Are all these places in the Appendix schools or centres for more than one school?—Separate schools or centres.

2101. They are not missions independent of schools. Take St. Stephen's Hall?—You may have a ragged school—the Ashley Mission, for instance.

2102. Is that a day school?—It has ceased to be a day school now. I think. It is a Sunday School. It is a centre to which children from public elementary schools go. Then you get the King Edward centre in the same way.

2103. Exactly. In those cases the grant goes to the Sunday school authorities?—It goes to the local committee.

2104. And they would be the Sunday school authority?—I am not sure.

2105. It would be a committee of persons connected with that special centre?—Yes.

2106. If there are seven schools attending the King Edward centre the committee would not contain members from each school?—No.

2107. But only from that centre?—Yes. With regard to King Edward's centre the committee would probably only undertake the work of providing the meal. The work of selection would be done at the separate schools.

2108. By the teachers?—By the teachers.

2109. Would the teachers have so many tickets?—The teachers have the tickets they need. They are not sent to the school to be given out in that sense. The question is asked, "How many tickets do you want?" and then they are supplied. In the old days some of the associations would send bundles of tickets to the schools and the teachers would give the tickets away but that is not at all the way in which we work.

2110. In the King Edward's centre, for instance, the committee would send to the schools and ask how many tickets they would be likely to want?—Yes.

2111. Leaving the selection to the teachers?—Yes.

2112. At the Central Association you do not take notice of that part of the organisation?—Not unless there is something which on the face of it seems to demand enquiry.

2113. Are any breakfasts given out of the money?—Yes. You know Collingwood Street?

2114. Yes?—Very largely there the meals are composed of breakfasts, I think.

2115. With regard to Southwark, page 1 of the Report says that enquiry is made to test the genuineness of cases. Would that be by the Committee?—By the Southwark committee.

2116. You do not know anything about what those enquiries are?—No. Our principle is that these people are worthy to be trusted with the expenditure of these small sums of money. We impose no rules and regulations upon them other than the general rules which govern the whole distribution of our funds. In a case of mis-application, if we come across anything of the kind we should deal with it at once.

2117. The Southwark Free Dinner Fund do not seem to get a grant from you?—Because they do not want it. They have had grants from us.

2118. They have not wanted it this year?—No.

2119. The enquiry is entirely in their hands?—Entirely.

2120. Is Mr. Kirk, who is on the committee, the Ragged School Union Mr. Kirk?—Yes.

2121. It is from him that you get the rooms?—Yes.

2122. Is he still connected with the Ragged School Union?—Yes.

2123. The committee represents many different bodies?—Yes. Mr. Coote is a manager in your old division of Tower Hamlets. Mrs. Dibdin looks after the Holborn district. Mr. Gundry is our Honorary Visitor.

2124. Is he connected with any school at all?—Not any special school. Mr. Harris is a City Councillor connected with the Whitechapel school. Mr. Stewart Headlam has a general knowledge of the work, especially at Bethnal Green. Mr. Jones looks after Greenwich and Woolwich, Hughes Fields, Deptford, and those centres. Mr. Kirk is the Secretary of the Ragged School

Union, and Mr. Libby looks after the West Lambeth district. Mr. Orsman works the Hoxton and Homerton centres. He is a late member of the County Council. Mr. Paschall looks after the Southwark centre. Mrs. Pennington has general knowledge, and Mr. Spalding has special knowledge.

2125. (Dr. Parsons.) Can you tell me how this average cost of dinners, 1½d., is arrived at? Is it arrived at simply by adding up all the figures in the last column but one and dividing by the number irrespective of the numbers given, or is it by taking the proportion of the number of dinners to the cost and taking the average of the whole?—I think it is the simple division of the totals.

2126. It is the average of the total averages?—Yes.

2127. Not the average of the whole number of dinners divided by the whole cost, because that would make some difference?—No.

2128. I notice a large number of dinners given at a halfpenny. Then I find 172 dinners given at threepence at Hanover Street. If you add the halfpenny and the threepence together and divide that by two, that would give a very much larger sum than the dinners actually cost?—That mode of calculation is not the one adopted here. This is the resultant of the division of the totals of the two numbers.

2129. The minuses are not deducted from the pluses. With regard to the adding up I notice that it says with regard to some, "This is a deficit," but nevertheless it is added in as if it were a balance?—That is a clerical error. It is the total of the column.

2130. Are these figures in this table issued on the responsibility of the centres or of the association?—They are the returns from the centres, checked as far as we can check them. We can only check them by the fortnightly returns.

2131. Does the association guarantee the correctness of these figures?—I think so, as far as they can guarantee it. We take it from them, tested by our fortnightly returns. I should be sorry to say that the association are responsible for every single item here. We take it from other people.

2132. Would you mind saying for the information of myself, who am rather an outsider in regard to these matters, what is the precise connection between the association and the Committee on Underfed Children of the London County Council. You are represented on that Committee, I see?—Yes.

2133. Do you work together in any way?—Yes. The Committee on Underfed Children communicates with every public elementary school in London. They have returns from those schools.

2134. Do you also have returns?—No, we do not have returns in that way. They have returns. If it appears, for instance, from the returns that school A has so many children in it requiring free or partly paid meals, then they communicate with that school and they say, "You ought to establish a local committee to meet this want." The reply is, "We have not any funds." Then the Joint Committee's answer to that is, "Go to the London Schools' Dinner Association, who will provide you with the funds." That is the connection between us.

2135. There are other Associations that provide funds. Is it taken into consideration by you in making a grant to any particular school if it gets a grant from other funds?—Every fortnight they send in a balance sheet showing what they have done with our grant. It shows on the receipt side our grant; secondly, any payment which has been made by children; and thirdly, any subscription which has come from local sources. On the other side is the expenditure. We see that, and their balance or their deficit, as the case may be.

2136. Do you know if they have got any help from the Refuges Fund or any other Association?—No, unless

they put it in the account. If they put it in the account Mr. J. R. Diggle, M.A. we are cognisant of the fact, but if they do not we are ignorant of it.

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2137. There may be overlapping in that case?—There may be, and in that sense there is; there is the overlapping which comes from the teacher receiving a lump sum of money which he proceeds to deal with outside of this return which is made to us. That, as far as I know, is the only remaining opportunity of overlapping which exists.

2138. (Mr. Walrod.) I think that Miss Lawrence has pitched upon a clerical error. I make it out that the return is wrong for All Saints', Lambeth. The cost, according to these figures as given, is less than a penny?—I think that very probably it is a clerical error.

2139. May we take it that, generally speaking, the table is correctly worked out from the figures?—Yes, I think it is. I have not tested it myself.

2140. I thought at first that there might be some cost which is not shown on this return, which helped to make the average cost, but in several cases the average seems to correspond with the columns as I have worked it out?—Yes, I think that is so.

2141. (Chairman.) In Appendix 1 you show a total of 789,559 meals?—Yes.

2142. Have you any idea at all what number of children that means?—I cannot tell you.

2143. Your Association has never set itself to find the actual number of individual children who are relieved?—No, we have never done that, but of course one knows from practical experience that it is very much the same children through a part of the year, but in another part of the year it is very varied. Our arrangement with our local centres is, "Wherever you see a child really needing food, we ask you promptly to give the child food and we will send you down the cost of it." They are not in the position of having to wait for their money. They are only out of pocket for a day or two until they get it back. The cost may be 1d. or 3d. No account is kept of the separate children. It would be a good thing if there were such an account kept.

2144. The Underfed Committee have brought out this year what purports to be a list of the actual number of individual children fed?—Yes. They may have the facts, but we have not. We do not ask.

2145. Do you publish any set of rules for the committees?—Yes; they are shown on the forms.

2146. Do you make any recommendation as to the number of days per week upon which meals should be given?—No.

2147. Nor as to the period during which the feeding should extend?—No; all those things are left entirely to the local committee. Our principle is to get a responsible local committee and to trust it absolutely with the details.

2148. Would you consider your association to be an agency for collecting money or for organising relief?—For both.

2149. You stop short at the organising of relief when you have got a responsible local committee?—No, we do not stop short if there is anything abnormal occurring after that, but in the great mass of cases we stop short because nothing abnormal occurs. I ought to add that our local committees are very much the same from year to year, taking into consideration clergymen removing from district to district, and lapses by death and lapses by teachers changing, and so on. Year by year they are growing in experience and in continuity of administration.

2150. Have you anything to add to your evidence?—No, I do not think so.

2151. (Chairman.) We are very much obliged to you.

The Rev. F. C. BECKLEY, called in; and Examined.

2152. (Chairman.) You have come to give us evidence on behalf of Roman Catholic agencies with regard to the feeding of children?—Yes. As far as my knowledge goes, I believe that most Catholic schools are without any central organisation.

2153. Is there any central agency at all for the Roman Catholic schools in London?—No, not for the feeding of children. They most of them, I believe, apply to the associations for the feeding of children, and get a grant 20 June, 1905.

R. F. C. Beckley.

Rev. F. C.
Beckley.

20 June, 1905.

2154. They would, like other schools in London, apply to the well-known agencies such as the London Schools Dinner Association and the Destitute Children's Society?—Yes, that is what I mean. The greater part of the money comes from private sources or voluntary contributions. It is so in my case, and I know it is so in most of the cases that I have experience of in the East End.

2155. Is your knowledge chiefly confined to the East End of London?—Yes, very much so.

2156. Would you indicate over what district?—The whole of the East End; I know a good deal about I might say, St. George's, and Poplar, and Stepney.

2157. Have you personally worked upon any agency for providing meals in a school?—Yes. When I was on the School Board I was on some of the Committees connected with board schools, and I worked then for various schools. They were mostly in Stepney.

2158. Have you worked on any committee for any particular Roman Catholic school?—Not except my own.

2159. What is yours?—Mine is St. Patrick's, Wapping.

2160. Would you tell us what is actually done in your own school?—We manage through a lady principal who does the chief part of the work, a Miss Elliot, who lives in that district. We have the advantage of having a club-room which we can use for the dinners. We have an agreement with a vegetarian society and they supply the dinners at so much a head and we pay for them.

2161. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Does Miss Elliot visit?—She has the management of the whole thing. We send the children over to her with tickets from the school when they go out of school. Some of the children pay a half-penny, but most of them have the dinner free.

2162. (Chairman.) How are the children selected for these dinners?—Principally on our own knowledge and the knowledge of the teachers.

2163. Would the teachers select in the first instance?—Yes, mostly it would be so.

2164. You would have in one way or another personal knowledge of all the children attending your own school?—Yes. The teachers very often consult me as to whether they are right in such a case when they think a child is particularly poor, and ask from my knowledge of the family whether I think the family deserving of help.

2165. Do you think that the teachers ought to be expected to do more than select in the first instance?—No, I do not think you could expect them to do more, because they have quite enough to do. The teachers, of course, when they have been for any time in a school, have practical knowledge of the circumstances of the families.

2166. In the case of Roman Catholic schools I presume that the teachers are usually living on the spot?—Yes, but not with us. We have not any teachers living in our part, because they do not like living in Wapping.

2167. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Where do they live—at Hackney?—And Forest Gate, and some even live here in Westminster.

2168. Would that be the case in regard to the other schools?—Yes.

2169. They would not live on the spot in very poor parts such as Ratcliff?—No. You cannot get them to do it. It is the same with regard to the Board Schools.

2170. (Dr. Parsons.) They are not nuns?—We have two nuns at the school. They live on the spot, but they are the only teachers who live on the spot. The teachers have a kind of *carte blanche* from me with regard to this question to give breakfasts. It is not only a question of dinners. I think it more important to give breakfasts in many cases.

2171. (Chairman.) Have you any opinion as to the relative value of breakfast and dinner?—In the case of children I think breakfast more valuable than dinner.

2172. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) It is more costly?—It is more costly. That is only a personal opinion of my own. The way in which I manage is that I have a kind of understanding with a coffee shop near. The children are sent by the teachers of the coffee shop and I pay about 2d. or 2½d. for a meal of bread and jam or bread and butter and tea or milk.

2173. (Chairman.) Do you find as a matter of fact that breakfast is a more popular meal with the children?—I think so. Certainly they need it, and they are very glad to have it.

2174. Is there any difficulty in getting them up early enough to receive the breakfast?—No, I think not. We get them to school in fairly good time. It does not take more than five minutes to go just round the corner to get bread and butter and tea or milk.

2175. Are the meals given at the schools or given elsewhere, in your experience?—In most cases they are given in the schools. In one case we happen to have a clubroom. Our neighbours in Johnson Street, Commercial Road, give them through the agency of the Ladies Social Union who are working there. They give the meals at their own house in Poplar. They give their meals at the school through the agency of the nuns, who are teaching in the school there.

2176. Do you find, as a matter of fact, that inconveniences are caused by giving a meal on the school premises?—Yes; there is a certain amount of inconvenience unless you have an entirely separate room.

2177. Do the teachers find that it causes disorganisation?—Yes, it does cause a certain amount of disorder, and then it requires that one or other of the teachers should be there during their dinner time, and that is a tax on them.

2178. You would deprecate the employment of the teachers to superintend the meals?—Yes, I think so. They ought to be left free. Teaching is hard work, and they ought to have the two hours free in the middle of the day.

2179. When a child is going to receive a meal is good notice given beforehand to the parent?—I do not know that we give formal notice. Of course they know that dinners will be given in the winter months.

2180. How does a parent know that his or her child is going to receive a meal on a given day?—I do not think in my case that they actually do know that Johnny will receive a meal. It is known in the school of course. The notice is given out.

2181. It is not known in the school that Johnny will receive a meal, but it is known that there are meals given?—Quite so. The parents do not formally know.

2182. Would the effect of that be that probably there would be no meal for Johnny when he got home if he did not get a free meal?—I do not know. The way in which we work is to consider the status of the parents and the children and the condition of the Labour Market and then to make a selection of those that we consider are in need.

2183. Having chosen the child is he or she fed regularly until notice is given to the parent that the meal will be discontinued?—Yes. The children come every day.

2184. Meals are given daily?—Yes.

2185. Do you attach importance to that?—Yes. I think that you ought to give them daily. I think I am wrong—we have never given meals on Monday. We give them every other day of the week. We consider that on Monday there is a good chance of there being something over from Sunday.

2186. Your experience with your flock is that they generally have a meal at home on Sunday?—Yes.

2187. The remains of which are available on the Monday?—Yes.

2188. Are these meals given throughout the year?—No; we only give them in the winter months, December, January, February, and March. We generally finish at the end of March.

2189. Do you find the need for them really ends on the 31st March?—I should not like to say that absolutely because, as a matter of fact, I know that now there is a great want of work and there is a good deal of poverty. The reason why we do not continue them is because of the expense. It would be a great tax upon us to be providing money all the year round, because we must provide money.

2190. In your opinion would it be advisable if means were found to continue the meals during the summer for those who really need them?—Certainly.

2191. Has any attempt been made within your knowledge to use the cookery centres for that purpose?—I do not think so; I am not aware of it.

2192. Have you formed no opinion on that particular point?—No; I have not formed any opinion upon it.

2193. (Miss Lawrence.) Do you go entirely by the lists of the teachers?—I think so. They are practically under my supervision, and if there is any doubt they ask me.

2194. How many schools do you personally look after?—Only my school—the three departments.

2195. May we take your case as an example of what is done as a rule?—I think so. In our schools they rely a good deal on the teachers, because you will find in regard to our schools that the teachers have a considerable knowledge of the families of the children.

2196. Do you use the managers at all as a source of information?—Not in my case, but they do in some of the other Catholic schools.

2197. Do you know of any case where they have what you may call a Relief Committee composed of the different managers?—I think they have such a committee at Johnson Street in Commercial Road formed by the ladies of the Social Union.

2198. Would you tell me what the Ladies' Social Union is?—An association of ladies who undertake to look after clubs for boys and girls and to give them recreation and instruction in the evenings. There is a large number of better class people who go down and visit these places. In most cases they have established what they call a Settlement. There in turn one of them lives and they have other workers who live with them who are remunerated.

2199. You use those ladies more than you do the managers?—Yes.

2200. You say in your *precis* that the meals are mostly dinners and take the form of soup. Does that mean soup every day?—No, it does not mean soup every day in my case certainly. We vary it. Sometimes it is soup and sometimes it is in the form of cake and bread and vegetable.

2201. Is it meat at all?—No. We deal with a Vegetarian Association.

2202. You do not have any meat?—No. They were very angry with us once because we had some soup of our own, and we put it into their soup. They threatened to have nothing more to do with us.

2203. The Vegetarian Association is the only supply association that you deal with?—Yes. In the case of other places they have a copper and a fire, and so on, and they provide their own meal.

2204. Is that general?—Yes, I think so. I used to do that. It cost a little more because you had to employ a woman to cook and clear, and cut up the vegetables, and all sorts of things.

2205. When a child is put on the list by a teacher as a fit recipient for dinner how long does it remain on the list without further inquiry?—It mostly remains on the list during the season.

2206. For the whole winter?—Yes.

2207. Do you know at all what proportion are fed in the school?—Yes. We have 500 or 600 children, and we were giving last winter, sometimes 100 and sometimes ninety. It would average about 100.

2208. As regards the children's payments do you refuse the meal in certain cases if they do not pay a proportion, and you think they should?—Yes. When we think they can afford it we do refuse. The highest charge we make is a halfpenny, you know.

2209. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Where do the funds come from. There is no central fund, you say?—No.

2210. You collect the money?—Yes. We have one lady in our own case who is very good in giving us money.

2211. You get grants from other associations?—We get help from the Schools' Dinner Association.

2212. And from the *Referee* Fund?—No, we have never had any help from them.

2213. It is mainly from your own people?—Yes.

2214. There has never been any attempt to make a special fund for a Roman Catholic School?—No, I believe not—never.

2215. There is no Roman Catholic Society which gives grants—no St. Vincent de Paul?—No, I think not. In certain cases in the west they help with the feeding of the children, but they do not lay themselves open of necessity to do that.

2216. There is no one to whom you can appeal for the particular purpose?—No.

2217. You do not know much of what is done in the west with regard to this?—No, not much. I have been so long in the east.

2218. (Dr. Parsons.) Do you find vegetarian dinners appreciated?—Yes.

2219. As much as if meat were given?—Yes, the children seem to like them. The Vegetarian Association make the food very tasty. It is sent down in a van perfectly hot.

2220. And, as far as you can judge, are the effects as good?—Yes, I think so.

2221. (Mr. Walrond.) Had you any particular reason for going to the Vegetarian Association?—I think it was because it was economical. We found that we could get a cheap and satisfactory dinner at a reasonable price. It costs over a penny. I do not think it is 1½d.

2222. How are the dinners sent down?—In cases with hot water, in a van.

2223. You supply the plates?—We supply the plates, room, and everything. They land the food there, and take the cases away again.

2224. You have no soup kitchen in your neighbourhood similar to the one in Westminster?—No.

2225. There is no organisation that might overlap yours?—No. There is no soup kitchen at all in our neighbourhood. The people at St. Peter's give dinners, but I do not think we overlap.

2226. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do they do it entirely through their school?—Yes.

2227. They would not be likely to take any of your children?—No. We have taken some children from the Board School at Globe Street.

2228. (Mr. Walrond.) When you say "we" do you mean the managers?—The master asked whether he might send, say, half-a-dozen children for a certain time. I was practically master of the situation and I agreed to it.

2229. The representative managers do not have much to say to it, do they?—Whatever expense there was came out of our pockets, so that it did not do any injustice to anyone.

2230. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) I suppose that most of your people are dock labourers?—Entirely wharf and dock labourers.

2231. Is their work bad only in those months in which you give the dinner?—It is always bad in the winter, but what has been remarkable is that it has been continuing bad for the last twelve months.

2232. Almost all your people are casual dock labourers?—Yes. The London docks are doing very little.

2233. (Mr. Walrond.) Do you find many cases of wilful neglect on the part of parents?—No, I should not say many, but of course there are some. There are people who drink and spend their wages in that way, or what little they get.

2234. If you find a case of wilful neglect do you report it to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children?—Yes, if there is any serious reason we hand the case on to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

2235. You have known of such cases?—Yes, certainly.

2236. Pending prosecution would you go on feeding the child?—Yes. I should not feel inclined to punish the child for the sins of the parent. It is rather hard that the child should suffer because its father drinks, although you feel savage that you should have to feed the child under such circumstances.

Rev. F. C.
Beckley.

20 June, 1905.

Rev. F. C. Beckley.
20 June, 1905.

2237. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do you do anything to try to bring the father to a proper sense of his duties?—Yes, of course. I suppose that we always try to do good.

2238. Do you find that the dockers are people who are likely to neglect their children. It is very casual work, is it not?—It is very casual work, and they have to be hanging about so much that it introduces into their life an utter irregularity. It induces drinking because they have nothing else to do, and they can get the drink, unfortunately.

2239. Really you would need to feed all the year round?—I am afraid so in order to do justice to the children.

2240. (Chairman.) Would it be possible for us to get a detailed account of expenditure on feeding in the Roman Catholic Schools in London?—I should think so. If you wish it I would apply to Mr. Hunter and get him to send a circular round.

2241. Are proper accounts kept, as far as you know, of what is actually spent?—Yes, I think so. I could give mine.

2242. I was going to ask you to take your own case?—I could not give it at the moment.

2243. We have an entry in the Appendix to the London Schools' Dinner Association Report, showing Wapping Roman Catholic Schools. Are those yours?—Yes.

2244. £23 6s. 2d. That money was spent in giving 3218 meals. Although the children paid £2 9s. 1d. no meals appear in the Report as having been paid for. The average cost is put at a penny. You pay as a matter of fact to the Vegetarian Association more than a penny, I gather, or do you pay a penny and do they make up the difference?—I always understood that it was a fraction over a penny as a matter of fact.

2245. I imagine that it is only a rough return?—I will get the account from Miss Elliot.

2246. Any return which you can get for us showing what is actually spent in feeding children in the Roman

Catholic Schools in London would be very valuable?—I could do it through Mr. Hunter as he is the Secretary of the children's funds. I could not do it myself.

2247. We should be glad if a distinction could be made between local voluntary subscriptions and those given by the big societies, such as the "Referee" Fund and the London Schools Dinner Association?—Very well.

2248. Do you consider that if a cheap dinner could be available daily for the child of any parent who chose to pay, say, a penny for it, it would be taken much advantage of in the Roman Catholic Schools?—I should think that they ought to be very glad to avail themselves of it. I cannot say they would, but I should think so.

2249. Under your arrangements is it open at present to any parent who chooses to pay to have his child fed?—I do not know whether that is fully understood, but that is what we mean.

2250. It is not, I gather, largely taken advantage of at present, as a matter of fact?—No.

2251. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) A great many of them could not pay?—Many of them could not find a halfpenny a day.

2252. Finding the money is difficult for them?—Yes.

2253. (Chairman.) Supposing the parents could pay the penny, would they generally prefer to do that rather than to feed the child at home?—I do not know. They are very funny about that. They would sooner give them pickles and cheese than let them have a proper meal at school. You cannot get at the minds of the parents.

2254. It would be an experiment?—It would.

2255. You cannot indicate one way or the other whether it would answer?—No.

2256. Is there anything you would like to add?—No, I think not.

2257. (Chairman.) Thank you very much for your evidence.

Mrs. R. ADLER, called in; and Examined.

Mrs. Adler.
20 June, 1905.

2258. (Chairman.) You have kindly come to give us evidence about the Jewish Children's Penny Dinner Association?—Yes.

2259. Would you tell us what your connection with it is?—I am the President and I have been President for about fifteen or sixteen years, I think. It had very small beginnings. It has been in existence to a certain extent for about thirty or thirty-five years. It was commenced in a very small way for a few ragged children. When I became President I think that the outside number of dinners that were ever given was about 150 a day, and we had no other centres. We carried the work on near the Free School.

2260. We propose to take your *precis* as your evidence in chief and to ask you questions upon it?—Certainly.

The following *Precis* was handed in.

A.—METHODS EMPLOYED.

(1) The Jewish Children's Penny Dinner Association is a central body dealing with the meals of Jewish children residing in the City, Whitechapel, Spitalfields and St. George's-in-the-East districts. It is managed by a President and Committee consisting of

- Ladies and gentlemen willing to collect funds.
- Ladies who act as Honorary Superintendents.
- Ladies who visit the homes and select the children requiring meals. An additional sub-committee of young ladies attend in rotation four times a week at all the centres to assist the superintendents in serving the dinners and keeping order.

(2) Local authorities do not assist by

- Taking part in administration. But
- At the Hanbury Street Council school and at the Berner Street Council school, where two centres are kept open during four or four and a half months during the winter, the use of a small kitchen and gas for cooking is granted free of charge.
- Many of the head teachers and their assistants in both of the before mentioned schools give their

services, with great self-sacrifice, during the school interval, in seating and serving their hungry pupils. Without this help the Committee feel that it would be scarcely possible to carry on the work, as the meals have to be served in the class-rooms. The caretakers are allowed to assist in preparing the class-rooms, and for this service they are paid a weekly gratuity. A special cook is employed to prepare the meals.

(3) (a) The sum of £33 11s. 2d. was contributed by the parents.

(b) The sum of £55 12s. 1d. was contributed by the teachers and others interested in the various schools, in the purchase of penny tickets and given to children, equal to 13,345 meals.

(c) The bulk of the meals are provided free and are paid for by subscriptions and donations to the society.

(4) All the children who are provided with meals at these centres are selected by the managers of the groups of schools in the districts and these visitors assess the payment (if any) or place the child on the free list.

(5) The children are chosen by

- Teachers,
- School managers,
- On the recommendation of district visitors.

(6) (a) The meals are served during the winter months from December to March or April, at the Berner Street, and Hanbury Street Council Schools. At Berner Street centre children from the following schools assemble: Berner Street scholars, Betts Street, Christian Street, Lower Chapman Street, The Highway Cable Street, Settle Street and Rutland Street. In all 16,503 meals were given in 1904 at this centre. At Hanbury Street centre children assemble from Hanbury Street, Bucks Row, Deal Street, Old Montagu Street, Chicksand Street, Vallance Road. 10,341 meals were provided in 1904 of which 1,726 were paid for.

(b) At the Butler Street centre, 16 and 17 Butler Street, Spitalfields, premises occupied by the Jewish soup kitchen and sub-let to the Penny Dinner Association. This centre is open all the year round except on the school holidays, and supplies meals to children attending:—The Jews' Free School, Bell Lane, Gravel Lane Council School, Castle Street Council School, Commercial Street Council School and the Jews' Infant School, Commercial Street. 44,864 meals were served at Butler Street centre during 1904, of which 6,240 were paid for in pennies at the rooms.

(7) It is difficult to give an opinion.

(8) Our arrangements are continued from year to year. New workers are constantly enlisted as the necessity arises. As the arrangements at the Berner Street centre were found last winter to be quite inadequate to meet the demands for free dinners we are now asking permission from the London County Council to permit us to open an additional centre in another school in the district.

B.—SUMS EXPENDED.

	£	s.	d.
(1) Amount expended in 1904	492	7	2
(There is an additional amount in the Balance Sheet of £10 Pension to an aged superintendent).			
(2) (a) Food material	329	14	6
(b) Preparation and distribution	95	8	0
(c) Rent and Apparatus (Butler Street)	50	6	9
(d) Office expenses <i>nil</i> . Advertising and Postage	16	17	11
(3) Cost per head of the meal, inclusive of expenses, is rather more than 1½d.			
(4) Sources of supply.			
(a) Subscriptions and donations in 1904	333	19	10
The Referee Dinner Fund	70	0	0
(b) Interest on funded property	30	1	0
(c) Payments by parents of children	33	11	2
Payments by teachers, school collections, etc.	51	8	9

C.—RELIEF GIVEN.

1. (a) Dinner.

(b) The meal given comprises Irish stew with the meat cut up into small pieces with potatoes and vegetables; soup with meat cut up into small dice thickened with potatoes, beans, peas, vegetables, rice and lentils. At one centre dumplings are prepared and at Butler Street a slice of bread and jam is given after the soup course. The quantity of meat supplied is about two oz. for each child, and bread is given as required.

(c) There is reasonable variety and the food is thoroughly enjoyed.

(b) (1) The meals are given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Fridays all Jewish schools have "double session" and the children return to their homes at 2.30.

(2) This varies according to the number of children requiring to be fed and the capacity of the centre. Many of the children have a meal on the four days, whilst the others come regularly twice a week.

(3) On Saturdays and Sundays the children have their food in their homes, but in cases of great poverty the visitor provides for those days through the help of our various philanthropic organisations.

(4) Meals are provided at Berner Street and Hanbury Street centres from the commencement of December till the end of March, but in cold and wet seasons like the one just ended, the distribution commenced in November and went on till the second week of April.

The Butler Street centre is open the whole year except during the school holidays, and during the spring and summer months a few children are sent there from the Commercial Road district for their dinners; but the distance and the dangerous character of the roads render this possible only for bigger children.

2. Parents are told when the dinners will commence.

3. 71,718 meals were given in 1904

4. This is scarcely possible to give.

5. A record is kept at the Berner Street and Hanbury Street centres, but not at Butler Street, where occasionally nearly 400 children are fed between 12.30 and 1.30.

D. 1. We have hitherto sent from Butler Street to the Cripple School in Commercial Street meals for three children.

I deem it right to state that, although this Association does as much as it is able to provide meals for the under-fed children, it would be misleading to say that the meals provided are really sufficient. In the Commercial Road districts the numbers might with great advantage be doubled and at the Gravel Lane and Commercial Street Council Schools and at the Jews' Infant School (from which twenty children are sent daily), it is a great tax on the managers and teachers to select the children who are most in need of the meal.

OTHER JEWISH FEEDING ORGANIZATIONS.

Borough Jewish School.

Heygate Street, Walworth.

During the winter months about 170 children are fed daily. Dinners are served on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, consisting of Irish stew, dumplings, soup with meat cut up, etc., and on Fridays cocoa with bread and jam is served.

About the moiety of the children have the meal free, and others pay from 3d. to 4d. a week. The cost of the meals is defrayed by friends of the school together with a small contribution from the Referee Fund. The expenses for the past season for food and cook amounted to £86, and there was a further charge for tables, hardware, etc., of about £11. 13,307 meals (including cocoa) were supplied during last winter.

Westminster Jews Free School.

Hanway Place, Oxford Street.

About 120 boys and girls are fed daily at this school from the first week in December till the second week in March. Full particulars are ascertained as regards the position of the parents of the children, and they are assessed accordingly. Meat meals are provided on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and cocoa and bread on Fridays. About forty of these children receive the meal for 1d. and 2d. per week, so that the meals may be accounted as almost free, and the remainder pay from 4d. to 8d. a week according to the parents' means. The cost beyond the children's payments is provided by members of the Committee and a small grant £8 is received from the Referee Fund.

Bayswater Jewish Schools.

179, Harrow Road.

The arrangements at this school are practically the same as at the Westminster Jews' Free School, except that the meals are continued during the spring and summer, and a larger number of children—about sixty—are supplied with free or almost free meals. The funds are provided by members of the Committee and the sum of £8 is contributed by the Referee Fund.

Somerford Street, Deaf Centre.

Bethnal Green.

Through the kindness of the Treasurer of the Referee Fund the Jewish children attending this centre are provided with hot cocoa and bread during the winter months.

Stepney Jewish School.

Stepney Green, E.

At this school about eighty children are fed during the three winter months. Irish stew is provided two days a week and cocoa and bread two other days. The children pay ½d. a meal, with the exception of some very poor little ones, who receive the meal free. About 4,000 such meals were provided in 1904. The cost is defrayed by an endowment founded in memory of a deceased Lady-President.

2261. Is the idea of the Association to supply a cheap meal or to supply a free meal?—Both.

2262. It is called the Penny Dinner Association, but you do not require that a penny should be paid for the dinner?—We try to get the pennies as often as we can.

Mrs. R. Adler,
29 June, 1905

Mrs. R. Adler. Occasionally in good years we get a large amount paid in pennies, but in the year 1904 our receipts from the children themselves were very low. We have had as much as £70 in pennies during the year, but that was when business was brisker, and there was not so much poverty altogether. Where the poverty is very great we do not insist on the penny.

2263. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Is the penny always paid by the children, or may it be paid by other people?—Occasionally it has been paid by other people. I have mentioned that the sum of £33 11s. 2d. was paid during the year 1904 by the parents. £55 12s. 1d., we were obliged to put in our balance sheet as children's pennies, but in reality it represents tickets bought by other people. The teachers are very good. In many council schools they have money boxes, and any child able to do so is allowed to contribute a penny, or a halfpenny, or a farthing to provide meals for the needy. This comes to a large amount. In Gravel Lane Council School we regularly supply fifty dinners a day free. We give dinners as a rule during the winter to about 100 children, the remaining 50 being paid for by the pence and half-pence subscribed by the teachers and kindly disposed children.

2264. You do not know whether the money is from the children?—We know it is. Some of the children have collected £5. The idea has even gone beyond our shores. One of the teachers who was formerly assistant to Miss Myers the headmistress, is now a teacher in Perth, Western Australia, and she sent me at the beginning of this winter £5 collected by her little pupils to help these poor children.

2265. (*Chairman.*) You deal with Whitechapel, Spital-fields and St. George's mainly as your area?—Yes.

2266. Is that because that is the area of London in which there is a preponderance of Jews?—Yes, a very great preponderance.

2267. What is the executive committee of the association, and how is it actually worked?—We have a lady treasurer and a gentleman who acts as honorary secretary, Mr. Humphrey Myer. We have always had a gentleman as honorary secretary, there being a very great deal of clerical work. We have a committee composed of ladies and gentlemen. We meet about three times a year. Besides that we have two honorary superintendents, who overlook the work at the centres in Berner Street, and in Hanbury Street. We have one paid superintendent at Butler Street centre. That centre is open the whole year round, and as we cannot get an honorary superintendent to attend daily all the year through, we pay her a salary.

2268. Then you have visiting ladies. How are their provinces allotted to them?—They are the managers of the schools.

2269. They are attached to particular schools?—Yes, they are all attached to particular schools.

2270. So that one lady would only work with her own school?—With her own group of schools.

2271. Not a single school?—No, not a single school. As a rule there are two or three ladies belonging to each group. Formerly there were a great many more lady managers. There are not so many now as there were formerly, since the Borough Council has come into existence. Previously there were three or four lady managers to each group of schools and they undertook to visit the houses of those who required meals.

2272. The reduction of the number of lady managers has made the work of these lady visitors much more important than it was before?—Yes, and much more arduous.

2273. Have you any difficulty in getting voluntary help?—Occasionally it is not an easy matter to find a sufficient number.

2274. You have a staff of young ladies who help?—Yes. One of the members of our committee superintends the young ladies, and keeps a regular rota of their attendance. We never have less than three or four daily at the principal centre in Butler Street; we have two or three daily at the school centres. At these centres we have the great advantage of the help of the teachers. Some of the teachers are indefatigable in helping us, and we find this very useful.

2275. In what way do the local authorities assist. Besides the ways you mention in your *precis* do they give you the use of rooms for meals at some of the schools?—Yes.

2276. That is not actually mentioned in your *precis*?—I think I have said that the local authorities do not assist by taking any part in the administration.

2277. You say they give the use of a kitchen and gas for cooking; but you have not said that they give the use of rooms for serving the meals?—The meals are served in the class rooms during the school interval.

2278. But it is part of the assistance given by the local authorities?—Yes, certainly.

2279. Do you admit to the meals any child who pays a penny?—Yes, any child who pays a penny.

2280. The penny does not really cover the cost of the meal?—I consider that the penny pays the actual cost of the food; but of course administration, cooking, and superintendence cost something. If you add the cost of the meat, vegetables, bread and grocery and divide the sum total by the number of meals we have given, I think you will find the cost about a penny and half a farthing a meal. Of course there are always additional expenses. There are three cooks, the caretakers, and the superintendent to be paid.

2281. A parent who pays a penny for his child would consider quite rightly that he was paying for the dinner?—Yes, I think so. We are quite satisfied to give the dinner for a penny. If we got a penny for all our dinners we could very easily raise subscriptions for the balance of cost.

2282. Does your experience show that, as a rule, the parents of children would prefer to pay the penny rather than give the meal at home?—Many of the parents are engaged during the day and it is impossible for them to provide a hot meal at home, and I think on that account they frequently send the children to us. During the summer we have a larger number of children who pay for their meal. This would lead one to imagine that the parents are glad to be spared the expense and trouble of firing when it is not needed for warmth.

2283. You do not think it competes with the home meal?—I think it much more wholesome than the home meal. I doubt very much whether many of the poor spend a penny per child on the meal. They would consider that if for four children they spent fourpence it was a very large sum. The children certainly would not get such a meal as we give them. We have our meat and bread by contract, and we obtain these of the best quality.

2284. Are the children who are to receive free or cheap meals selected by the teachers in the first instance?—The teachers in the first instance mention them to the school visitors and their homes are visited. Every case as far as possible is investigated, with one exception the children who attend the Jews' Free School in Bell Lane. That is an enormous institution, as you know, with 3,500 children under one roof. It is so huge that it is impossible to have investigation. For many years before I had anything to do with the Association, it had been the custom to give sixty free meals per day at the Free school. That was a very small number. That number is now increased by voluntary contributions. Tickets are bought to the extent of £5 or £10 at a time, and these are given to the hungry children. This is the only school where the children are dealt with in this manner. In every other school the cases are investigated.

2285. You think it is not fair to expect the teachers to choose the children, and that if they do they have not sufficient knowledge to be able to do it with certainty?—I should be sorry to say that. The head-mistress at the Free school has a remarkable knowledge of the children, and I think she would select very well. The head-mistress at the Gravel Lane Council School has an excellent knowledge of all her children. She has been head-mistress for over twenty years and has known and taught many of the mothers of the children.

2286. But your basis is, selection by managers and not by the teachers?—Certainly.

2287. Do you associate the school attendance officer in any way with the work?—Not at all.

2288. You have not found that necessary?—No.

2289. Or the relieving officer or guardians?—No. Occasionally where the mother happens to be the only bread winner, and where probably she does not earn sufficient money to support her family, we have been paid by our Jewish Board of Guardians to supply a certain number of dinners per day to the woman's children. We find that answers extremely well. The children improve wonderfully with the advantage of regular meals daily. There was one case especially, that of the children of a widow—puny, sad-looking children—who have been attending for the last three years. It is marvellous how they have developed both mentally and physically.

2290. Is there a definite relief committee in connection with each school?—The Managers kindly undertake this duty.

2291. That would be another aspect of the Managers?—Yes, they consider it part of their duty to visit the home; and to suggest where relief is necessary, and they also frequently advise in apprenticing the children.

2292. You have three centres, of which two are at the schools?—Yes.

2293. Those at Berner Street and Hanbury Street?—Yes.

2294. Do you find any objection arising from the serving of meals at the schools?—I do not think so. We pay the caretaker for his trouble.

2295. There is no special room in either of the schools for the purpose, I suppose?—There is a very small kitchen; a portion of the basement which is used for the engine room has been set apart for us. We put in some gas cookers, for which we pay rent. The L. C. C. is good enough to pay the cost of the gas. We have not a separate meter. We had the space partitioned off at one time, but I believe the local authorities thought it rather dangerous to put up a wooden partition, and now it is open to the engines. It is not a very nice place to do cooking in, but we are satisfied.

2296. I was rather thinking of the room in which you serve the meal than the room in which you cook it. Is it not found objectionable to use a room used for teaching for the purpose of serving the meal?—It is made tidy in a very short time. We have oil baize covers for the desks. The basins and bread and soup are all brought up in large quantities. The soup is carried in pails. It is managed in as neat a manner as possible. The caretaker is paid 5s. or 7s. a week, according to the work that has to be done.

2297. How many class rooms do you use in each case?—Three or four.

2298. You do not use a central hall?—No, I wish we could.

2299. If there were other rooms available close by, you would, presumably, prefer to be off the school premises?—We could not afford to pay rent, it would be prohibitive.

2300. I see the economical point?—It would not pay us to give a very large sum for the rent of a special kitchen and dining hall. Our association could not do it. We pride ourselves on having very small expenses for general organisation. The bulk of the money is spent absolutely in food.

2301. You have not had any strong complaints from teachers of difficulties arising from the use of school premises for feeding?—Not at all. We find all teachers very ready to help us; in fact we must really admire them immensely for their great self-sacrifice. During last winter at the school in Berner Street we commenced with about 200 children. The strain became greater as the winter advanced. The teachers themselves saw how very necessary it was that other children in the neighbourhood should be fed, and teachers living at schools half a mile off offered to bring their children, so that each batch of children from each separate school was brought by a teacher. At Berner Street itself the headmaster and headmistress, and one or two of the assistants, absolutely gave their entire time in assisting to feed the children. We had relays of children until we reached nearly 400 daily. It was all managed very efficiently. Latterly we found it a little difficult to prevent children without tickets coming in, so we obtained the services of a person to check the tickets as they were brought. The

teachers are most anxious that the children should get their food; they consider it the greatest help in the work of education. *Mrs. R. Adler.*
20 June, 1905.

2302. You would feel that if other superintendence was available the teachers should be spared that labour?—Certainly. If any suggestion could be made to that effect we should be very glad to accept it, I am sure.

2303. Did the numbers at each of the centres rise to something over 200 at the busy time?—At Berner Street it was 360 to 380 during the winter months.

2304. On a single day?—Yes, during this last winter.

2305. Did that mean more than two relays?—Yes, about three relays.

2306. That nearly filled up the interval between school and school?—Yes; Mr. Hatfield frequently did not have a quarter of an hour to himself.

2307. The difficulty of clearing up must have been intensified by such large numbers?—We have never heard any complaint of its infringing on the school time—I do not think it ever did. At Hanbury Street the numbers were about 220.

2308. At the Butler Street centre you are not in the school building at all?—No; it is a separate kitchen. It is not a very convenient place, but being our own, and the best we can obtain at a moderate rent, we are obliged to be satisfied with it; it is a very large room which is used as a Soup Kitchen. It is fitted with very large boilers. About 1,300 families receive soup there during the winter every night. It is fitted up with enormous boilers. The soup has to be cooking all day long. Only a small space is available for our use. We have movable tables and movable seats where we seat the children. We can seat about 110 children at a time.

2309. Do the teachers bring the children to that centre? The children from the Jews' Infant School come under the care of a teacher. It is quite in the immediate neighbourhood. The others come in with their tickets. We have different coloured tickets to indicate the schools. Every child has to bring a ticket.

2310. Do you feel sure that those tickets are brought by the same children who receive them at the school?—I think so. Occasionally they may sell them or exchange them for a tart; it is quite possible; but our superintendent has been with us for many years and she recognises the children to a large extent. They come in in batches. The whole of the children from one school arrive together.

2311. Do you seat each school separately as the children come in?—No. We have a very large waiting-room—that is one advantage of the place. They call it a maze. It is arranged so that people shall gradually drift into the room and not crowd together. Our children make use of the same maze. They are well sheltered from the weather. Very often they have to wait half an hour, until one batch has finished its meal.

2312. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) How many batches do you have?—Three.

2313. (*Chairman.*) You say it will probably be necessary to have another centre, as the numbers are increasing?—Yes.

2314. Is the increase of numbers due to exceptionally bad times, or to the growing demand on the part of parents of children for cheap meals?—I think there are more children. The Council has opened many more schools.

2315. You put it down to the actual increase in the number of children?—I think so.

2316. Do you find that the proportion is increasing?—I do not think to a large extent; but there are many more children who have to be cared for. There is a much larger number of children in the neighbourhood than there used to be. Several of the schools are comparatively new.

2317. There has been a large increase in the Jewish child population?—I can hardly reply to that question, as I do not know all the schools. For instance, I do not know the Highway myself, but my friend who is the manager of the school tells me that the parents are the poorest people she has ever come across.

Mrs. P. Adler. 2318. It is generally stated that Jewish parents are very particular about seeing that their children are properly fed. Is that borne out by your experience?—I think that they do the best they can. They cook well and cheaply.

2319. Do they compare favourably with other parents in London as regards the care which they take of their children?—I hope so. I have done a good deal of visiting among them. I think they are really very careful with their children, and they give themselves a great deal of trouble in their cooking, and probably the general health of the community is due to that. The children are tolerably healthy. Those with whom we deal are the children who cannot get food as a rule, because their parents have not the money to spend on it. It is a very small number of meals to give when you consider the number of schools from which the children come.

2320. Have you worked out the proportion of children who actually are fed, to the total numbers?—I will not say that I am quite certain about these numbers, but I have been to the trouble of preparing something which will indicate to you how we manage. The number given at each individual school is indicated. (A document was handed in to the Committee.) These figures are sent to our treasurer monthly. In April the numbers became very much less than they had been. We only had a fortnight's attendance in Berner Street Council School there are 1,237 children. We give about 136 meals daily.

2321. Would they be almost entirely Jewish children?—Yes, almost entirely. There are not more than 2 per cent. of Christian pupils; I am not sure that it is so many as that; it is a very small number.

2322. (Miss Lawrence.) These are fed in the school in each case?—Yes. In Betts Street there are 1,020 children. I am not sure whether those are all Jewish children. I do not know that school at all.

2323. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) They used not to be, but I think that they are now?—There we give about fifty dinners daily. At Christian Street, with 990 children, we give about seventy dinners. At the Highway the number is 1,694, and we give only forty dinners. Probably a good many of the children are not Jewish children in the Highway.

2324. They used not to be, but I think the number is increasing?—At Lower Chapman Street, with 1,561 children, we give sixty meals. These numbers are only approximate. Cable Street (special), Settle Street and Rutland Street together represent about sixteen.

2325. (Mr. Warrond.) Are all the meals that you have been speaking of served at Berner Street?—Yes. Buck's Row School has about 700 children, and they have about seventy meals; Chicksand Street, with 1,500 children, has about forty meals; Deal Street, with 1,070, has thirty-three meals. Many of these children pay. Some of them come from a distance and they are selected by the managers for that reason. At that centre they take a little over £2 during the winter for meals. Hanbury Street, with 479 children, has thirty-five meals daily; Old Montagu Street, with 736 children, has about thirty-seven meals a day; and Vallance Road, with 478 children, has about forty.

2326. (Chairman.) In each case you have given us the total number of children in the schools and the number of meals?—As far as I can ascertain.

2327. You cannot say the proportion of Jewish children?—You may take it that all these are Jewish children. I think that Rutland Street School and Cable Street are higher grade schools.

2328. You have given us in your *precis* the amount expended and the amount received in 1904. Up to what date do you make your accounts?—Always to December 31st.

2329. They are made to the 31st of December each year?—Yes.

2330. So that you get fractions of two feeding sessions?—Yes; we cannot very well help that. Do you think it would be better to change the plan?

2331. It occurs to me that it would be more convenient to stop at the long vacation, or some period of that kind, so as to get the full feeding session in?—The numbers have grown much in the last few years. We have always published a balance sheet and the subscriptions in the Jewish Press. We have never had a report and balance-sheet in book form, because we thought that the other was rather a cheaper method.

2332. Will you hand to us the Report and list? (The Witness handed the same to the Committee.)—We made an arrangement with the Jewish Chronicle to advertise our lists whenever we received contributions for £12 a year, which is not a very large sum to expend; and we think that we attract more attention in that way. When people see a list of subscriptions to the Penny Dinners they feel that they ought to send something.

2333. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Is this published every week?—Not every week but during the winter twice or three times. We have never had to stop our supplies for want of funds, but if our funds are exhausted we make a special appeal.

2334. (Chairman.) You have no later figures than these for 1904?—Yes. I have brought the monthly accounts for 1905. Perhaps you might like to see them.

2335. Speaking generally, has the expenditure increased, or may we take this as a safe guide to what is going on now?—I think it is quite a safe guide. We shall be able to meet our expenditure this year. A friend of mine organised a theatrical performance and raised about £200 for the fund. Of course if we open another centre the expenditure will be considerable for the fitting up of a kitchen and the supply of necessary cupboards and all the paraphernalia for cooking. That is a large expense, but we shall do it if we get permission. We have asked the London County Council to let us have the use of another school, unless you can suggest any better way of dealing with the matter. Another thing to be considered is the danger of the streets. If we had a central kitchen in that part of London we could only deal with one side of Commercial Road. The danger of crossing Commercial Road is great for the little ones.

2336. You have a grant from the Referee Dinner Fund, like most of the agencies in London?—Yes.

2337. Have you a grant from the London Schools Dinner Association?—No.

2338. You have nothing to do with that?—No.

2339. Or with any of the other societies?—No.

2340. The £333 15s. 10d. in 1904 we may take as entirely given for this purpose?—Yes.

2341. In trying to ascertain what the actual receipts and expenditure in London are, we find the same money re-appearing in different returns. We find that one society makes a grant to another?—The Referee Fund is a fund established absolutely for that purpose, is it not?

2342. Yes; and the Referee Fund makes grants to the London Schools Dinner Association, and the London Schools Dinner Association makes grants to other societies which have local subscriptions, which prove to be largely made up of the Referee Fund and so on, which makes it difficult to get to the bottom of the figures?—In 1905 we received an additional £10 from the Referee Fund. We were rather badly off. Next year the contribution will figure as £80 instead of £70.

2343. You mainly devote yourselves to giving dinners?—Yes.

2344. Have you any view as to the relative advantage of breakfasts and dinners?—For a short time we tried to give breakfasts. A friend of mine was very anxious to get the children to like porridge. We engaged a woman to cook porridge, and offered it to them free. We thought it would be a great advantage, but the children did not like it at all. They would not take it, and we abandoned the project.

2345. As a rule do the children from the Jewish households have breakfast before they come to school?—A few do not. At the Jews' Free School they have a special fund for supplying milk and bread, and at the Jews' Infant School the same. In most cases breakfasts would be supplied if they came without breakfast.

2346. Would the children be asked, or how would it be ascertained?—Probably they would be asked. There are a large number of breakfasts given.

2347. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Not through your association at all?—No.

2348. (Chairman.) You deal solely with dinners?—Yes.

2349. You give the meal four days in the week?—Yes.

2350. The day you omit being Friday?—Yes.

2351. Because the children go home early?—Yes. The interval is too short. They attend from nine to twelve and from one to half-past two; so that it has been found to be impossible. They bring something with them and eat it at school. Most of our people if they starve through the week will always get something to cook for the Sabbath. That is an absolute fact, you will find them subsisting on very scant fare during the week, but they always manage to get something for the Sabbath.

2352. So that experience shows that the four days' provision is sufficient?—I think so. In some of the schools cocoa is provided on Friday. We should require a separate arrangement for it, and we do not think it necessary.

2353. You would not consider that to feed children for two days a week was of very much value?—I think it is better than nothing. Some of our schools send the children two days a week and not four.

2354. But four days a week is more than twice as good as two?—There is no question about that. I believe that the Castle Street School sends the children twice a week, not four times. Commercial Street is a very poor school. The children go to Butler Street Centre. It is a very poor school, and we shall have to give them a larger grant of free meals. We allow twenty dinners a day. The manager writes to me to say that most of the children only get two dinners a week.

2355. You feel the importance of feeding with regularity, if it is done at all?—I am sure it is most necessary.

2356. As to the period over which you operate, does that begin in November?—We commenced this year the third week in November and went on until the second week in April, but usually we do not begin until the first week in December. It happened to be very cold and very damp, so the managers asked us to allow them to commence a little sooner.

2357. Do you find that the numbers drop at the end of that time?—Yes.

2358. But there is a considerable number to be fed when the period comes to an end?—Yes, a large number, but about fifty less than at the commencement.

2359. Have you ever considered the advisability of continuing the arrangement during the whole of the year for some of the children?—It would be very desirable, but too troublesome and too difficult, I fear. The teachers do not mind attending to it in the limited period of the winter, but to carry it on entirely would mean getting a very much larger number of assistants and helpers; and the managers do not consider that is absolutely necessary. There are some cases that require food. I had a letter from the manager of Berner Street School only last week. She is now sending about thirty children a day to Butler Street Centre, although it is rather a long walk. They are children who otherwise would have absolutely no food. They are carefully selected.

2360. Do the teachers find that when the dinners cease the efficiency of the school falls off?—I cannot tell you. We do not cease until the weather gets warm, and the nourishing meal is perhaps not quite so essential.

2361. Do you find that similar organisations cease operations when yours cease?—We have a good many feeding organisations that cease also with the winter. The Soup Kitchen is closed. The Butler Street centre is open throughout the year. We pay rent for the use of the rooms, and when the soup kitchen is no longer carried on we have the use of the rooms entirely. It is rather troublesome during the winter. We have to clear out directly the dinners are over to make room for the adults.

2362. Is any list kept of the children who receive meals?—Yes.

2363. Can you tell us how many individual children actually received meals during last winter?—I should think that the numbers I gave you are about the daily numbers. With regard to Butler Street, the numbers are about double. Many of the children only come twice a week. For Berner Street you might add about 100 children who attend; and for Hanbury Street also about 100. The numbers vary. One day 60 children are sent; that means sixty are being fed, of course. On another day you will find forty-five. If you take the average it will not give you the absolute number of children.

2364. No. Unless you keep a register showing by name each child who receives a meal and indicating how often that child has been fed during the feeding session it cannot be arrived at?—The head mistress of Gravel Lane Council School keeps a register, and she sends the same children daily. The head master has permission to send twenty-five children daily free. Those names are all submitted to me at the commencement of the year when my committee sits to vote the number of free dinners to each School. Those children are sent regularly. Beyond that people buy tickets and give them, and children pay their pennies.

2365. The important point is the children who receive free meals. A list of the total number of children to whom you supply free meals during the year would be very useful?—The County Council has asked the schools for a return.

2366. The Joint Committee have actually made a return. Do your schools appear in it?—Yes.

2367. It purports to give the actual number of children fed?—Yes.

2368. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) At the Jewish Free School they do not keep a list of the actual names, do they?—No; it would be quite impossible.

2369. I was told that the system is that tickets are given for each class; the teacher gives them to any children he thinks fit?—That is the system adopted. The head mistress knows certain of the children very well.

2370. I was speaking of the boys' department?—The girls' department is very well managed. It is very much smaller. It is not possible to deal with the Boys' School individually because it is so huge. At Hanbury Street the Manager keeps a register of the names of the children, and at Berner Street to a large extent, but not entirely.

2371. (Chairman.) You make no special provision for what are termed retarded children, that is to say, "children who though not defective are from mal-nutrition below the normal standard"?—No, nothing special. Dinners for children at the Cable Street School are provided, and we send to the Cripple school in Commercial Street three dinners daily.

2372. We are referring to children in ordinary elementary schools who are supposed to be thrown backward for want of food?—I have no doubt that they receive the attention of the managers.

2373. I will ask you to give us the addresses of other organisations, so that we may send forms to be filled up. Do they exhaust all the Jewish agencies?—I think so.

2374. (Miss Lawrence.) Would you tell me about how many is the number of the committee. You divide it into A. B. and C., I see?—We are twelve on the managing committee. Then we have two honorary superintendents; they are members of the committee. Then there is the committee of young ladies who attend in rotation. There are about twenty of them.

2375. Are all those virtually sub-committees of a central committee, or do they act independently?—There is a sub-committee. The ladies who visit the homes and select the children for the meals are the managers of the schools. Some of them are on our committee and some of them are not. The honorary superintendents are members of the committee.

2376. What proportion of homes does this large committee have to visit?—An enormous number.

2377. How often could they get round to each individual home for the purpose of inquiry?—My daughter

Mrs. R. Adler. used to visit at least 300 a year. She was manager of the Hanbury Street centre and of that group of schools. She has had to give it up since she was co-opted on the Education Committee. She used to visit from 300 to 350 families every year.

2378. More than once?—Yes, certainly more than once—many times. There are a great many ladies who devote themselves to that work. She has fortunately found two or three girl friends of hers who have taken up the work.

2379. With regard to ladies attending in rotation, how many do you think it is necessary to have present at one time at a dinner?—We never have less than two. As a rule we have about four, or we try to get four. We have one lady who arranges the rota, and she writes to certain ladies who say, "I will come down every Tuesday, or 'I will come down every Thursday.'" As a rule that is done quite regularly; during the hot months the attendance slackens.

2380. How many children would there be at one time?—Nearly 400 during the winter.

2381. At a time?—No, we cannot seat more than 110 at a time. Some of the older children assist in washing up and in serving, and one or two nice boys assist in keeping order. That I think is a good plan. It is rather a crowd, and it all has to be done very rapidly in order to get through the work in the time.

2382. Would the parents on the whole prefer to feed the children at home, or would they be willing to pay a penny in order to avoid the trouble of providing the dinner at home provided that they could do so?—I think that where they can afford it they are very glad to pay the penny.

2383. Would it be a matter of convenience to send the children out with the penny rather than give the dinner at home?—Many of the parents have very large families, and if they number six or seven together it would be much cheaper to cook at home than to send them out to dinner.

2384. Do you take only a certain number of children out of a family, or do you take the whole family?—No, not a whole family. We leave the selection to the managers of each school.

2385. If a family was very poor it would not necessarily have all its children fed?—It might or might not. Take a case of children provided for by the Board of Guardians; the whole family is fed. That is the case where the mother goes out charing.

2386. A special cook, you say, is employed. What do you pay her?—Ten shillings a week for the four days. The preparation has to be done on Sunday, because the dinner has to be ready before twelve on the Monday. The cook prepares the meat and vegetables and gets everything quite ready on Sunday afternoon. She arrives about half-past seven in the morning.

2387. You have no difficulty in getting a cook for that sum?—No. We paid 12s. later on during last winter because we had many more children in Berner Street. She was there later washing up and putting the things away, and it was only fair to give her a little more.

2388. With regard to the meat, are you able to get it in large quantities?—We have it all from the same butcher. We pay 6d. a pound for it without any bone or fat. Children are very particular, they will not eat fat.

2389. With regard to groceries and other supplies, do you get them wholesale?—Yes.

2390. You keep them on the premises?—Yes. We have the same people to supply each of the centres and we get an advantage.

2391. On page 4 you say "In cases of great poverty the visitor provides for Saturdays and Sundays through the help of our various philanthropic organisations." Is food sent in those cases?—Yes, occasionally. We have many funds for helping. We have grocery tickets and bread, meat and coal tickets and all that kind of thing.

2392. With regard to meals sent in for three children at the Commercial Street Cripple School, is that because the dinner there provided is not suitable from the Jewish point of view?—That is so.

2393. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) There is no difficulty in getting as much money as you want, is there?—Occasionally we have been in pecuniary difficulties.

2394. But you have always been able to make it up?—Yes.

2395. And you always will be able to make it up, you think?—I hope so. I had to make an appeal two years ago; funds were very low then. When I originally took it up the charity was hopelessly in debt, but I got a friend of mine to help and we soon got the conditions altered.

2396. You say that it is a great tax on the managers to select the children. I suppose you let the children go on to the dinner list before they are visited; or are they visited first?—They are visited first.

2397. Are all the visitors managers. The number of ladies is cut down you say?—Since the Borough Council has had control of the schools, so many of the members are men, and they have not the time to devote to it. The proportion of ladies is smaller. We have no other visitors except the managers. They try to get others to help them, of course.

2398. At the Free School you have no managers who can visit?—No. We know nothing about the children, and cannot obtain knowledge about them. Mr. Lewis is a very capable man and he devotes his whole time to the work. He does all the visiting for the Country Holiday Fund.

2399. But he does not select the children for the dinners?—No; that is left to the teachers. The teacher sees that a child looks very hungry, and sends him for a dinner. It is very common in the cold weather to receive a request for ten shillings' worth of tickets. Someone comes in and says, "How cold and miserable the children look"; and the teacher will say "If you give me 10s. we can feed 100 children." They get haphazard feeding.

2400. For a day or two while the tickets last?—While the tickets last. It is not satisfactory, but it is better than starvation; that is all that we can say.

2401. Is it not possible to put the Jewish Schools on a more scientific basis?—It is such a huge question. I am afraid. We have often talked about it. We try to get as much information as we can about the families. The Westminster Jews Free School have a good system. They give this paper to anyone who asks for help. (*The paper was handed to the Committee.*)

2402. (*Mr. Walrond.*) Do you issue books of tickets to the teachers which they pay for?—Yes. We give tickets for the various schools; we do not get paid for those. We have certain pink tickets, which we issue if the teachers send for tickets and remit the money for them. We have different colours for the different schools.

2403. The ordinary thing is to furnish a teacher with a book of tickets, coloured for his particular school, at the beginning of the feeding season?—It varies with the different schools. The head teacher has the selection and receives the tickets and undertakes to distribute them.

2404. Do you put a limit on the number of tickets which may be given out each day or sold to the children?—Certainly, because we have not an unlimited supply of food.

2405. Each school has a certain limit?—Yes.

2406. You said that if a child presented itself with a penny it was entitled to a ticket?—Yes.

2407. Do you give preference to children with pennies?—No; they all come into a room and wait, and they are all supplied whether they have a penny or not. In Butler Street, if something is left over from one day, so much less is prepared for the next; and so with the other schools.

2408. If you limit the schools to fifty tickets a day and thirty children with pennies present themselves and fifty without, do you take the thirty and twenty of the fifty, and leave the others?—Certainly not. They will all come in rotation.

2409. (*Chairman.*) All the eighty will be fed?—All the eighty will be fed. Occasionally we have run short. We give them all a meal. If a child with a penny cannot have a full meal we do not take the penny.

2410. (*Mr. Walrond.*) But how can the eighty be fed if there is the limit?—At the Berner Street Centre we have practically none paying. At Butler Street we always

have from forty to fifty paying. We take an average, we supply for 400 children. If there happen to be 402, probably the cook who turns the food out will manage to make it last. If there is nothing left for the little helpers who assist, she will probably give them bread and butter and eggs and coffee. We always cook more than is wanted at Butler Street and use it the next day. We have a good place for keeping the food. We very rarely fall short. Last year it did occur at Berner Street, and I had to order an additional cooker. We already possessed the largest that is made.

2411. I suppose that the teachers go up to the limit allowed them, every day?—Occasionally the full number is not sent. Some of the children may be away ill. The general average is kept up, I think.

2412. Do you know whether the general tendency is to encourage the regular feeding of certain children, or whether the inclination is rather to give two meals to a greater number of children?—I think where there are sensible teachers they are extremely anxious to give four meals a week.

2413. Do you think that that is the general practice?—Yes. It is very desirable and they try their utmost to do that. They find that it is very much better for the children.

2414. You do not feed the children on Sunday?—No, the schools rarely meet on Sunday. Our Jewish schools only meet for two hours on Sunday for religious instruction.

2415. Do you think that the children have a good chance of being fed on Sunday?—I think so. I think there is always something kept for the week end.

2416. After the Sabbath?—After the Sabbath. During the winter our soup kitchen always has a distribution on Friday in preparation for the Sabbath. Those that are very poor get a hot meal. I have often been in their homes on a Friday and I have been surprised to see the good preparation that is made by the bulk of them.

2417. (*Chairman.*) Do you take any medical advice in selecting the children for feeding in your schools at present?—The managers may do so, but we do not.

2418. There is no system of medical inspection at present in your schools which would work in with the arrangements for feeding children?—No, I do not think so.

2419. What is your general aim; is it to appease the hunger of individual children so as to make them fit to profit by their lessons; or is it to secure adequate nutrition of ill-nurtured children?—Unquestionably the latter.

2420. Do you consider that the former is already provided for?—We are ready to give a meal for a penny, but what we spend our money on absolutely is certainly in feeding the underfed.

2421. You do not quite take my point, I think. My point is this: Is your aim to prevent any child going hungry; or is it to raise the general standard of nutrition among the children. They are two different things?—We certainly do feed the hungry.

2422. Are you able to go beyond merely feeding the hungry. Are you able to raise the standard of feeding?—I hope so. We provide a wholesome nourishing meat meal and thereby endeavour to raise the general standard of nutrition among the children. As I have mentioned before, the selection of the recipients of free meals is left to the manager of each school.

2423. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Jewish parents as a rule would not give meat during the week?—No. I am afraid few can afford it.

2424. By giving the dinner which you give, you think that you raise the standard?—Yes.

The Rev. J. GREGORY MANTLE, called in; and Examined.

2441. (*Chairman.*) You are the originator of the Deptford Breakfast Fund?—Yes.

2442. Is that the right title?—I do not know that we gave it any specific name.

2443. It is a breakfast agency in connection with the Deptford Wesleyan Mission?—Yes.

2425. Jewish parents are much cleverer than Christians in the way in which they prepare food with oil?—Yes, they make a very nourishing food from peas and beans and a little fat.

2426. (*Chairman.*) Supposing that you had unlimited means, what would you do?—And unlimited space?

2427. Yes, and unlimited space?—I should be glad to give many more meals. There are certainly many schools where we do not supply nearly as many meals as are needed.

2428. Does that mean that there are children actually going hungry?—Absolutely.

2429. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Do you think that you could raise more money?—We could raise more money, but we have not enough accommodation. When we have another centre we shall have to raise the money to organize it, and that will be a large cost. We shall be able to feed more children.

2430. You think that you would have no difficulty in raising more money?—I think not.

2431. (*Chairman.*) Is there anything else you would like to add?—I think not.

2432. Because we want to hear everything you would like to say.

2433. As to medical inspection?—If you have medical inspection you will be guided very much by your medical men, who will tell you whether children require food or not. I am very much in favour of investigation in all cases. The ideal condition would be that all children should be regularly fed, and that those who can afford it should pay the entire cost and should deem it a privilege to do so, whilst the necessitous should be provided with a free meal. There is no question that children profit very much by regular food.

2434. Do you think that if a cheap meal was provided for which the parents might pay, they would take advantage of it?—I think a great many would.

2435. We have been led to understand by articles which have appeared in the Press that the Jewish parent would attach such great importance to feeding his child at home, if it were possible to provide the food there, that he would not take advantage of any such opportunity?—So very much depends on the condition of labour. We used to get sixty to eighty children paying for their meals daily but the numbers have decreased considerably last year.

2436. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Do many Jewish mothers go out to work?—Yes, but not in proportion to the number of the general population, and especially not when they have young children.

2437. (*Chairman.*) With regard to the Westminster Jewish Free School, it would certainly look as if a cheap school dinner paid for by the parent would be a success?—Yes.

2438. 120 boys and girls are fed daily, about forty receive a meal for 1d., and about eighty pay from 4d. to 8d. a week, according to the parents' means. That would point to their readiness and anxiety to take advantage of such a system?—Yes. We have only just now ceased giving dinners at the Bayswater Jewish Schools. About fifty receive them for 1d. or 2d. a week. That is practically free. The remainder pay the full cost of from 6d. to 8d. a week.

2439. The homes of these children are of a rather higher class than those in the East end?—Some are, but many are very poor. Some of the pupils come from a great distance. It is necessary that a meal should be provided.

2440. (*Chairman.*) We are very much obliged to you for your evidence.

2444. Would you describe to us how it originated?—It originated through the extreme poverty of the children in the district. The fact was brought to my notice by 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.

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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 I discovered that I set this piece of machinery in operation.

2445. When did this occur?—It occurred in November last year. We gave the first meal on December 6th. I made the discovery in the last days of November and immediately set this machinery in motion.

2446. Presumably dinners at the time were being worked in connection with some of these schools?—I made inquiry about that, and I found that it was principally done through the generosity of the teachers themselves. In many of the schools the only method of relief was through the generosity of the teachers. There was no considerable or systematic distribution of dinners.

2447. We have in this return of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children five council schools mentioned in the electoral area of Deptford which have reported feeding during the year 1904-5. At one school I see that as many as 698 children were fed, and at another, 452?—Was that per day.

2448. No; that was the actual individual number of children fed during the session?—I follow.

2449. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Which school were you mentioning?—Hughes Fields, I think it is, but I will ascertain.

2450. (Chairman.) The London Schools Dinner Association arranged for dinners at the Albany Institute five days a week through the Deptford Fund. There is an average of 187 children per week and 278 children actually fed according to the last returns?—The number who received a dinner is very much larger than I supposed it was.

2451. To continue: with regard to your organisation. that was for breakfasts only?—That was for breakfasts only.

2452. Will you tell us how it was worked?—It was worked on my own premises. We have a large central hall at the bottom of High Street, Deptford, in the very midst of the schools. I immediately placed my lecture hall and all the machinery we have for cooking and so on at the disposal of this agency. The whole thing was worked by my own voluntary workers. I put one of my lay agents in charge of the distribution, and we secured immediately the co-operation of the managers and teachers. The distribution of tickets was entirely taken out of our hands. We supplied them with so many tickets a day. They requested a certain number. We divided the tickets among the schools, and in that way practically the whole of the district was covered, although I am sorry to say we had evidence that it was not entirely covered even then. Although we gave about 1,400 a day, many only got tickets on alternate days. They were not able to have them on the five mornings that we gave the meal.

2453. From how many schools were children sent?—From five or six, I think, but my lay agent will insert that in my evidence. He is away.

2454. Perhaps you will give the names. Was there a separate Committee formed for each school?—No, we had no Committee. It was done through the school managers and teachers and the school attendance officer.

2455. That would constitute a Committee if they all took part in it?—Yes, it would, I suppose, but they did not regard themselves in any sense as a Committee.

2456. Had you yourself anything to do with the selection of the children?—No.

2457. You accepted what the managers and teachers told you?—We accepted what they told us. We thought that they knew better than we did and were able to save us from all possibility of having the charity abused.

2458. They sent you the children in the morning?—Yes.

2459. At what o'clock did you provide the meals and in what way. Will you tell us about that?—The doors of our lecture hall were open every morning except Sunday and Monday at 7.45.

2460. You left out Monday because of the Sunday dinner, I presume?—Yes.

2461. That being the day on which the children least required a meal?—Yes.

2462. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Breakfast was given on Saturday?—Yes. We thought that to discontinue from Friday to Tuesday was too long a time. Our lecture hall accommodates 700 children. We had a very low form made, so that we could accommodate as many as possible. The first batch of 700 children were admitted, each one of them having a ticket. We had to provide an enamelled mug for them in which we gave them about half a pint of coffee with plenty of milk in it. We gave every child a roll and a piece of cheese. 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. Then by the time the first 700 had passed in, there were 700 more waiting at the door, and the second batch came in also by ticket. The first breakfast was over by 10 minutes past 8 and then the second batch was admitted, and the second breakfast was over by 8.40, so that the children were never late for school.

2463. The breakfasts were always given free?—The breakfasts were always given free.

2464. And the children were admitted by tickets which were supplied by teachers at the schools?—Yes, in every case, except that, if we had a few rolls over and we saw a few necessitous children outside who had not a ticket, we admitted them.

2465. What did the cost per head amount to?—About a penny.

2466. Did that include everything?—I can give you the estimate for 5,000 breakfasts: 5,000 rolls at 23s. 5d. per 1,000, 60 gallons of milk at 11½d. a gallon, and 64 lbs. of cheese at 6d. a lb. I always bought a good cheese for them. I always chose it myself. It was a cheese that sells at 8d. I bought it wholesale at 6d. Then 160 lbs. of sugar at 22s. per hundredweight; 20 lbs. of coffee at 8½d. a lb., and firing, lighting, and extra labour, £1 17s. 6d. It works out at exactly a penny per head.

2467. You had no rent to pay?—No.

2468. You had the premises?—We had the premises.

2469. No charge was made for plant?—No.

2470. The expenso was for extra wages and extra firing and the actual cost of the food provided?—Yes.

2471. (Mr. Walrand.) Were the mugs given to you?—Yes. 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.

2472. (Chairman.) Had you any grants from any of the recognised associations for feeding, such as the Refectory Fund and the London Schools Dinner Association?—Nothing whatever.

2473. It was all collected personally by yourself?—Yes.

2474. Have you an audited account of the expenditure of which you could send us a copy?—Yes. The whole mission account is audited, and this comes in as part of our social work. We have some very interesting photographs of the children at their meal. I am sorry I did not bring them.

2475. You have no knowledge of the dinner arrangements which were being worked at the same time in Deptford?—I am sorry to say not.

2476. There seems to have been a Mayor of Deptford's fund which provided meals in several school as, for instance Alverton Street, Deptford Park and Frankham Street?—Yes.

2477. Was the Mayor of Deptford's fund raised this year?—Yes. It was only a small fund this year. It was commenced late.

2478. Is it a fund which is raised annually?—It is.

2479. Your fund was only raised for the first time this year?—Yes, for the breakfasts.

2480. Are you proposing to continue the agency?—We are waiting to see what is going to be done in other directions. I should certainly do it again next year if nothing else was done.

2481. Was there exceptional distress in the district last year?—Undoubtedly, and there is to-day, owing to a variety of causes. One of the causes is that, owing to the multiplication of machinery in the docks, there is far less demand for hand labour than there was. I know that some contractors whose men belong to my own hall pay £100 less per week for wages than they have been accustomed to do in past years. Right behind our hall, in the very heart of Deptford, is the foreign cattle market. For eighteen months the Argentine cattle have been withdrawn owing to foot and mouth disease. That has thrown hundreds of men out of employment. Those two causes and the war between Japan and Russia, which undoubtedly has affected the trade, have no doubt contributed very largely to the abnormal poverty which prevails in Deptford. I know that it prevails to-day to a very large extent, because some of my best and thoroughly trustworthy men who would work if work was to be obtained are now out of employment.

2482. Has any similar agency taken the place of yours since it ceased to exist?—No. We have spent over £2,000 this winter in relief work, so that you may guess how large has been the demand. In many cases I not only gave the children breakfast, but boots and clothing wherever I could. It has been by far the most trying winter I have known. I have been in Deptford for three winters, but this has been exceptionally severe, and to our great sorrow the distress continues to-day to a very large degree.

2483. (Miss Lawrence.) What further enquiry do you make other than what you have told us of as to the circumstances?—We do not make any further enquiry because we have no time to make further enquiry. The winter was one of such tremendous pressure that we felt that the teachers and school managers and school attendance officer, whom I know very well, were better qualified to judge than we could possibly be as to the deserving character of the applicants.

2484. Do you find that the attendance officer is only acquainted with the irregular children?—I do not think so.

2485. Did any of the children pay anything?—No. We made no charge at all.

2486. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You seem to think the distress was mainly because the parents were out of employment?—Yes. I am quite prepared to admit that there is a good deal of thriftlessness and intemperance among the parents. I have no doubt of that whatever, although I believe that the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is perfectly true, that a wave of sobriety is coming over even a district like Deptford. I am sure that in many cases this winter the distress was occasioned by want of employment.

2487. When you went to the school did you simply get the teachers to ask while you were there, or how did you find out?—I got the teachers to ask while I was there.

2488. They asked which of the children's parents were out of work?—Yes.

2489. The children held up their hands?—Yes.

2490. Was that verified in any way?—I do not know that it was, although during the seventeen weeks when we continued our work they had opportunity.

2491. Did the numbers fall off gradually?—No, they did not fall off. They were as large at the end as at the beginning.

2492. Was the want of employment less marked at the end than at the beginning?—I do not think it was.

2493. Is there as much want now in Deptford?—I am afraid so. The suffering is not so great because we have warm weather instead of cold, but the suffering to-day from want of employment in Deptford is very serious in my judgment.

2494. The teachers did not make any arrangement to feed the children who were not getting dinners as far as you know?—I am sorry I do not know more about the dinner arrangement. I am obliged to confess ignorance of that.

2495. (Chairman.) There is the Joint Committee on Underfed Children to which, properly speaking, the teachers should have reported distress. You do not know if they have done so?—No.

2496. We have it in evidence that the London Schools Dinner Society has never yet found it necessary to refuse any application made to it?—I gather from the figures that it was only done on a small scale. We gave altogether over 103,250 breakfasts. I imagine that there was not any very considerable application to the dinner fund.

2497. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) The teachers were the people on whom you relied mainly for selection of course?—Yes.

2498. Do the teachers live in Deptford?—Many of them live in the neighbourhood.

2499. They do not go further afield?—I think not.

2500. Where the schools are in poor parts they usually live away?—I think many of them live in the neighbourhood.

2501. Have you been a manager?—No.

2502. Did you find that some of the teachers recommended a much larger number than others?—Yes.

2503. In the same school did the headmaster and headmistress occasionally send you largely differing estimates of what was wanted?—In many cases they were constantly asking for a larger number of tickets than we were able to supply. We were never able to go beyond 1400. Even in that case we found that there were some who could only have breakfast two or three mornings in the week instead of five.

2504. I wanted to find out whether you thought the teachers in some cases in the same school differed in their estimates. For instance a girls' school-mistress might make a different estimate of the number needing meals from the one made by the boys' master. If it is left to them to estimate it is not rather difficult. You did not find that?—No, I do not think we did. My own impression was that the thing was thoroughly done.

2505. The teachers had not time themselves to visit the children's homes of course?—No.

2506. Even if they lived in the district they would not have time for that?—No.

2507. All that they could do would be to see the children in the schools?—Yes, but they would be better able to judge than we should be with our imperfect knowledge.

2508. You have a number of visitors, have you not?—Yes, we have a number of visitors, but in the winter time, if it is a winter like the last, their time is wholly taken up with the adult cases.

2509. I suppose that many of the cases were cases of children that you knew of?—Yes. There is no doubt that the meal which we gave was greatly valued. I have had several letters from the managers and teachers since the discontinuance, in which statements like this, for instance, are made: that one of the inspectors said to one of the teachers, "I wonder what has happened to the girls; they seem so much brighter than they were a year ago. How is it that they have done their work so much better?" The answer was that they had had this nutritious meal for five days a week. To continue for seventeen weeks is a considerable spell.

2510. Do you think that you got the same children during that time?—Yes, I think so.

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2511. You chose breakfast purposely and not dinner because you thought it more necessary?—Yes.

2512. Why did you think it better to give breakfast?—I thought it very much better for the children to go to morning school with breakfast than to have to go through the morning with headache as many of them were doing. It was easier for them to tackle the work of the day on a substantial meal, even though in some cases, as I found out, they had no dinner.

2513. (Mr. Watford.) Have you any idea of organising a dinner system in Deptford?—I do not know of any proposal.

2514. If you were able to do it I suppose that the cooking would be a difficulty?—I am afraid it would.

2515. Where did you do such cooking as was necessary for the breakfast?—We have a large soup kitchen in connection with our hall and all the cooking was done in our large boilers there. A matter of this sort could only be dealt with with very much difficulty. Ours is such a busy centre that I should have to consider the question of anything that came in the middle of the day and dislocated our ordinary work.

2516. The hall is wanted for other purposes of course?—Yes; the hall is very greatly occupied in the week.

2517. (Chairman.) I see in the return of the Joint Committee, "Stanley Street School—a few tickets received from New Cross Wesleyan Mission"?—That is out of our district.

2518. It is in the Deptford electoral area. Breakfasts are said to be provided at the Albany Institute, Frankham Street?—Yes; that is close to our hall.

2519. Would those be going on at the same time as your breakfasts?—I do not know.

2520. It says "Grants from Referee Fund, Robin Society, and Mayor of Deptford's Fund." You presumably received a good many children from the Frankham Street School?—Yes; that is one of the schools.

2521. Is there anything that you would like to add to your evidence?—I do not know that I have anything more to say excepting that I was always a little bit troubled between Saturday and Tuesday about the children. Although no doubt they managed to rub along over those days more easily than they would the others, yet I am sure that there was a good deal of suffering between Saturday and Tuesday.

2522. Even on the Sunday there was in many homes not sufficient food, you think?—Yes. The problem

of poverty in Deptford is one that is perplexing me more and more.

2523. Have you reason to think that Deptford is one of the very worst parts of London in the way of employment at present?—Yes, I am afraid it is. Last year we found that when the early summer came nearly all the men got into employment of some kind, but it is not so this year. I have a lot of men coming to my hall to-day and when I see them coming I know quite well what has happened. They come on Sunday in their rough corduroy clothing, all their Sunday clothing being pawned. They are men who suffer intensely and who have never known what it is before to be out of employment for so long a spell. I had several cases last Sunday.

2524. Is there a large movement of population going on in consequence. Are families migrating?—I do not think so. They do not know where to go. Things are no better anywhere else. I can only say with regard to it that I look back on this piece of work among the children as about the most satisfactory piece of relief work that we have ever done, and my judgment is borne out by statements from my own visitors and from the managers and teachers of the schools. I should certainly do it again if no other provision was made for the children.

2525. Was the money to do this piece of work found almost entirely by your congregation or did you make a newspaper appeal?—It was found by my own friends who always help me in this kind of work. It was not found entirely by my own congregation, although they contributed liberally. A very interesting feature was the fact that a large number of workmen who passed the hall in the morning on the way to their work saw the children waiting to go in. They said: "What does this mean?" They found that we were giving children breakfasts, and in some works in the district a fund was organised to help us. A weekly contribution came in from quite a number of factories to aid us in the work.

2526. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You did not issue any public appeal?—The only public appeal I issued was to my own constituency—friends who always help me.

2527. (Chairman.) Did any enterprising reporters from the Press come down?—One only—one from the *Daily Express*.

2528. Did that lead to further help?—I do not think it affected us very much. There were three-quarters of a column of descriptive article in the *Daily Express*, but that was about all.

2529. (Chairman.) Thank you.

SIXTH DAY.

Tuesday, 27th June, 1905.

PRESENT.

Mr. H. W. SIMPKINSON, C.B. (in the Chair).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.

The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE.
Mr. R. WALBOND.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (Secretary).

Lieutenant-Colonel ROWE (S.A.), called in; and Examined.

A. METHODS EMPLOYED.

Lieut.-Col. Rowe (S.A.) 2530. (Chairman.) You are a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Salvation Army?—Yes.

2531. Would you tell us what the length of your experience in the Army has been?—Twenty-two years.

2532. Has it been mainly in London?—Yes.

2533. Solely in London?—No, not solely in London—at Manchester, and Birmingham, and London. About fifteen and a-half years in London.

2534. We propose to take this *precis* as the skeleton of your evidence in chief and to put it on the shorthand notes?—Certainly. The following is the *precis*.

1. One distributing depot per district; all depôts under one central control.
2. No assistance generally from local authorities.
3. Meals supplied generally at reduced price (one farthing); cost met by public contributions, supplemented by those of parents themselves.
4. Where destitution from any cause is discovered arrangements are made for the children to be provided with free meals.
5. Where, as is generally the case with the Salvation Army, the relief given is in the form of farthing breakfasts,

this coin will admit each applicant, but destitute children, known to our officers or agents, are admitted free.

6. The meals are served in our own halls, situated in slum districts, such as Cable Street, Shadwell; Wentworth Street, Whitechapel.

7. Small units are more satisfactorily dealt with.

8. The distribution is continued from year to year.

B. SUMS EXPENDED.

1. The total amount for London slum districts only—and not including special feeding in our larger buildings—for the winter 1904-5 is £390.

2. £365 18s. 2½d. of this amount was spent on food material only; and £24 1s. 9½d. for light, fuel, and sundry working expenses.

3. Cost per head—1½d., at the dearest for consumables only.

4. Sources of supply; public contributions and payments by parents.

C. RELIEF GIVEN.

1. Nature of meals supplied:—

(a) Breakfasts.

(b) Substantial currant rolls and cocoa

(c) There is reasonable variety, and the food is greatly relished.

(d) The meals are given five days per week from November to March, which covers the acute period of distress, and generally meets the need.

2. Parents and children are notified of the relief in good time beforehand.

3. For the United Kingdom, 500,000 breakfasts during the winter 1904-5.

4. In London over 1,000 individual children were fed per day at twenty-four slum centres only.

This is our regular winter work. We have found it necessary at times to do additional work on these lines at our larger halls.

2535. Is the whole of London mapped out into districts?—Yes.

2536. Into how many districts?—For the slums—24.

2537. How do you define a slum for this purpose?—A slum is a post established in a very poor district. We have other work, of course, going on in the neighbourhood, or the neighbourhood adjoining, but a special work is carried on in slums.

2538. "Slum" is a technical term in the Salvation Army for a particular kind of district?—Yes, for a very poor district.

2539. Is there a depot established in each of these slum districts?—Yes.

2540. Would you tell us what a depot consists of?—A small hall and living house. The hall may be a corner shop, or two rooms knocked into one.

2541. Would there invariably be a kitchen attached to it?—Yes.

2542. A means for preparing food, that is to say?—Yes, a copper, say.

2543. Is there any special place or time for feeding school children?—From half-past seven to eight usually.

2544. Is that time set apart for school children or for any children?—For children. In fact that is the only time at which children are fed.

2545. You do no work in the nature of providing dinner in the middle of the day for children?—No, not for children.

2546. (Dr. Parsons.) The breakfasts are served from half-past seven to eight in the morning?—Yes, from half-past seven to eight in the morning, or thereabouts.

2547. (Chairman.) Is any child who presents himself admitted at that time?—Yes, in our case on the production of a farthing, or if the child is personally known to our agents and officers on the spot or has attended as a result of visitation on the part of our people.

2548. Would that involve the production of a ticket by the child?—Yes, in the case of the attendance being the result of visitation.

2549. But you would serve any child who brought a farthing?—Yes.

2550. Do any children pay more than a farthing?—No. Lieut.-Col. Rowe (S.A.)

2551. Is the cost of these meals met by a special fund?—Yes, a special poor fund. 27 June, 1905

2552. Is it confined in its operation to children, or does it extend to other purposes as well?—Largely to children. Some amount may be taken from another poor fund, which is not specifically a childrens' fund, to supplement the contributions to the childrens' fund, but as a rule the childrens' fund is kept to itself. The farthings largely help.

2553. The cost of a meal, we understand, is something over a penny?—Yes, a penny to a penny farthing.

2554. Persons subscribe to that fund knowing that the money will be used for the particular purpose?—Yes.

2555. How are deserving cases for free feeding ascertained?—By visitation and by personal knowledge on the part of our agents.

2556. The visitation would be solely by your own agents?—Yes. In the slum districts usually two women are stationed together and they visit the district, going from house to house, irrespective of any religion that the occupants may profess. Usually no religion is professed. Our people make their way in and find out the circumstances and deal with them both from the standpoint of our spiritual agency and the standpoint of temporal affairs. If we find destitution then we take steps to relieve that destitution either in the matter of breakfasts, or clothing, or employment, or in any other way that we can possibly help them.

2557. We may take it, then, that there are always two officers attached to each of these slum districts who are responsible for the visiting?—Yes.

2558. Do they work at all in connection with any other agencies. Would they consult the attendance officer, or the relieving officer, or any parochial visitors?—No, not of their own volition. They would be open, of course, to accept any suggestion made or any information brought to them from different sources and would act accordingly. Often we have valuable information in that way from the officials of the district directing our attention to certain cases of poverty.

2559. But in default of any special information being given to them they would act entirely on their own responsibility and knowledge?—Certainly.

2560. Do you in any way satisfy yourselves that children receiving breakfasts at your depôts are not also receiving relief elsewhere?—Yes. The time of the distribution is so arranged that it is impossible, or pretty nearly so, for the child to obtain another breakfast in that district that morning, at any rate.

2561. That would solely apply to the breakfast. A child might be receiving a free dinner or other relief?—Certainly. In fact, we quite expect that. We do not expect that the child would subsist for the day on the breakfast, and our own people frequently, in the severest weather, give relief through other parts of the day besides the breakfast.

2562. But not in the form of meals?—Soup.

2563. I understood you to say, at the beginning, that you only gave breakfasts?—Yes, but I am speaking of periods of acute distress. As a usual thing, and as a systematic thing, for the last ten years we have been in the habit of giving farthing breakfasts during a certain portion of the winter, morning by morning. In times of acute distress, such as the past winter, we have given, say, soup in the middle of the day, or distributed food parcels among deserving families, or destitute families.

2564. What proportion of the total number of children fed pay the farthing?—I could not exactly say. I should say about 50 per cent.

2565. Does the payment of a farthing leave the child's parents to suppose that they are paying for the whole breakfast?—No. The parents quite understand that the ½d. does not meet the whole cost.

2566. You think it is generally understood that the ½d. is only a payment in part?—Yes, certainly.

2567. Do the children from particular schools go to a particular district, or may any child from any school go

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to any depôt?—The children do not travel far for their breakfasts. They are children who are in the immediate neighbourhood who come to our places. They will not travel far, and they do not travel far. They do not get up early enough to do that. They go to the nearest depôt for their food.

2568. But there may be children attending the same school who would go to different depôts in consequence of the proximity to their homes?—Yes.

2569. You have in fact no knowledge of the school from which the children come?—Yes and no. Our local agents have a knowledge of the schools attended by some of the children who come to our depôts, but we have no systematic knowledge: that is to say, we have no knowledge, as a whole, as to what schools they attend.

2570. You would not refuse a child admission because his proper depôt was another one owing to the school he attended?—If we had a depôt in the district we should, if he had time to get to it. Of course there is that to be taken into consideration. We should not draw a hard and fast line. If a child turned up and belonged to a neighbourhood in which we had a distributing depôt, and he had time to get there in order to partake of breakfast, we should say, "You must go to the other depôt, but otherwise we should say, 'Very well, come here.'"

2571. It would depend in fact, on the child's home and not on the child's school?—Quite so.

2572. You say that small units are more satisfactorily dealt with?—Yes.

2573. Would you kindly explain that statement?—The less crowded they are the easier they are managed and the less machinery is required for their distribution.

2574. What would be the largest number attending in one depôt?—We have known from 200 to 250.

2575. Would that number be served in relays, then?—Yes.

2576. Do they, as a rule, sit down to the meal?—In some cases, yes, on forms, but not at tables.

2577. What is the time occupied by a meal for a child?—That depends on the hunger of the individual. I suppose, largely, but say ten minutes to a quarter of an hour.

2578. You attach great importance to the permanence of your organization in this respect?—Yes.

2579. Do you carry on any breakfast work in the summer, or after March?—Not in the summer. After March it depends on the weather conditions largely.

2580. Do you find the numbers falling off considerably towards the end of March?—Yes, as the warm weather comes.

2581. What does that mean?—I hardly know, except that they do not feel the pinch of hunger so much and are perhaps more readily satisfied with what they can pick up, or perhaps they are able to get about and gather food. On the other hand, of course in some cases it is because outdoor labourers are not hindered by the weather from following their employment.

2582. You mean that the parents would feed the children at home in consequence of having more wages?—Yes.

2583. But in some cases you imagine that the child would not feel the want of breakfast in the warm weather?—No, not so acutely.

2584. Would it lie in bed later?—Yes, later, but of course the children have to be at school. We find that the lying in bed operates too during holidays or on Saturdays and Sundays. The parents, I suppose, keep the children in bed because they find that the longer they stay in bed the less they will want to eat and they thus save the breakfast and so on. The children do not get up so early on Saturdays and Sundays as on other days, because there is no necessity for them to be at school.

2585. Is the breakfast provided by you on Saturdays or Sundays?—No.

2586. On neither day?—No.

2587. You say that the total amount for the London slum districts only, that is, for the twenty-four districts and not including special feeding in your larger buildings for the winter 1904-5, is £390?—Yes.

2588. Is that an estimated amount or an ascertained amount?—That is an ascertained amount.

2589. "Not including special feeding in our larger buildings." Would you explain what you refer to there?—For instance, this winter, dealing with the United Kingdom as a whole and exclusive of slums, half a million children were fed during the winter mornings.

2590. That is exclusive of your slum districts?—Exclusive.

2591. (Mr. Walrod.) Exclusive of London, that is?—Yes.

2592. (Chairman.) And of other slum districts?—And of other slum districts.

2593. What is the number, including the slum districts, for London and elsewhere?—I should say about 700,000.

2594. It is rather less than half of the whole work?—Less than half.

2595. Can you say how many breakfasts were given in your slum districts in London during last winter. You say that over a thousand individual children were fed per day, but you have not yet given us the total number of meals. Perhaps you could put that on your evidence?—Yes.

2596. The cost per head you give as a 1½d. Does that include only the actual constituent parts of the meal?—Yes—about 1½d. to a 1½d., I should say.

2597. What is the most expensive part of the meal?—The currant rolls I should say.

2598. Do you give fresh milk in the cocoa?—Yes, in some instances, but it is not used so much now as formerly, condensed milk being found more convenient.

2599. That I imagine would cost more than anything?—Yes, but not more per head than the currant roll. The currant roll varies according to districts. It might cost about ¾d. perhaps.

2600. Would the cost of your soup dinners be higher than that, or lower?—That varies according to the constituents of the soup. On an average I should say it would be about the same.

2601. Do you find that you have sufficient contributions to meet your needs in this respect?—Yes, just.

2602. Do you receive any grants from such agencies as the "Referee Fund"?—No.

2603. From none of the London Feeding Agencies?—No, we receive no grants. We receive nothing but private subscriptions.

2604. On what ground was it decided to give breakfasts only to children, or I should say breakfasts in preference to dinners?—For two or three reasons:—The first is that our agents have other work during the day, such as visiting and ordinary meetings. Meetings are held in the slum districts just as in the other districts, both in the streets and in our own halls.

2605. That is to say that it is more convenient for your organisation to supply breakfasts?—Yes, it is more convenient. And secondly, we think that it helps the child if it has something the first thing in the morning instead of waiting until later in the day.

2606. That is to say that you consider breakfasts a more useful meal than dinner?—Yes.

2607. As a rule do the same children come day by day?—Yes.

2608. You say that parents and children are notified of the relief in good time beforehand?—Yes.

2609. How is that done?—It is not necessary to make any great announcement. A notice posted on the door of the hall a day or two beforehand is quite sufficient for the news to spread throughout the neighbourhood and to bring a great crowd. There is no difficulty whatever in securing children.

2610. For what length of time are the children received free after they are put on the free list?—Until the destitution ceases.

2611. Are the children watched carefully from week to week?—Yes.

2612. You consider, that the rule is the 1½d. payment?—The rule is the 1½d. payment for London

ADDRESSES OF LONDON SLUM CORPS.

Battersea, 32 Plough Road.
Bermondsey, 214 Bermondsey Street.
Bathnal Green, Tent Street, Mile End, E.
Bow, Fern Street.
Clerkenwell, 9 Bowling Green Lane.
Custom House, 221 Prince Regent Lane, Victoria Dock, E.
Deptford, 192 Church Street, S.E.
Dockhead, 17 Hickman's Folly.
Hackney, 374 Hackney Road.
Holborn, 52 Eagle Street, Red Lion Street.
Hoxton, Ivy Lane, Hoxton Street.
Lambeth, 27 Broad Street.
Limehouse, 26 Limehouse Causeway
Millwall, Malabar Street.
Shadwell, 263 Cable Street, E.
Shoreditch, 86 Selatter Street.
Silver Town, Parker Street.
South Lambeth, Bolney Street, Dorset Street.
Somers Town, 6 Chapel Street, N.W.
Southwark, 195 Union Street.
Tidal Basin, 121 Victoria Dock Road, E.
Walworth, 74 South Street, S.E.
Waterloo, Cornwall Road, Stamford Street.
Whitechapel, 78 Wentworth Street, E.

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slums, and for general distress. For acute periods of distress we relax and we say that, 1d. or no 1d., we must give them food.

2613. Has that been the case during the past winter?—Yes.

2614. For what length of time?—For about six weeks on the whole.

2615. Has there been much variation in numbers from week to week during the last winter?—No, not so much as in some years—not so much as in normal years.

2616. You consider that last year was an abnormal year?—Yes.

2617. In the whole of London or in certain special districts?—In the whole country.

2618. What grounds do you base that on?—On returns which we have received and on information obtainable from our own agencies throughout the country.

2619. Was that based solely upon the number of people who presented themselves for food or on statistics of trade or reports on the condition of trade?—Reports on the condition of trade and the observations of our own people in mingling with the population in their visitations. Each of our officers or agents in a town visits for eighteen hours per week as a minimum. He puts in eighteen hours' visitation among all classes of people and does a good deal of house to house visitation, door after door, street after street, and thus, where we are admitted (and we are admitted in a number of cases, in fact, usually admitted), we have the opportunity of gathering exactly how things are.

2620. Do you, as a matter of routine, make a report, week by week, as to what you find?—Yes. The report may not go farther than the town itself. Our paid agent (to distinguish him from our voluntary workers in a town) does the visitation and reports to his people what he finds, and if he finds destitution then some effort is made to relieve it at once. If a considerable quantity of destitution is found then some general effort is made by way of free meals, or 1½d. or 1½d. meals, as the case may be.

2621. Would there be a paid agent in each slum depôt?—Yes. In each slum depôt we have two women paid agents.

2622. Those are the same that you referred to before?—Yes. In other districts wherever we have work going on we have a paid agent, in some cases two women, in others two men. In other cases we have one man or a married couple. These are continually about amongst the people and have a very good idea as to how the people are living.

2623. And their reports would go to the central office for the town?—Yes. They would be dealt with locally at that centre. If, however, the destitution were very widespread and acute then it would be reported to what is called the divisional officer. The towns are grouped. Thirty towns, for instance, form a division, and that division is under the oversight of a divisional officer. Anything of the character that I have named would be reported to the divisional officer, and he, from his knowledge, from the reports which he would receive from other towns, would be in a position to know whether the distress applied only to that town or to several towns.

2624. How is that applied to London?—In the same way.

2625. Is there one divisional officer for the whole of London?—No. We have many divisional officers in London.

2626. You mention that all depôts are under one central control?—Yes, all the slum districts are under one central control. Those slum districts are again sub-centralised, so to speak. Five slum posts are formed into what is called a slum section; that slum section is under the oversight of a sectional officer with a sectional office. Then perhaps there are five sections of slum centres and they are responsible to one central authority.

2627. Would you hand in to us a list of the twenty-four slum centres?—I have one here. It is rather rough (The following is the list.)

2628. Would you indicate which are the centres at which the largest work in feeding is done?—I should say Bermondsey, Custom House, Deptford, Dockhead, Hoxton, Holborn. There is in fact not much to choose between them. Then Lambeth, Limehouse, Shadwell, South Lambeth, Somers Town, and Tidal Basin.

2629. Perhaps I should have asked you at which a large work is not done?—Yes.

2630. You mention Deptford in the list. We had a witness here lately, Mr. Gregory Mantle of the Deptford Wesleyan Mission, who did a large work in giving breakfasts during the last winter?—Yes.

2631. Have you, as an organisation, any knowledge of that work?—Yes, we knew that it was carried on, but we had no intimate knowledge of it.

2632. Was the result of the system under which we understand he gave 1,400 breakfasts per day to in any way draw children away from your depôt?—A very few. Our officers report that those who come to our places are not usually drawn away to other places afterwards.

2633. How would you account for the large numbers which attended his breakfasts if, as I understand, your depot was always open to receive children?—I have no intimate knowledge of his work or of the working.

2634. But you heard of it. It was reported?—Yes.

2635. With regard to Holborn we understand that there is an association in Holborn which combines, so far as possible, all the agencies for feeding children. Have you any knowledge of that?—No, I have no personal knowledge. Our agents on the spot very likely would have.

2636. You find that there is a large attendance of children at the depot in Holborn for breakfast?—Yes, in fact there is no lack of children. We could feed many more than we do feed.

2637. When you say that you could feed many more, what do you mean?—We could make the fact known. We could publish the fact more that we are supplying the farthing breakfasts. Even just a notice on the outside of the hall, on the door, or an announcement in our meeting would be sufficient to bring quite a crowd the next morning as many as we are prepared to deal with at such short notice.

2638. By the end of the season I presume that practically every parent in need in London would know that there was a Salvation Army breakfast available?—Yes and no, again. It is astonishing what ignorance exists. They know little of the world and what is going on unless someone brings the news. They never read the papers of course, and they do not know unless a neighbour tells them.

2639. The news of this sort of thing would go from neighbour to neighbour rapidly?—Yes, it does. We find it to be the case that they carry the news; and in act in our poorer districts the children themselves, and

Lieut.-Col. Rowe (S.A.) the parents, look forward to and look out for the notice that farthing breakfasts are commencing.

27 June, 1905 2640. Do you suppose that there are children actually starving for want of breakfast who are unaware of the existence of the possibility in your depots?—I could not say that, because we endeavour to find out by our visitation all cases of destitution.

2641. (*Miss Lawrence*.) Do the children bring the farthings with them?—Yes.

2642. You do not have any system of collection from the families?—No.

2643. How do you know at all how many to provide for? You spoke just now of short notice?—I think I stated that the number who come generally, come regularly, so that we know from the last year's effort how many are to be expected in a certain district and hence we are prepared.

2644. Would it ever happen that more children would come than there were breakfasts for, and that you would have to turn them away?—That is unusual. We could easily get more cocoa made and there would be a few rolls over. In such a case our people would procure some extra food locally.

2645. You say that parents and children are notified of the relief in good time. The only notification is the putting up of a notice?—Yes, and by visitation.

2646. What number do you suppose is the average number at each depot?—The average number I should say would be about fifty per morning.

2647. In the cases where free breakfasts are recommended, how does your organisation make the depot aware of that? Do the children bring tickets?—Yes.

2648. How do you know that the free cases are properly selected?—They bring tickets and our officers generally identify the children because the destitute cases are discovered by visitation. The officer would make a point of seeing the children if possible, upon his visit as well as leaving the tickets with the parents. Even if another child should turn up on the following morning, which is not probable, that would be detected on the succeeding morning, or as soon as the officer paid the second visit, because the officer would make a point of seeing the children as well as the parents.

2649. Would the same officer who visited the free case be present at the breakfasts?—Yes.

2650. Does the standard of want vary very much, having regard to the standard that is thought necessary for the recommendation of a free case, or, broadly speaking, is it all cases when the father is out of work?—It is not necessarily when the father is out of work, because in some cases where the father is out of work it may be possible still for the parents to provide a little food, or sufficient food. It is all cases where an officer is satisfied that there is real need.

2651. If the child was in need owing to neglect of the parent what steps would you take then, supposing that the parent could provide for it but did not?—It is possible that the officer would say nothing with regard to the breakfasts, or would offer no relief. In some cases he would take means to let the children have some sustenance without the parents' knowledge, that is to say, without the parents having the knowledge that it was through us that the children were being helped.

2652. Is your experience in this matter of feeding confined to London?—No.

2653. Did you make this provision anywhere else last winter?—Yes, in Birmingham.

2654. How does that compare with London?—In Birmingham itself a good deal of feeding is done at the schools, I believe, but I do not know exactly under what arrangement. We have, in periods of distress, endeavoured to launch some scheme for the feeding of children, and we have found that already some system was in operation. I have understood, without particularly enquiring into the matter, that there is some local authority arrangement for the feeding of children there.

2655. In each case you would be careful not to start an organisation if you thought that the ground was already covered?—Certainly.

2656. Did you find that it was covered in most places?—Yes. It was not general, evidently. At Small Heath, for instance, we distributed breakfasts. That is an outlying district of the city of Birmingham. At Aston, too, we gave some relief. That was in the shape of free breakfasts.

2657. Entirely free?—Yes.

2658. Was that for a limited period?—Yes. During the acute, the hard weather.

2659. Does the cost work out to about the same in the other towns as it does in London?—Yes, about the same.

2660. There is not much variation?—No.

2661. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson*.) In the case of the Deptford centre, is the depot near the hall of Mr. Mantle?—I do not know the distance.

2662. You do not personally know anything about it?—No.

2663. You have not had any report from your officers about its preventing the farthings coming in, or anything of the kind?—No.

2664. It may have been some distance from you?—Yes, it may have been.

2665. In the case of the six weeks' acute distress when you gave free breakfasts, were no farthings received or asked for?—Farthings were received if tendered.

2666. But you would give the breakfast without?—Yes, and largely at the slum centres the farthing system was adhered to although we were not so hard and fast. If any destitute children put in an appearance we gave them something to eat.

2667. In other towns have you got what you call slum districts. Are there slum depots?—Yes, in the larger cities, such as Manchester, Sheffield, Bristol, Glasgow, Dublin, Belfast, Sunderland, and Leeds.

2668. Not in Liverpool?—At Liverpool and at Southampton.

2669. In all of those did you have the same organisation as in the London slums?—No, it was not so systematic, that is to say, not carried on in the same systematic manner and not with such regularity. I should say.

2670. You would have the same paid agents and the same arrangements in all those towns?—Yes, exactly. We should have all the means for dealing with any distress that might be found.

2671. With reference to the visitation, you say that deserving cases were picked out by visitation by your agents. What do you mean exactly by "deserving"? Does that simply mean destitute or does it mean anything more?—Did I say "deserving"?

2672. Yes, you said it at the beginning of your evidence?—Of course, "deserving" needs qualifying. I mean deserving as far as our opportunities for gathering the circumstances go. If we found that the father was a drunkard, or the mother was a wasteful woman, we should be very careful what relief we offered.

2673. Would you not feed the children in those cases?—As I said just now, we should take steps to have the children looked after without the parents being encouraged by the knowledge that we were looking after them, or doing anything for them.

2674. Would your officers take any steps to try to induce the parents to feed their children and not to neglect them, and to spend less money on drink, and so on?—Yes. You may depend that our officers would give them a good talking to and would use every endeavour to bring about reformation.

2675. Would their endeavours to reform be helped or hindered by your giving free breakfasts?—Free breakfasts perhaps hinder, especially in the case of people who drink.

2676. There are, of course, many cases, I suppose, of destitute children in the slums whose parents drink?—Yes.

2677. When you said just now that you could feed a great many more, and you could always get a crowd, is it, in your opinion, necessary to feed a great many more or do you think that you meet the worst need?—We meet the worst need.

2678. You mean that you could get more farthings?—I mean that we could get more children if we advertised the event more, but we dare not because we should be overcrowded.

2679. I see by your *precis* that two centres are mentioned in London—Cable Street, Shadwell, and Wentworth Street, Whitechapel, but you did not mention either of those just now when you were telling us of the largest?—I mentioned Shadwell.

2680. But not Whitechapel?—I had just got to Whitechapel as the last on my list when I was stopped.

2681. Do you know Cable Street, Shadwell, yourself?—I do not know it intimately. I have been there but I do not know it intimately.

2682. Take Wentworth Street, Whitechapel. Are there not a large number of Jews in Whitechapel now?—Yes, a considerable number, but we find many who are not Jews.

2683. Would your breakfasts be practically confined to the Christian children?—No. We do not make any inquiry as to their religion. We are quite as ready to feed the Jews as the Greeks.

2684. Do you know whether there are a number of Jews who come to breakfast or not?—There are not many.

2685. Whitechapel has become largely Jewish?—Yes, I know. The Jews are driving the other population out much beyond Whitechapel.

2686. (*Miss Lawrence*.) Do you think that the fact is that the Jewish children are, generally speaking, better fed?—They are looked after by their own associations.

2687. (*Dr. Parsons*.) I gather that your organisation is not specially for the feeding of school children but that, in fact, you would feed any child that was destitute whether it was attending school or not?—Yes, certainly. Of course we understand that each child must make a certain number of attendances at school, that is to say, that attendance at school is compulsory.

2688. A child might be too young, or too old, to attend school. If it were destitute would you feed it?—Yes, if it appeared destitute we should. They are usually over five. They are from four to five and upwards.

2689. You do not work in any way with the school authorities?—No.

2690. Your work is perfectly independent?—Yes. At the same time we receive valuable information from masters and teachers of schools, and in many cases we have had subscriptions given by teachers and masters, and children have been specially sent to our depots for breakfast.

2691. Are you in any way in communication with other associations, such as the Underfed Children's Committee?—No.

2692. Your funds are wholly raised within your own body?—Yes, through the medium of our publications, as a rule.

2693. Would you be prepared to feed children for something above a farthing who came voluntarily to your depot without tickets?—Above the farthing.

2694. I mean if they paid something more approaching the cost price of the meal?—That would depend. If there were that morning, for instance, a great number of children, or a larger crowd of children than usual, or we had fears that the food at our disposal would not hold out, then we should be very chary about disposing of any, even at a higher price. We should retain all the food we needed in order to feed those who brought the regulation farthing.

2695. Do you think that there is need of any provision by which those who could afford to pay the cost price of the meal could get it in preference to getting it at home?—I think so. You see the primary duty, if I may so say, of the State is to keep the child alive. To educate it is secondary. Many children would really go without food if some provision were not made. We find that distinctly. In our case we feel that real oversight is given, because our agents in the districts know the children pretty well who are living in the district from moving about amongst them and holding meetings in the streets, when a number of children gather round

and become familiar faces to our officers. Then in the visitation we come across them, so that we know who Tom, Dick, and Harry really are.

2696. You consider that your first duty is to the destitute?—Yes.

2697. And until that has been completely discharged you do not feel called upon to make provision for those who can pay?—No. Our first duty is certainly to those who are destitute.

2698. Do you consider that the kind of food which you furnish is as satisfactory as any?—Yes.

2699. Currant rolls and cocoa?—Yes.

2700. I suppose plenty of milk is given with the cocoa?—Yes, milk and sugar.

2701. The same day after day?—The same day after day.

2702. The same five days a week?—Yes.

2703. And they do not get tired of it?—No, they relish it.

2704. (*Mr. Walrod*.) You say that there is a reasonable variety. I do not quite understand that. Are the rolls made in a different way?—The accent perhaps should be on the "reasonable" rather than on the "variety." It is reasonable, I think, in order to meet the need. A plain roll would perhaps be sufficient, the currant rolls are a variety, so to speak. Then there is the cocoa, which is a variety from milk and water or tea. Cocoa, I think, is more relished by the children.

2705. You mean you give them food which the children in the ordinary course would not get at home?—Yes. They would get crusts or any ordinary hard tack that was going at home. The currant roll is considered to be rather a luxury than otherwise.

2706. Do your officers find that the same children come nearly every day?—Yes.

2707. Do they notice an improvement in them at the end of the breakfast season physically?—Well, yes and no. If they were not thus fed they would be very badly off. I do not think that there is any real physical improvement to be noticed to any great extent, although some might be noticed. It simply supplies a want.

2708. I understand that the breakfasts are strictly confined to children?—Strictly.

2709. Where do you put your maximum age for a child?—At, say, thirteen or fourteen—a school child.

2710. Would you turn anyone else away?—We should not turn him away. It would be very much against the grain for us to turn any child away. We might say, at the first or second time, if the applicant was a big boy or a big girl, that these breakfasts were not for such as they, unless, mind you, they could be included in the cases of destitution that our own officers had discovered.

2711. There are certain persons, I do not know that I can properly call them children, but half-grown-up people, who are, from malnutrition, below the normal standard. They may very often look like children of twelve or thirteen, and really be fifteen or sixteen. Would you feed those children?—Perhaps so. We might be deceived by the appearance.

2712. You would not do it unless you were deceived by the appearance. You would not consciously feed such a child?—We should err on the charitable side in anything.

2713. Mr. Mantle told us that his first breakfast began at 7.45 and the second one at 8.10. You said that yours were between half-past 7 and 8?—Yes.

2714. Has it been found by your officers that children have gone from your breakfast to his?—In mentioning half-past 7 to 8 I referred particularly to the commencement of the breakfast.

2715. Could not a child who began breakfast at half-past 7 get on to Mr. Mantle in time, for his breakfast quite easily?—Yes, but in cases where other relief was being given in the neighbourhood our people would be careful not to start so early that the children would have the chance of getting breakfast anywhere else.

2716. You think that probably in Deptford your people start later than half-past 7?—Yes.

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Lieut.-Col. Rowe (S.A.) 2717. Owing to the other organization?—Yes, but I cannot be sure, because I do not know the distance. If, Mr. Mantle's institution is a good distance from our own, then it might not interfere.

2718. You do not think that there is much fear, practically, of the children getting two breakfasts on the same day?—No, but of course we cannot say that it is not done. These children are very open. If any of the children attending our place were known to be having another breakfast in addition, either that child would "let on" himself or some other child, who knew it, would "split" on him. We have known that, but the cases are very rare.

2719. (*Chairman.*) What kind of population would each of these slum districts cover, in ten of thousands, which two officers have to visit?—If two districts joined each other, there would be a distinct boundary line drawn. Take Whitechapel and Bow, for instance. The Whitechapel centre would confine itself to the population of Whitechapel, because it is the only slum district that we have in Whitechapel. The Bow post would confine itself to the population of Bow.

2720. Could you say about what the largest number of people which any slum district has to deal with is?—I should say that the largest would be about 25,000 to 30,000.

2721. It would go as high as that?—Yes.

2722. And the smallest would be between 10,000 and 20,000?—About that.

2723. Do you find that the children who pay for their breakfasts crowd over those who do not?—No, I think not.

2724. I take it that there is no concealment of those who pay and those who do not pay?—No, not at all, but it is not particularly known who pays and who does not. There is no announcement made.

2725. It has been very much pressed by certain witnesses that there is great importance in concealing the presence, at these meals, of particular children who do not pay. Do you find it necessary to take any steps to conceal which of the children are on the free list?—We have found it necessary to do that, because others want to get on the free list, and press to be on the free list.

2726. But not because they would condemn those who were on the free list?—From no spirit of jealousy but from the desire to get as much as they can for the smallest possible price.

2727. Do you keep any register of those who pay?—No. A child would bring the farthing perhaps for two or three weeks regularly and then one morning, or one or two mornings, would be unable to bring the farthing. The officer would know the child, and would perhaps have the family under observation just at the time and would therefore say, "All right, Tommy, you can go and get your breakfast."

2728. Are there any books kept in the depot which show the names of the children attending, and of the family?—Not the names—only the numbers.

Mr. CHARLES HENRY WYATT, called in; and Examined.

Mr. C. H. Wyatt. 2742. (*Chairman.*) You are Director of Elementary Education for the city of Manchester?—Yes.

2743. You were previously clerk to the School Board?—Yes, I was for about thirty-three years with the School Board.

2744. From the beginning of the School Board?—Yes, from the first part of 1871.

2745. We propose to put on to our Minutes the *precis* that you have sent in, and to ask you questions—taking that for the text?—Certainly.

The *Precis* is as follows:—

A.—METHODS EMPLOYED.

The agency giving the meals to necessitous school children in Manchester is a Sub-Committee of the Elementary Education Committee, and they have con-

2729. Only the numbers fed per morning?—Yes. You see if we took the names of those who were fed there would be a certain kind of resentment on the part of the parents if that were known. They resent anything like the taking of names; they wonder what is going to be done.

2730. They are suspicious of any action of that kind?—Yes, very suspicious.

2731. Have you any recommendations to offer as to possible improvement in the organisation of existing agencies for feeding generally?—I have no instructions.

2732. You do not feel at liberty to make any suggestions to us?—No. I do not know of any improvements that I can suggest; at least I have no instructions to submit any.

2733. Is there anything that you would like to add to your evidence?—No, I think not if you are satisfied that you have extracted from me all that you want.

2734. I think that we have asked you to the end of our minds, but if you will add anything that we have missed we shall be glad to hear it?—I think you have not missed anything. You will understand that we do this as a regular thing as far as the slum districts are concerned, and we have done so for the last twelve or thirteen years, and systematically for the last ten years. 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.

2735. You attach great importance, in fact, to the payment of the farthing?—We do. We certainly advocate a charge however small. At the same time we do not restrict it to the payment of a farthing for, in periods of acute distress, as I have mentioned, we relax that and feed, farthing or no farthing. We did so during the last winter to the extent that I have said. Nearly three quarters of a million of breakfasts have been distributed, including the farthing.

2736. I thought you said over a million?—No.

2737. I thought that the 700,000 was in addition to the half million?—No.

2738. 700,000 was the total?—Yes, 700,000 was the total for the winter. In addition to that we do a good deal of feeding of adults.

2739. That is outside our reference. Do you come into contact with the Church Army's operations in this direction at all?—Not officially. We have no official link with them, but we know of their efforts.

2740. You would try, as far as possible, to avoid occupying the same ground as any other organisation?—Certainly. Our object is not to compete but to meet a need. Where the need does not exist, or is met by other organisations, well and good. Then we have no place, but if the need exists, and it is not met or not adequately met by other organisations, then we have a turn at it.

2741. (*Chairman.*) We are very much obliged to you for your interesting evidence?—You are quite welcome, I am sure.

tinued the operations initiated by the late School Board in 1879. The work has been continued without intermission since that date.

A Conference of agencies dealing with the feeding of children in Manchester was called by the Sub-Committee in 1904. The object was to prevent overlapping and duplication of effort. Monthly meetings were held until March, 1905, when the Conference was adjourned to July. It is expected that some definite scheme will be evolved to prevent overlapping; and assistance has been promised by the Conference to a Local Charity Organisation Society in the direction of keeping a properly indexed return of people receiving relief.

So far all the work of feeding destitute children in school hours has been done by the Sub-Committee of the Education Authority. In School Board days, only board school children were fed, but since the Act of 1902 the work has been extended to non-provided schools.

All the meals are prepared on the school premises and free use of coal and gas is allowed. The cooking is done by the school caretakers, who receive a small payment for the same, and the serving of the meals, also on the school premises, is undertaken voluntarily by the teachers.

From 1879 to 1903 the meals were entirely free. With the commencement of the work in 1904 arrangements were made under the auspices of the Committee to supply meals at 1d. each to children coming somewhat short of absolute necessity, a reduction being allowed where several tickets were bought by children of one family.

The schools where meals are provided are those in the poorest districts, and children not on the free list (see particulars as to method of investigation) are allowed to purchase meals as described. Tickets are sold by the teachers, but apart from their discretion and knowledge of the circumstances of individual cases there is no special investigation.

The cases of children needing free meals are reported chiefly by the teachers, but the Committee willingly investigate all cases by whomsoever reported.

Every case submitted is visited by the School Attendance Officers and the circumstances of the family are recorded upon a form adopted for the purpose. A poverty scale has been drawn up for the general guidance of the Committee. (See also under "B.—SUMS EXPENDED.")

The agency has existed in Manchester without intermission since 1879.

B.—SUMS EXPENDED.

The expenditure upon the meals depends upon receipts from voluntary sources, and is not a legal charge upon the rates. During School Board days all applications were dealt with under a poverty scale which had been adopted in connection with the payment of school fees under the 25th Section of the Act of 1870.

The calls upon the fund during the winter of 1903-4 were extremely heavy, and the Sub-Committee were subsequently confronted with a serious overdrawn balance. At the commencement of the season 1904-5 a new scale was adopted with the concurrence of the Conference which, as already described, had been called by the Committee.

The scale for the guidance of the Committee now stands as follows:—

1 or 2 in family	3s. 6d. per head after allowing for rent.
3 or 4 "	3s. 0d. " " "
5 or more "	2s. 6d. " " "

This scale was generally followed, but was not disclosed to the applicants.

A Balance Sheet will be submitted showing the expenditure upon free meals during the year 1904-5. There was no expenditure upon rent, apparatus, or offices.

The total cost of each meal is one and one-tenth of a penny.

The supply of funds has hitherto been by private subscriptions; by jumble sales, social parties, and school concerts organised by the teachers; and in the case of overdraft by a call upon the reserve funds of the School Savings Banks.

In the season 1904-5 the experiment of 1d. dinners was tried and £67 13s. 2d. was received from this source. The number of meals paid for was 15,700.

It has usually been the practice to issue a public appeal for help, and there has been no great difficulty in obtaining subscriptions up to a certain normal amount.

C.—RELIEF GIVEN

The dinner consists of pea soup and bread. Attempts have been made to provide potato-hash, but unsuccessfully, owing to the fact that practically the only cooking apparatus in the school is a kitchen boiler.

The constituents of the soup are potatoes, carrots, peas, onions, mint, and shin beef. There is every reason to believe that it is palatable to the children, and its nutritive value is obvious.

The meals are given on each school day only, exclusive of holidays. Last Christmas, however, some 3,000 children were fed during each school day of the holidays, and the expense was borne by a fund for the relief of local distress administered by the Lord Mayor.

There is no difficulty with regard to notification. Lists are sent to the teachers, and the children are advised.

Last session (1904-5) meals were given in forty-one departments of municipal schools and in forty-two departments of non-provided schools, during a period of twelve weeks, excluding holidays. The total number of meals given was 108,060, and the highest number of children on the free list during any one week was about 2,300.

D.—RETARDED AND AFFLICTED CHILDREN.

Dinners are provided for the children in two out of the three schools for defective children conducted by the Elementary Education Committee. At Hague Street, which is in a typical working class district, the food is bought by the teachers and prepared by the caretakers, assisted by some of the children—the majority of the children pay 1d. for each meal and any balance remaining is paid out of the Free Meals Fund.

At Harpurhey Hall school, in a better class neighbourhood, the children pay 1½d. each for dinner and there is no charge upon the fund.

At both schools the preparation, etc., of the food is utilised as a lesson in household management.

E. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVED ORGANISATIONS.

It is suggested that there should be an extension of the day industrial school system coupled with (where necessary) proceedings under the "Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act."

2746. You mention that the agency for providing meals in Manchester is a sub-committee of the Elementary Education Committee. Is that committee solely composed of members of the Educational Committee?—Yes.

2747. Of how many members?—I think that there are about eight.

2748. Does it meet frequently?—No, it only meets when required.

2749. It does not meet periodically, weekly, or fortnightly?—Last winter, as I explain, I think, later on, they called into a conference certain outside people, but these people had no control over our own agency. They were merely advisory.

2750. The Committee has not been in the habit of meeting periodically, but of meeting only when occasion required?—Exactly. Every winter, since 1879, there has been such a committee.

2751. Has the administration been practically left to yourself?—Subject to the rules laid down by the Committee.

2752. Are there any ladies on the sub-committee?—Yes.

2753. How many?—Miss Mary Dendy is on. She is the vice-chairman of the committee.

2754. Does the committee issue any definite directions to teachers as to their duty with regard to the nutrition of children?—No. We have rather hesitated to issue anything in the shape of directions. Our whole procedure has been merely to meet an emergency. We have never assumed that we met the whole difficulty. The work originated in 1878 when the late Mr. Herbert Birley was Chairman of the School Board. He was a man who had interested himself largely in education before the Education Act of 1870 was passed. At one time, I believe, he had under his control something like forty elementary schools in Manchester and Salford, which he financed and practically managed. He had been in the habit of helping poor children with breakfasts, defraying the cost out of his own pocket, in some of the districts of Manchester and Salford. Some of those schools were transferred to the School Board, and on his initiative, we took up the work. He generously supported it, and other members of the Board did the same. That was the way in which the work was begun, and it has been carried on every winter since.

2755. You mentioned that a conference of agencies was called last autumn. Would you tell us about how many agencies were represented?—As far as possible we got together all the people who had made appeals for giving relief, and the Salvation Army and a Charity Organisation Society that we have in Manchester called the Provident Society. There were probably thirty agencies sending representatives.

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2756. Would those include ordinary parochial mission halls at work, and so on?—No, I think not. We did not recognise spasmodic efforts.

2757. They are not necessarily spasmodic, I suppose?—Many of them are. They come and go. We took such associations as the Salvation Army and the Manchester and Salford Provident Society, and societies of that sort, and missions which had been in existence for some time. I do not say that we took into account everybody who appeals at Christmas time, but as far as possible we made it comprehensive, and anyone who wished to attend it after the first list was drawn up, was allowed to come in. They met monthly, and they had a general knowledge of what we did, and I think that the outcome of it will probably result in good. The prime object of calling together these people was to prevent overlapping as far as we could.

2758. Did you feel that previously there had been considerable overlapping?—There is no doubt about that. All these people work for their own societies.

2759. Without any knowledge of what each other was doing?—They profess not to, but they are interested in their own societies more than in any other, I think. I had a considerable experience during the administration of the Relief Fund raised by the Lord Mayor, and I found that a great many of these people were very jealous of anything like interference with their particular work.

2760. Was it last winter that you found that?—Yes.

2761. You are about to present a report which you will perhaps send us a copy of?—Yes. We are going to meet again. We hope that it may result in something which may help the administration of charity in Manchester. The Provident Society, which is our local Charity Organisation Society, is very anxious that anything in the shape of duplicating relief should be stopped as far as possible.

2762. You say here "So far all the work of feeding destitute children in school hours has been done by the sub-committee of the Education Authority." That does not mean that there would be no other agencies at work. I gather from what you have said?—There may have been. There have been different societies at different times, but they have gone out of existence.

2763. There is no other recognised organisation for providing meals for school children?—That is it.

2764. Until the passing of the Education Act of 1902, nothing, I think, was done by the committee for other children than those attending board schools?—That is so. After the Act of 1902 was passed we took in an equal number of voluntary schools.

2765. Now the work, as far as it goes, proceeds *pari passu* in both sets of schools?—Yes, in Manchester we have about half and half. Council schools preponderate, but not much.

2766. In point of numbers of children, are they much the same?—There is very little difference. It is about half and half.

2767. I understand that all the meals given under the auspices of the sub-committee are given at the schools?—Yes.

2768. Are there kitchens at the schools?—No. Our apparatus is of a most primitive character. It consists, as a rule, of a boiler in the cellar. We have to provide jugs and basins and spoons. That is all that we provide. The meals are served in the schoolrooms on the desks.

2769. You have made no use of neighbouring halls for the purpose?—No, we have not the money.

2770. Do you consider that there are objections to using schoolrooms for the purpose?—Certainly there are objections. We have had a recent conference with the board of guardians. It is not completed yet. We have clearly settled that they must not assume that we have any apparatus or rooms or appliances. The whole condition of affairs has been altered by the issue of the Local Government Board's Order.

2771. Have you moved in that direction yet?—We have had several conferences with the guardians. We can no longer rely on the teachers. They took up the work because it was a work of charity which was not

being done by anyone else, but now, if anything in the shape of such machinery as is suggested is provided, I think you would not get the teachers to do it, and, in fact, I do not think they ought to be asked.

2772. Have you any opinion as to how far they can reasonably be asked to superintend the meals?—They cannot now that the Order has been issued.

2773. But I mean taking the position before the Order was issued?—The circumstances were entirely different before the Order was issued. We had then no difficulty at all with them. They were all very willing to do it.

2774. No doubt, but did you feel that it was work that they should do?—We all do voluntary work, and I do not see any objection to their doing it. No harm came of it. I do not say that we ought to have told them to do it.

2775. Did you find them tired in the afternoon?—I do not know. They were not all present every day. It simply meant perhaps one day a week for each teacher and then you see they only did it during the school days.

2776. Was any attempt made to get voluntary help to relieve them?—No, I do not think we could have done it under the circumstances. The teachers would not have worked with it.

2777. They would have resented the presence of anybody else?—I would not say resented, but I am sure it would have led to difficulties. You see that we virtually gave them the administration of it, so far as the giving out of the relief went.

2778. Up to 1903 all the meals provided were free?—Yes.

2779. At that date you made a change?—Yes. We then started with the idea that the people should pay. We recognised all the time that there would be a number of cases where they would not be able to pay and we provided for such cases.

2780. Did you admit any child to the meal who brought the penny?—Yes, any child going to the particular school. We did not admit children from any other school.

2781. It was only the children in the particular school in which meals were provided who could obtain a meal at all?—Yes.

2782. You say that a 1d. meal would be supplied to children coming somewhat short of absolute necessity, but you laid down no definition of that class?—None whatever, but we only made the provision in the case of schools in particular localities.

2783. Did you find that that proposal worked, on the whole?—It did in a way. It rather fell off. More came at first. As I said before, the whole thing was of the character of an emergency provision. It was one uniform meal of the same kind every day, and I dare say that where there are three or four children in a family three or four pence would probably provide as good a meal at home as we were able to give them.

2784. The numbers taking advantage of that penny meal were not very large?—They were not.

2785. I see that the number of meals paid for was only 15,706?—Yes, and as time went on the number rather diminished.

2786. Was advantage taken of it in particular schools rather than generally? Did you find that it answered in some schools but did not answer in others?—Yes. In some of the Roman Catholic schools there was no advantage taken of it at all. In some of the Jewish schools the largest number of meals was paid for. The Jews seem to have more ready money than other people. In Manchester with some particular classes, it is hopeless to try to get any money at all after Monday or Tuesday.

2787. Have you schools in Manchester which are specially attended by Jews?—Yes, we have two large schools.

2788. Is your experience that, as a rule, Jews take more care of their children than others?—There is no doubt about that. They take more care of them in every way. They are better nurtured children. There is no comparison.

2789. At the same time they were prepared to take advantage of a school meal as opposed to a home meal?—We have been told that Jews like to feed their children at

home?—I do not think that there is anything in that, as far as our experience goes. One of the Jewish schools has a very good committee of ladies and gentlemen, who take great interest in the place. They had in past years provided this sort of thing and they simply fell in with our arrangements, because they thought it the best thing to do. They had provided meals before the school came under the council. I do not think there is any reluctance on the part of the Jews to accept assistance. I have never noticed any.

2790. Do you think that the children who could pay were kept away because other children were there who did not pay?—No. I do not think they took much notice of that. We took precautions to prevent the teachers letting it be known which children paid and which children did not. The children all had the same sort of tickets, and if they did not disclose the fact themselves nobody else disclosed it. They were all mixed up together.

2791. You did not hear of parents saying, "We will not send our children—because other children are not paying!"?—I have never heard of it.

2792. In all cases where meals are given free the children are chosen, in the first instance, by the teachers?—Yes.

2793. And then the cases are investigated?—Yes, by the school attendance officer.

2794. You would not expect the teacher to do more than select, in the first instance?—Certainly not.

2795. Is anybody engaged in investigating besides the school attendance officer?—Nobody.

2796. It is left entirely to him?—All the cases were submitted to me. If I was not satisfied in a particular case I referred it to one of the divisional superintendents to verify.

2797. Have you a form on which particulars are entered?—We have.

2798. Would you hand us in a copy?—It was worked entirely on the poverty scale?—The poverty scale was a guide. We did not disclose the poverty scale.

2799. The old poverty scale was printed in your report of last year?—Yes. Last year we altered the poverty scale. We did not disclose it.

2800. You rather screwed it up?—Yes.

2801. By 6d.?—Yes. We began at half-a-crown for five or more in family. It was 3s. for three or four, and 3s. 6d. for one or two, after allowing for rent in each case.

2802. (Dr. Parsons.) When there are one or two in a family it is 3s. 6d. after allowing for rent. Does that entitle them or exclude them?—It does not do one thing or the other. It is a general guide for those who pass the children on the list. If a person's income came within 3s. 6d. we should consider it. If it came over 3s. 6d. the circumstances would have to be very exceptional before we should allow it.

2803. Is it 3s. 6d. for each individual member of the family?—Yes. We take the gross income of the family, deduct the rent, and divide the remainder of the income by the number. Where a woman was a widow or deserted by her husband, or relying entirely on the earnings of her children we should deal with it rather more leniently than if the husband was living with her.

2804. What is the reason of fixing a lower figure where there are five or more?—The more there are the cheaper it is for them to live. That is always found. If you have a large family you do not want the same proportion of income as you do if you have a small one. That is the form (handing the same to the Committee.) These are forms that were sent to the schools advising the teachers of the cases week by week.

2805. (Chairman.) The investigations were solely conducted by the attendance officer, not by lady visitors?—No.

2806. You have a very useful Health Society in Manchester which employs lady visitors?—I believe so. I have no knowledge of it. I think the school attendance officer the best possible agent.

2807. You did not find that he was only familiar with the regular children?—Certainly not. I think that there is probably no authority which in proportion

employs more school attendance officers than we do. We have one officer to every 2,000 children by our rules, and we require each man to know all about the children in his area, and whether they go to school or do not go to school. It is not an unreasonable thing to expect, and I believe the majority of them do know.

2808. The visits would not be resented by parents in the way that relieving officers' visits would be resented?—No. The whole of the Lord Mayor's Relief Fund in Manchester was administered in the same way.

2809. Through the inquiries of the attendance officers?—Yes, through their inquiries.

2810. With regard to the money which was expended during the year, did the sub-committee guarantee the expenses?—They did virtually. We made no public appeal. The sub-committee was against it. When the Council took up the work of controlling education the Chairman did not think it a dignified thing for the Council to appeal for subscriptions. What we did was to send to the people who had subscribed before, and the Lord Mayor made up our deficiency.

2811. The Lord Mayor made an appeal for a special fund?—Yes, but that was a mere incident. We should have got the money in some other way if he had not paid it.

2812. One of the sources of supply that you tapped was the school bank's reserve fund?—Yes.

2813. Is that money which you have as a guarantee fund for the interest on savings?—Yes, and it has outgrown the need of such a guarantee fund. We have a bank in every one of our schools. Between £30,000 and £40,000 a year is deposited by the children. We pay no interest on the money. Our object is to enable them to save a sovereign. If it is transferred to the Post Office Savings Bank they will get interest. We have no means to pay interest; we could not do it. Our money is all invested in consols. We earn interest on the balances. We have a large fund now with accumulated interest, which was originally intended to form a guarantee fund, but it has now got beyond anything that will ever be needed, and it is growing.

2814. I have before me the account to the 30th June, 1904. Your expenditure was, I see, roughly £1,007 and voluntary contributions including subscriptions and concerts amounted to £521?—The balance was paid by a grant.

2815. It was not a loan?—No.

2816. To make up the deficit?—Yes. This year we did not require it because the Lord Mayor made it up.

2817. Your accounts to the 14th March do not show how is to be made up?—No. It was cleared up to then. We have a balance sheet here showing last year where the thing is practically square.

2818. Is there no intention at present of making a public appeal in the future?—No. I think that the whole thing has been altered by recent events.

2819. Do you anticipate any difficulty in meeting the needs?—I have no ground for believing that the work will be resumed by the Education Committee.

2820. But you are not at liberty to tell us what will be done?—No. We have not come to any decision, but I believe that the issue of the Local Government Board circular to the Poor Law guardians will alter the whole thing. People will not be willing to subscribe to meet a need for which the Local Government Board has provided through the rates.

2821. Has that been largely talked over at your Conference?—Yes.

2822. Will it be one of the main subjects in your forthcoming report?—We have in Manchester three boards of guardians having jurisdiction within the council district. We have had private interviews with representatives of two, and have communicated with the third. We had separate interviews. They did not wish to meet together at first, but now I think they are going to send representatives to a common conference and then this thing will be considered. It is the desire of the committee in every way to do all that they possibly can, but they have not the machinery for carrying this out.

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2823. Will you send us, please, a copy of the report when it is issued?—Yes, I will.

2824. I think that your poverty scale has been followed in many other places in England?—The old poverty scale was under the 25th Section of the Act of 1870. It was in our old bye-laws.

2825. For the payment of school fees?—Yes.

2826. You do no work in the nature of breakfasts?—No. We abandoned that. We used to give breakfasts originally except during the Christmas holidays. Last year (1904-5) we took all the children on our lists and gave them breakfast and dinner each working day during the Christmas holidays, entertaining them in the schools, but that was not done out of the fund.

2827. Was there special need during the Christmas holidays?—It was a very bad time in Manchester and that part of the country.

2828. We have been told that during the Christmas holidays there is usually so much money going that there is no special need for help?—I do not think that is correct. The majority falling within our operations are children of people employed in unskilled labour, and the hard time for those people is when the weather becomes severe from November to March. That has been the time when we have generally dealt with the giving of relief. The building trade stops completely.

2829. Have you usually in previous years found it necessary to continue the school meal during the Christmas holidays?—We have not done so before, because we had not the money. It was the idea of the Chairman of the Special Committee and of the Lord Mayor, and they said that they would find the money, as it was hard that the meals should be stopped during the holidays.

2830. What is the length of the holiday?—A fortnight. The children had breakfast and dinner every day on the school days, and they were entertained at the schools. They went home after dinner. The dinners were varied each day.

2831. One of our points of reference is sums expended. Would you tell us your expenditure on this?—Yes, I will do that.

2832. You take great care when you put a child on the free list to let the parent know that he is there?—Yes.

2833. And you give notice, I suppose, before his name is removed?—Yes. We visit, as a rule, once a month. The lists are revised once a month.

2834. I think that in your *peris* weekly visits are mentioned. Is that by the school attendance officer?—That refers to the applications. That does not mean when they once get on the books. All applications that come in are dealt with within a week.

2835. They are revised monthly?—They are revised monthly.

2836. You consider it very important that a parent should know whether a child was going to have a meal or not?—Yes, we do. We think that the children ought to attend school regularly. If a child on our list was grossly irregular in attendance we should think that that was evidence that there was not that care shown on the part of the parent that there ought to be.

2837. Can you say at all how many individual children were relieved last winter? You give the total number of meals and the highest number of children on the free list during any week, which you say was about 2,300. You keep a nominal list of the children relieved?—Yes, and a report filed for each case. I think we reckoned to feed about 2,000 regular attenders.

2838. Would that mean something like 3,000 individual children?—Yes, it might mean that, because the attendance fluctuates.

2839. What is your average attendance in Manchester? Is it 100,000?—It is approaching 100,000, but not quite. Manchester has been recently extended.

2840. The number fed is something like 2 to 3 per cent. of the number on the books?—Somewhere about that.

2841. That is what I wanted to get at?—There is no doubt, I think, that if the number of schools was extended

over a greater area some of the children who are not provided for now would come in.

2842. What happens at present to a child in one of the schools where no provision is made?—We did not concern ourselves with those. We did nothing.

2843. So far as your committee are concerned, they are left alone?—Yes, we do nothing for them.

2844. You make no particular provision for the class of children mentioned in our reference who are described as children who, though not defective, are, from malnutrition, below the normal standard—retarded children for short?—No. To take one of our schools in a poor district, if anybody with the expert knowledge which should be possessed by anyone who forms an opinion on the subject went through that school, I do not say that our list would at all comprehend all the children in that school who needed nourishment. We have made experiments in that direction, and we have found very often that there are children suffering from want of nourishment, but owing to the income of the family we could not possibly touch them under our rule, and that we feel is one of our weaknesses.

2845. The want of nourishment would be due to ignorance or improper feeding?—Or indifference. I cannot tell what it is due to.

2846. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Would not a case like that be met by the Local Government Board Order?—I do not wish to say anything about that, but I am not sanguine. I have my own idea as to how it ought to be done if the community are prepared to pay for it. It cannot be done without.

2847. (Chairman.) I ask this because it is in our reference. At present you do not deal specially as an organisation with that class of child who is described in our reference?—No. If they do not come reasonably within the four corners of our poverty scale we do not touch them.

2848. Is special provision made for the Defective Schools?—Yes.

2849. Is that done by means of special committees?—They are altogether exceptional, as you know. They have a much larger staff, and a much better knowledge of the cases than we could possibly have in public elementary schools; they can do things in those schools which I do not think could be generally applied to all schools. Other witnesses may have different opinions on that subject. In those schools they manage the work very admirably and the people as a rule pay for it.

2850. In two out of three you have meals?—Yes.

2851. Why not in the third?—I suppose the reason was that in the third case the homes were sufficiently near to prevent the necessity. It is not a question of equipment or anything of that sort. They are all equipped alike.

2852. Are the children all brought from a considerable distance?—In two cases. It would not apply to the third.

2853. This refers to mentally defective children?—We are starting a school for cripple children. That will be a residential school.

2854. If a meal is provided at reasonable cost, is it your experience that parents can pay for it?—Yes, with exceptions, of course.

2855. That is the purport of what you say?—Yes, always remembering that the conditions with regard to these special schools are not exactly the conditions of the Public Elementary Schools. With regard to all our schools at Manchester for feeble-minded children we have built premises specially for the purpose. They have a little kitchen and a person who looks after the domestic arrangements, and they are altogether differently equipped from the public elementary schools, and the staff is at least twice as strong.

2856. I quite see that there are more facilities, but my point was that your experience shows that the parents can quite well pay for the school meal if it is properly put before them?—There is no doubt of that, if it is properly done. There will be cases of poverty where it would not be possible.

2857. In these two schools do all the children stay to the meal?—Hague Street, the bulk of them do. I am not sure about the other. I have not seen the meals at Harpurhey Hall school, but I have at Hague Street.

2858. Are the pence collected day by day?—It is worked by the teachers entirely. We do not trouble about it. They work it among themselves, and they give a very nice meal. The meals are varied.

2859. What would happen, do you know, if a parent could pay and would not?—I do not quite follow you.

2860. Supposing that there is a school dinner which all children attend, and a child is known to be in circumstances in which the parents can pay, would that child be refused the dinner unless it paid?—I think that is probable.

2861. You do not know it from personal knowledge?—No, but I think it very probable.

2862. Is any use made of the cookery centres in Manchester for this purpose?—No. We have very few places that we could use. We have recently put up a few, but no use has been made of them in this direction.

2863. Is the help of the medical officer called in at all?—We have a medical officer of our own.

2864. Is his help enlisted at all to determine the class of children who should be fed?—No, unless there is some question of doubt. We have been altogether guided by the poverty scale; but the doctor has made other inquiries which have not been published which tend to show that we do not by our methods in anyway exhaust the number of children who certainly ought to have food during attendance at our schools. He has found cases where we have refused owing to the income of the parents in which he has considered that food certainly was desirable.

2865. (Miss Lawrence.) How many agencies are there besides this one for giving meals to children. You spoke of a conference of agencies?—Those are agencies which feed outside school hours. There is no other agency in Manchester that does it in school hours in the schools.

2866. At what times of the day do they do it?—There are agencies which give soup in the evening to all comers.

2867. Is there a considerable number?—There is a considerable number. There are twenty or thirty of various kinds.

2868. When the tickets are sold by the teachers I suppose the teachers do not find it necessary as long as they get the money to make any great inquiry?—There is no inquiry. The only condition is that a child is in attendance at that school. We should not allow a child to come from another school.

2869. About how many on an average are fed in each school each day?—I have a list of the numbers of meals provided during the period, but not for each day. I can give it to March.

2870. You do not know the number of children staying each day?—No. Do you mean at each centre.

2871. Yes, at each centre?—I will supply you with that. As spring approaches the numbers fall off.

2872. In most cases are they the same children who come?—They must be on our list.

2873. You do not put them on the list merely for two days?—No. They are on for a month.

2874. With regard to what the dinner consists of, pea soup and bread, has there never been any attempt to vary that?—I have made many attempts, but I have never succeeded in doing anything satisfactory. First of all, we are met with the difficulty of what the children will eat, and what they will not eat.

2875. Do you find that they will eat the same thing every day?—Pea soup seems to be a thing that they do not get tired of. They have their own views on a great many things. They will not take many nutritious things that we supply.

2876. What sort of things?—We had a considerable amount of rice flour on one occasion, and we made it into moulds and they would not look at it.

2877. With milk?—Yes, they would not look at it.

2878. Have you ever tried milk by itself?—It is too expensive. We could not possibly supply milk.

2879. We find that it has been done?—Our operations were rather extensive. There is one exception. In the Roman Catholic schools I went and saw some vegetable soup, and did not approve of it.

2880. Have you ever tried fish?—The difficulty is that we have not the appliances to cook it. We have nothing but the caretaker's boiler and what can we do with that. I was going to say that we have given milk to the Roman Catholics on Friday, that being the readiest thing we could do.

2881. Do you find that the children like it?—I do not think they like it as well as the soup. They never ask for it on any other day.

2882. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Did it cost more?—Considerably more.

2883. What is the cost per head in Manchester?—Milk in Manchester costs 3d. a quart. 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 halfpenny and farthing dinners simply mean limitation of food.

2884. (Miss Lawrence.) How much do you pay your caretakers?—About 3s. or 4s. a week.

2885. With regard to the mentally defective schools. Do some of the children assist in the preparation?—I think that they do assist in the kitchen.

2886. How many times a week do they do that?—I think three or four times, I believe they take it in turns.

2887. You find no difficulty in the mentally defective children in doing that?—No, I have a large experience in regard to this. The children are most useful. Give them a job they like and they will work very well. I do not say that all will, but they will work better than ordinary children.

2888. You say that the preparation of the food is utilised as a lesson in household management?—Yes.

2889. Is the time taken out of the school hours?—Yes.

2890. They are taken to the kitchen and shown how to do it?—Yes. The kitchen is not in any shape a cookery school.

2891. It is not on the same footing as a cookery class?—No.

2892. Only two or three go at a time?—Only two or three.

2893. Do you know what is given to the children in the way of dinners?—They give them all kinds of things. They give them soup, stewed meat, potato hash, hot-pot, rice puddings, and a great variety of things.

2894. What does that work out at?—It is said to work out at somewhere about a penny.

2895. How can it be done for a penny if pea soup costs a penny?—I do not know. Many of these children have very delicate appetites. The cost of the meal very much depends upon how much bread a boy or girl can eat. I have seen a boy eat 1½ lbs. or 1¾ lbs. of bread, but you would not find such a child in these schools. They are not large eaters.

2896. Apparently for a penny they can get a variety?—Yes.

2897. Even at a smaller price than in the ordinary schools?—Yes, with the help of the teacher, but you cannot rely on making it general. The conditions are altogether special.

2898. Do you think that the teachers give money towards it?—I have no doubt of it.

2899. They collect money for it?—No doubt.

2900. You do not think that a penny would cover the cost?—No. It may be near it. In our own schools where we simply give soup and bread it comes to 1½d. The special schools are not charged with any costs of administration. Ours are charged with a slight cost of administration.

Mr. C. H. Wyatt.

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2901. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do the teachers report to you any help outside of yours, having regard to these 30 or 40 agencies?—How do you mean?

2902. If they were receiving a number of dinner tickets from somewhere else would they report that to your Committee?—I do not think so. There is what is called the Police Aided Clothing Association. We have bye-laws for controlling street hawking by children, and there is a voluntary association which finds clothes and shoes for those children if they are wanted. Those are the only cases that come through my hands outside our own work.

2903. Supposing the Salvation Army or one of these other bodies were giving meals to the children of a particular school your committee would not know it?—We should know it if given in the schools.

2904. But if given outside?—We should not know if a child went to a Salvation Army depot and got a meal at night.

2905. Do they only give them at night?—I think so.

2906. There are other associations giving meals, soup kitchens and so on, in the daytime I suppose?—I think so. Last year the municipality established a large number of soup kitchens. They all work independently of us.

2907. Supposing tickets are sent to the teachers for children you do not instruct the teachers to report to you?—I do not think that the agencies send tickets. I think they distribute their own tickets.

2908. They do not send them to the schools?—No.

2909. Do the teachers in schools not worked by your own committee ask you to help?—Yes, we have had cases. Before the Act of 1902 was passed we gave assistance to School Board schools only. Subsequently we put on a like number of non-provided schools. One or two asked to be added to the list. If we thought it desirable we added them.

2910. Do teachers in your own Council schools ask to be added to the list?—No, we know Manchester sufficiently well to know where help is needed.

2911. Cases would be found in other instances?—Yes. You find poverty all over the place.

2912. In the Council you would not know whether help was being given through other agencies to any school?—No, except through the Conference.

2913. Does not the visiting work take a very long time out of the officers' time?—I do not think so, and it all comes into their ordinary work.

2914. This form is a very thorough one?—It is not as formidable as it looks.

2915. Are these carried on from year to year?—Yes.

2916. Are they kept by you or by the visitor?—They are kept by him. They are not seen again. When the period for visitation comes again he would have to fill them up again. We get a very good attendance in Manchester.

2917. The officers do not raise any objection to that sort of work?—They would not be allowed to raise any objection.

2918. It has not necessitated your putting on fresh officers?—No, I think we have a more liberal allowance of officers than other places. I do not think that any officer has more than 2,000 cases to visit.

2919. It is part of their work?—Certainly.

2920. With regard to ill-nourished children who the medical officer thinks require food, has the committee taken any action when they are above the poverty scale?—We have not touched them.

2921. Does the medical officer report?—There was an arrangement between us. I gave him a list and said, "Please go round the schools and look at the children and put down those who are suffering from want of nourishment as far as you are able to judge. Apart from any physical defect, state where you think delicacy of appearance is due to bad nourishment or want of nourishment." He made a list out, and many that we were not helping were on the list. Some that we were helping were not on the list.

2922. Did you make any inquiry with regard to those who were not being helped?—Privately, but we had to be careful. It did not come before the committee; these things might be resented.

2923. You think that in some cases people could have paid for better meals?—No doubt. It was clear in some instances that they were people in good circumstances.

2924. Was it bad food or want of food, in many instances?—It was both. I have had nearly forty years' experience now of this kind of thing. A great many things affect the children, such as irregular hours and the way in which they are looked after personally. I have seen such good results from the day industrial school work, that I firmly believe that it is the only way in which to deal effectively with this question. I do not know whether I ought to say that.

2925. Do you suggest industrial schools?—Something on that line. You may provide relief, but you must be quite sure that the child gets it; and you should ensure that the child, as far as practicable, lives under the best possible conditions.

2926. Regular conditions, regular meals, and good air?—In a day industrial school you can ensure bathing and grooming and some regularity in hours.

2927. Do you find that the boys are worse than the girls with regard to nutrition or anything of the sort, in the ordinary schools?—I do not think there is any difference. As a rule you come across more neglected boys than neglected girls. I do not know why it is, but it is so.

2928. Boys are less regular in their habits than girls?—Perhaps they take more readily to the streets. We have nothing like the number of girls in our day industrial schools that we have of boys.

2929. Do you find much cigarette smoking among boys of that class?—I dare say there is, but I am not sure.

2930. Does it interfere with their nutrition?—I am not a great believer in that myself.

2931. We are told that they spend their dinner money on cigarettes?—I spent my Whitsuntide holidays in Holland, and after seeing the youngsters smoking there it did not seem to me to affect them very much.

2932. (Dr. Parsons.) With regard to dealing with children above the poverty scale but ill-nourished through the neglect of their parents, what would you suggest?—That the authority should select certain areas to deal with. These things very often fit in with localities. For instance, we know that there are certain districts in all towns that are inhabited by careless and indifferent people.

2933. Birds of a feather flock together?—Yes; they sink to that neighbourhood. There is no doubt about that. If the public are prepared to spend money on it, I would suggest that where the medical officer of the authority, in the case of a particular child, thinks that want of nourishment is the reason for its delicacy or whatever it may be, the parent in that case should be put upon his defence, and that child should be committed to some institution. I do not know that you need call it a day industrial school, but a feeding school. I would make the parent pay.

2934. Would not that case be dealt with by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children?—That Society only initiates Police Court proceedings. Punishment of the parent, if he is indifferent, may be a very good thing and necessary; but you need to feed the child first.

2935. The idea is to punish the parent with a view to make him and other parents take care of their children?—Yes, certainly. They do not like the day industrial schools.

2936. If the child was taken to such a school, the parent would be freed and have more money to spend?—The day industrial school is very unpopular.

2937. Do the parents have to pay?—The parents have to pay, and they are hunted up regularly.

2938. Your suggestion would be an extension of that system?—Yes, for dealing with the worst cases.

2939. I gather that what the parent is made to pay does not cover the cost?—No. We get on an average

from the parents of children in our day industrial schools about 9d., and the cost is about 3s. a week. That is for everything that they get in the school.

2940. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Does that include the cost of the collection of the money?—That is not reckoned. The industrial school officers do that.

2941. (Mr. Walrond.) I think you said you used to give breakfasts at one time?—We did.

2942. Why were they given up?—We came to the conclusion that the dinner was the more substantial thing, and it was said by those who knew a good deal about it that a child was more likely to get something at home at the beginning of the day than in the middle of the day.

2943. Did you ever give both?—No, we never gave both, except during the Christmas holidays.

2944. That was a special arrangement?—That was a special arrangement.

2945. Have you ever thought of making use of your cookery centres for providing meals?—No; I do not think that we are sufficiently well-equipped with cookery centres to try it; and they are not always in the dis-

tricts where you want them. If you have anything of the sort you must have a school restaurant. It is not a case of one meal five days a week more, but three meals on every day of the week.

2946. Do you think that there would be a general demand for the meals?—If you want to prevent the children suffering from want of nourishment, you must do it regularly.

2947. And make yourselves responsible for the whole of the feeding?—Yes, whatever the authority was that took it up.

2948. There would be no hope of getting that done by voluntary subscription?—No.

2949. We are limited to the consideration of that?—The position has been somewhat altered by the issue of the Local Government Board's circular.

2950. (Chairman.) That was issued after our reference was drawn. Have you anything further to add?—I think that you have taken all points. I shall be very glad to send you any further information that I have.

2951. (Chairman.) We thank you for your evidence.

Mr. F. WILKINSON, called in; and Examined.

2952. (Chairman.) You are Director of Education for the County Borough of Bolton?—Yes.

2953. For how long have you held that post?—Since the Education Act was passed.

2954. The Act of 1902?—Yes, from April, 1903.

2955. Would you kindly tell us what your previous experience was?—It has been altogether in Bolton. Previously to that I was for twelve years Director of Technical Instruction, and before that I was headmaster of two very large board schools.

2956. All in Bolton?—All in Bolton; and I was a pupil teacher in Bolton.

2957. We propose to take as your evidence in chief the *precis* which you have been kind enough to send in; and we will begin with that part of it which concerns medical inspection?—Certainly.

(The *precis* is as follows.)

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The Education Committee of the county borough of Bolton have considered the question of the children's eyesight, and appointed in June, 1904, two medical men, viz.—Dr. Parker and Dr. Taylor, for this purpose. The work is taken on certain half-days per week, usually about two and a half to three hours. Each of the gentlemen named has professional work taking up considerable time, consequently the period taken up in examination of the children's eyesight will be an extended one. The medical officer of health for the borough, by appointment, undertakes certain work for the Education Committee, but this only relates to occasional cases sent to him, viz.—

- (1) Of teachers in the employ of the authority about whom it is desired to have some information.
- (2) Examination of all candidates for the office of pupil teacher and—
- (3) Periodical examination of all children in the two schools for mentally defective children, managed by the local authority.

Organisation: With a view to the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, the teachers have supplied to them instructions which have been drawn up by the medical officer of health for Bolton, and which will be found on pp. 28-31 of the regulations attached to this statement; also, the principal teacher's report to the Education Offices as occasion arises as to poor attendance due to sickness among the children, and a card similar to the one attached to this statement, is sent to the medical officer of health by the teacher. When he has reason to suppose that there is an unusually large number of children absent through sickness, the attendance officers and sanitary inspectors from time to time visit the homes of the affected children.

With reference to the medical examination of defective children, provision is made in the town for about 100 children, but this provision is very deficient and the Committee are at present engaged upon building two centres, which, when completed, will provide accommodation for 200 mentally defective children. No provision whatever is made for physically defective children or epileptics.

Inspection of children with defective vision: As already reported, two medical men are at present engaged in visiting all primary schools under the Education Committee here, and reports are being prepared on the state of the children's eyesight in attendance at such schools. The reports are not yet all in, but it is certain that when complete the Committee will be somewhat astonished to find in the schools a high percentage of children suffering from defective vision. The specially bad cases are immediately dealt with, and a notice is sent from the Education Office similar to that attached to this statement. The child takes with it a card, similar to that attached to this statement, to some optician in the town who provides the child with suitable spectacles. We have received many thanks from parents who have been glad to have pointed out to them defects in the eyesight of their children, which had obviously escaped their attention.

With reference to sore heads, the teachers understand that they are immediately to report to this office children that are verminous, filthy, or unclean, and to send such children home. An officer from the authority is immediately despatched to the house, or the superintendent himself visits the parents. If the case is a bad one, the attention of the Officer for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, is drawn to the matter, and the parent is summoned to appear before the magistrate for neglect. We have had quite a number of such cases within the last six months; at least 100 children with filthy heads have been brought under notice, and the parents have been made to make the children clean. Since the commencement of the year six parents have been sent to prison for neglect of children who were suffering from filth and vermin.

The medical officer of health or his inspectors visit the various schools under this authority from time to time and report to us as to drains, urinals, lavatories and water closets.

With reference to the provision of spectacles, the system we have adopted here is as follows:—

Where parents are too poor to pay for them (the circumstances having been previously inquired into by one of our officers and a proper return of the income having been obtained) the application is considered by the Rota Committee, which is a sub-committee of the School Attendance Committee. If the members are satisfied that the application is genuine, a recommendation is made to the Attendance Committee to loan suitable spectacles to the child in question. If the child needs treatment first, as declared

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by the report of the special officer appointed by the local authority, a recommendation is given to the parent, if too poor to pay for medical treatment, by the ordinary medical practitioner, and this enables the parent to obtain treatment and advice by the eye doctor at the infirmary free. We have never yet had a case where parents objected to the examination of their children.

With a view to the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, teachers do notify either to us or to the medical officer of health such cases. As previously referred to teachers are instructed by the regulations on pp. 28-31 to detect symptoms of the illnesses therein referred to.

Cost: When the question of appointing the medical officer of health for Bolton to undertake certain work for and on behalf of the Education Committee, a sum of £150 a year was added to the medical officer of health's salary for these services. We estimate the cost of the inspection of the children's eyes at £350. These two sums will be equivalent to a rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. (one sixth) of a penny in the £1.

2958. You specially deal here with the investigation of defective vision?—Yes.

2959. You say that when a child is found to be of defective vision he is given a card, which he takes to an optician in the town, for the provision of spectacles?—Yes.

2960. At whose expense are those spectacles provided?—At the expense of the parent.

2961. There is no society in Bolton for providing apparatus?—No. We have had for some years private subscriptions, which have been held by our chief attendance officer, and he has, after investigating the cases as to poverty, himself provided spectacles. There are a good many ladies in Bolton who are exceedingly benevolent, and we have never had the slightest difficulty in getting money for these spectacles.

2962. So that in every case either the child's parent is able to provide them, or other means are found by which these spectacles are procured?—That is so.

2963. Is there any arrangement with the optician under which these glasses are supplied at a lower rate?—Yes. Some time ago we obtained tenders; one firm was very cheap and much better than the others, and we send on the orders to that firm; although, if the parent expresses a desire to go to any particular optician, the card is signed by the medical man and the particulars contained there are sufficient for the optician to give the necessary glasses prescribed.

2964. (Dr. Parsons.) Are the glasses prescribed by the school medical officer?—The glasses are prescribed by the school medical officer.

2965. It is not left to the optician?—No, it is not left to the optician, at all; I think that is clear from the précis. It is clearly indicated on the card by the medical man what is the nature of the particular defect.

2966. (Mr. Walrond.) Did you hold any inquiry in the years 1894 or 1895 into children's eyesight?—No.

2967. You remember that the Board of Education held an inquiry in some parts of the country?—Yes.

2968. This is not a continuation of that in any way?—No.

2969. (Dr. Parsons.) I see from this circular that the parents are strongly urged to seek medical advice as to the advisability of a child wearing glasses or having other treatment; but at the same time you seem to send a card in which the nature of the exact glasses required is entered?—Yes. But there are other defects which we do not describe. The child is sent to a medical man in the town under the general form there, who finds out if there are certain defects in the eyes other than those directly concerning vision.

2970. This refers specially as to the advisability of the child wearing glasses?—Yes.

2971. At the same time that you urge medical advice as to the glasses you also send the card?—Yes. This is the card for the glasses showing the natural defect and the kind of glass the child requires.

2972. Should it not be left to the medical attendant; is it not a little inconsistent when advising the parents to

obtain medical advice, as to whether the child should have glasses or not to send this card which prescribes a particular kind of glasses?—No, I do not think so. It is the half loaf. We give them a little bit, and they have to pay for the rest. Perhaps I might describe what takes place.

2973. Supposing they go to a medical practitioner and he does not agree with this card and says, "I do not think the child needs glasses," or says that the glasses prescribed are not the right sort?—I do not think that the general medical practitioner would know that. These are two specialists.

2974. He would be glad to have this card to guide him, you think?—I am sure of it. A great many children are treated at the infirmary. They are too poor to pay for medical advice and they are sent on to the infirmary. We have quite a number of recommendations which the board of guardians have kindly put at our disposal, and these are given one to each child for it to attend the infirmary on a specific date. There they get the necessary medical treatment for nothing.

2975. (Chairman.) Are you dealing now only with eyes?—Solely with the eyes.

2976. (Dr. Parsons.) What brought up the question of eyesight specially?—We had it brought before us rather curiously in committee. The question was raised I think in the first instance in the Council whether anything was being done. One of the schoolmasters in the Clarence Street School found that many of his children were suffering from defective vision by reason of being in dark rooms, and the committee thereupon decided last June that they would have medical inspection as to the eyesight. We have had coming in from time to time reports from different schools. They are not all complete. I am afraid that when they all come in they will be rather bad as a whole. The first school taken shows 26 per cent. of cases of defective vision, fair and bad. That is an ordinary free school. If you take a school which is a paying school—a better class of school—it shows a very considerable fall in the percentage, 17½ and 18½ as against 26 in the ordinary school of defective vision.

2977. Does that refer to errors of refraction or to granular lids and things of that kind?—To astigmatism and matters of that sort.

2978. Not to diseases of the eyelids and ophthalmia?—No.

2979. Do the oculists examine all the children in a school at one time, or only selected cases?—They take every child in the standard portion of the school. The infant schools are left. When they once begin they finish that school. They begin at any standard they please. They send the report to me.

2980. There is an arrangement with regard to specially bad cases, is there not?—Yes; they are sent to the infirmary. Many of the parents are rather of an independent turn of mind, and they prefer to pay.

2981. Do the parents object to having the children examined?—In no case have we had any objection to having the children examined. On the contrary we have had quite a number of persons calling at the office to thank us.

2982. Do they get the spectacles or whatever may be recommended?—Yes. Where we find that they are too poor to provide them, we see that the child gets them. Possibly we shall come across the Government auditor next year. We have instituted a plan of loaning the spectacles, just as we loan reading books. That we consider a very satisfactory plan.

2983. (Chairman.) Have you a stock of spectacles provided?—No, we have no stock. We get them and loan them. The child's parent signs a paper that the spectacles are loaned. If they can afford to pay 3d., 6d., or a shilling a week, we have it from them in that way.

2984. (Dr. Parsons.) Do you keep a register of those to whom spectacles are lent?—Yes, we do.

2985. (Mr. Walrond.) I suppose that these two medical experts are paid for their work?—Yes. The cost is about £350.

2986. (Dr. Parsons.) How much are the oculists paid?—They are paid a guinea a day, a "day" being half a day.

2987. And £150 a year is the salary which is paid to the medical officer?—That is another matter. That is the medical officer of the town. He is paid £150 for services which he would render to us as an Education Committee.

2988. One and two do not seem to come within our scope. With regard to the periodical examination of all children in schools for mentally defective children managed by the local authority, what do you say?—We are constantly having trouble with parents. We had two cases last week before the magistrates, where the parents said that the children were not mentally defective. We have the greatest difficulty in proving that they are mentally defective. They decline to send them to special schools for the purpose. We insist on medical examination and the medical officer attends in court and swears that the children are not fit for an ordinary school and should attend the mentally defective school. We have had two cases this week where orders have been issued that they should attend. One is resisting.

2989. (Chairman.) Are those the first cases of difficulty you have had?—No. We have had them from time to time.

2990. Have you had any cases of failure to comply?—No. They generally leave the town, and our jurisdiction is at an end.

2991. (Dr. Parsons.) No provision is made for examining the children who may be physically defective, as to general nutrition?—No; we have privately made inquiry through our officers. I have quite an astonishing return here. Bolton is exceedingly damp, as you know, and many children suffer from rheumatic fever; and one of the results of rheumatic fever is affection of the heart, I understand. The officers have been going very carefully into this question and have supplied me with a list of children suffering from heart disease in some form or other. I have a return here of eighty-eight children, giving names and addresses, who are attending school, but who are said to be suffering from some affection of the heart—weakness of the heart.

2992. (Chairman.) What officers made that report?—The attendance officers. They learn from the parents and teachers, I expect, that the children are not strong, that there is something the matter with the heart.

2993. In the case of any child's name appearing on that list, would what was said as to its condition be corroborated by medical opinion?—Yes, I think so. The officers have only put in the cases which they are quite certain of.

2994. What will that report be used for?—I am going to use this later in asking the committee to investigate the general health of the children in schools.

2995. Have you any definite proposal at present before the authority to extend the scope of these medical inquiries as given here?—Not just now. We are in financial difficulties, and we have rather to draw in our horns a little at present.

2996. (Dr. Parsons.) Nothing has been attempted in the way of measuring or weighing the children from time to time?—Only to a very slight extent. It has been carried out in the schools for defective children. We have quite a number of children who are physically defective and unable to go to school at all. They suffer from spinal complaints and hip disease, and that sort of thing; the number is between thirty and forty children I understand.

2997. (Chairman.) Is there any proposal before you to begin a school for physically defective children?—Yes. We are now asking for subscriptions in memory of Mr. Thomasson, a very great benefactor in Bolton. Already we have obtained £3,500 towards a school for blind children. We are going to erect one for the blind and the deaf; and we hope to have a second school for physically defective.

2998. At present you send blind and deaf children to institutions outside?—Yes. There are quite a number of blind children in the town. Last year we had a report from the Government Inspector, who said that there were three children in one school for mentally defectives who ought not to be there at all but in some blind school; but we are scotched. We have no appliances. We find each week increasing difficulty in placing children in

the blind schools. They are all full. We hope to relieve the pressure in Bolton by having a school of our own.

2999. As regards the unclean children who are specially dealt with in your *precis*, who is the officer who would be despatched to the house?—He is an experienced officer; he has had thirty years' experience.

3000. What is his capacity?—We call him the Inspector of School Attendance Officers.

3001. He is the Chief School Attendance Officer?—Yes; and he takes all the court cases with regard to children.

3002. Have you any nurses employed to visit the schools?—No.

3003. Has that been proposed before the Committee?—It has been mentioned.

3004. You have had many cases in which you have called in the officer of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children?—Yes, quite a number.

3005. What sort of number?—I think within the last six months we have had several parents sent to prison. Six parents have been sent to prison under the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act.

3006. On action taken by the Society?—By the Society at the instigation of the officer of the Education Committee. We work together exceedingly well in Bolton.

3007. Have those cases been cases of neglect or cruelty or both?—Mainly neglect. There have been one or two cases of cruelty. In the main the cases are those of filth and neglect. Bolton has a very bad reputation I ought to say. Tramps come into the town, but they do not stop. They shake off the dust of the town very quickly. They know that if they have any children we shall have them out of their hands very soon.

3008. When you say a bad reputation, you mean among those whose praise you would not desire to merit?—Yes, among the tramps.

3009. (Dr. Parsons.) What are the class of people among whom this takes place—Lancashire people, or Irish, or what?—There are a great many Irish among them. I do not know their nationalities in particular. They are the tramp class, generally neer-do-wells passing through the town. In the main they are birds of passage.

3010. Not the resident people?—Not the resident people as a rule. If they are, they are in the common lodging houses and are only resident in the town for two or three weeks.

3011. (Miss Lawrence.) You say that on certain half days a week Dr. Parker and Dr. Taylor visit the schools. About how many half days does that mean in the week?—Sometimes four half days and sometimes three half days.

3012. There is no stated number?—No. They have their private practice. They take turns just as they please.

3013. What number of visits are they able to pay to each school?—On the average they are able to pay about three visits a week each.

3014. Perhaps I should have said how often is such school visited by a medical officer?—Not more than once a year. You are speaking now of the medical optician?

3015. Yes?—They visit the school and then they have done. The question as to whether they will have another examination later has not been considered.

3016. (Chairman.) In order to finish a school they pay a good many visits presumably?—I think not. I think they finish in two or three days. In the central school over a thousand children were examined. That is a very large school, and it took a long time to get through.

3017. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) How many days did it take?—It took the best part of a fortnight to get through the thousand. Every child was individually examined.

3018. (Dr. Parsons.) Can they make the whole of the examinations there—those which require a darkened room, for instance?—Yes. We have had no trouble at all.

3019. (Miss Lawrence.) Are your teachers examined on appointment, or not?—They are not.

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Mr. F. Wilkinson. 3020. Who undertakes that duty?—When required, the medical officer of health.

27 June, 1905. 3021. It is only when required?—Yes. Quite recently the question has been raised as to whether every teacher appointed by us should not be medically examined.

3022. But they are not at present?—No, not at present.

3023. Only here and there?—Only in a few cases have we had them examined.

3024. With regard to the card for the glasses which the child takes, do you make any arrangement for a reduced rate of payment, with the optician, or not?—No; we leave that a matter of bargain between the optician and the parent entirely. We have a tender, and the parent knows that he can get the glasses at a reduced rate, 5s. or 4s. 6d.

3025. That is what I meant?—We have had tenders. In some cases I believe the optician, where the parent has been very poor, has taken less; but we know nothing about that.

3026. You said that the parents paid so much a week if you lent the spectacles?—We have had an arrangement by which if the parent can pay he pays to Mr. Hilton the superintendent.

3027. For the loan?—For the loan. By-and-bye they become the property of the parent.

3028. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Did you do anything with the verminous children when you sent the parents to prison?—Yes.

3029. Did you get them cleaned in any way?—Yes, they were cleaned. We want in Bolton a home for children belonging to that class, where we can put them for two or three days or a week or two, while the parent is in prison. At present we have to get them in as best we can.

3030. When I saw you in Bolton you were dealing with a case then of a boy who was found begging. The father was being prosecuted for causing the boy unnecessary suffering?—Yes. He was sent to prison.

3031. What happened to the boy?—He was sent to the workhouse, and taken care of during the time. That is the only place we could send him to.

3032. The father never had a settled home?—No.

3033. When he came out of prison the boy came out of the workhouse?—Yes, but was afterwards sent to an industrial school.

3034. Did he continue in Bolton, or leave?—I think he has left. We have very wide powers under the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act—exceedingly wide powers.

3035. That was a boy who had been having free dinners?—Yes.

3036. He had been subsisting for some time by pity and charity?—Yes.

3037. That, I remember, was the statement of Mr. Hilton?—Yes.

3038. (Mr. Walrond.) How do you get fresh clothes for the verminous children who are cleaned?—We have never any difficulty in getting anything for the children.

3039. From charitable contributions?—Yes. We can always get money, as I can prove, with regard to feeding the 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.

3040. (Dr. Parsons.) Has any examination of the children been made as to their vaccination?—No.

3041. You have had small-pox lately in Bolton?—Yes, but very slightly.

3042. (Chairman.) Do you anticipate that if that were done feeling would be aroused among parents?—I think that there might be.

3043. To sum up, would you tell us how you would express the beneficial results which have been brought about so far by the medical inspection as far as it has gone?—I can only speak as to the eyesight results. We have it from the teachers that in many many cases it has been most beneficial to the children, and that the children have very greatly improved in their education.

3044. Have the teachers definitely found that the headaches and difficulties of that kind have been got over?—Yes.

3045. Now we turn to the part of your *precis* which deals with the feeding of children. We take that as the text of your evidence to-day. We understand that before your Committee took the matter up in November last, all that was done was done by the Queen Street Mission?—That is so. It is a central organisation existing in the main for philanthropic purposes in the very lowest part of the town.

The following is the part of the precis dealing with the feeding of children.

FEEDING OF CHILDREN.

The population of Bolton is estimated at 175,000 and the town is situated eleven miles north-west of Manchester. It is an important industrial centre, mainly engaged in the fine cotton spinning and engineering, together with bleaching and dyeing, and textile machine making. There are in addition large weaving mills, containing upwards of 18,000 looms. There are nearly 200 spinning mills with about 6,000,000 spindles. The population of Bolton, as may be expected, is very largely of the industrial class and the town enjoys a good reputation for its sanitary arrangements and is, generally speaking, a healthy town, being situated at a fair level and in close proximity to extensive moors.

The question of making additional provision for dealing with underfed scholars was brought to the notice of the Education Committee early in November last, and a sub-committee was immediately appointed to confer with a central organisation of a purely voluntary character, named Queen Street Mission. This agency has been in existence for over thirty years, and has been able to do good work, which has been carried on from funds which have been collected by means of public and private appeals and other efforts of various kinds. The Education Committee along with a deputation from the central organisation, consisting of the treasurer and the missioner, conferred together, and it was decided to extend the scheme so as to include the whole school area, the Education Committee undertaking:

(1) To provide extra centres for the distribution of food.

(2) To supply dinners to children, who desired to pay for them, at 1d.

(3) To ask the principal teachers to give free tickets to those whom they consider unable to pay.

(4) To leave the selection of suitable centres and detailed arrangements to Mr. Wilkinson and the Missioner and

(5) That the Chairman of the Education Committee, Alderman Hesketh, and Mr. Alderman Nicholson, Treasurer of the Central Mission, be asked to issue a joint appeal to the public for funds to carry on the extended work of providing free meals.

(6) To obtain a return of the number of children which were reported as being insufficiently fed.

It should be said here that the central agency supplied dinners on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, the highest number supplied being a little over 700. From the returns which were obtained, it was found that there were 1,374 children reported as being insufficiently fed and this number was considerably augmented as the weather became worse and more cases of out-of-works were submitted to us. The highest number which we had at any one time of individual children was 1,837, the school population being about 30,000. Each case was carefully gone into by our attendance officers who sought to obtain the following information:—

(1) Father out of work or on short time.

(2) Other working members of the family out of work or on short time.

(3) Whether children were very young or not.

(4) Whether the family was large or not (six and over is considered a large family) and the average income per week after deducting rent, if falling below 3s. the case was considered necessitous.

When the Committee got to work, and it should be stated here that in one week from the first meeting of the Committee all the centres were opened and the work was in full swing, it was found that at least four centres in addition to the central organisation were necessary in order to cope successfully with the work, and later on it was deemed expedient to open a fifth centre in addition to the central mission.

The local authority has not been put to any cost in this matter, the whole of the expenses being borne by the central authority, the subscriptions having come in plentifully. In fact it is the opinion of those who have had long experience in making provision of this kind that what was needed to strengthen the hands of those who from the pure love of the work did it voluntarily, was the co-operation of the teachers of the various schools and the officers of the educational authority. The authority has allowed the use of the offices free, and the time and services of clerks have been given voluntarily. The only persons who have been paid being the caretakers of the schools where the meals have been served and even in these cases no fixed stipend has been given, but small honoraria. The meals have been provided at a little under 1d. per child and those who desire to pay were allowed to do so by purchasing tickets at 1d. each. Only £1. 3s. 7d. has been received for tickets sold in this way. The help which has been rendered by the teachers has resulted in much more successful work than would otherwise have been possible. In fact we have had more help offered than we could accept. The Education Committee allowed teachers who remained and served meals at the various centres to return to school at 2.30 instead of 2. The school attendance officers have also been invaluable in verifying statements made by the children and in periodically visiting the homes from which children came who were being fed, in order to inquire if the cases were still necessitous. Such an inquiry was set on foot at the end of March when there were attending:—

Queen Street Mission	-	-	-	788
St. John's	-	-	-	167
St. Thomas', Halliwell	-	-	-	404
Clarendon St. Council	-	-	-	198
Pikes Lane Council	-	-	-	154
Sunning Hill Council	-	-	-	126

After careful inquiry by the school attendance officers the numbers were reduced to:—

Queen Street Mission	-	-	-	323
St. John's	-	-	-	88
St. Thomas', Halliwell	-	-	-	69
Clarendon Street Council	-	-	-	76
Pikes Lane Council	-	-	-	99
Sunning Hill Council	-	-	-	69

a fall of 1,113.

The need for the continuance of this provision is considered in this district to be at an end and instructions have been given to discontinue this provision, week ending June 16th.

For some weeks now the work has been discontinued at all the centres except the central institution.

Amount of subscriptions. The public were invited to subscribe to the funds and were requested to send either to (1) Education Offices, (2) the "Evening News Office," (3) Central Mission Hall. £370 were received at the first two named centres. The figures are not yet to hand from the third. A full statement will be given later.

3046. Can you tell us about how many children were fed annually before the last winter?—About 700 children.

3047. Were the Queen Street Mission Authorities careful in the selection of the children?—The children were selected by the headmasters of the various schools. The mission itself supplied the tickets and the principal teachers were asked to discriminate as to the children that ought to be fed.

3048. The Mission depended entirely on the statements of the teachers?—Yes.

3049. You mention the work of an officer called the missioner?—Yes.

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3050. What is meant by that?—He is the paid servant of the organisation there—Mr. Joseph Popplewell. He takes week-end services and Sunday services. In the week work is provided for him in looking after the feeding of the children.

3051. Last November a conference was held between your Committee and this mission?—Yes.

3052. The Education Committee undertook to provide extra centres for distribution of food, and to supply dinners to children who desired to pay for them, at one penny?—Yes.

3053. When they undertook that, did it mean that they personally guaranteed the expense, because the supply of dinners could not be guaranteed out of the rates?—We knew that, and the mission itself undertook to make all the necessary provision if we would render the assistance which would be necessary in consequence of the extension of their work. That we promised to do, and we promised also to issue a joint appeal for subscriptions. As a result of that appeal we got £540. The sum given in the *precis* is £370. The £550 is made up of £240, which came to the Education Offices, £170 which went on to the Central Mission for the specific purpose of feeding children, and £122 collected by one of the leading newspapers, the Bolton "Evening News."

3054. The return on Form 3 is for the mission only?—Yes.

3055. That is for a previous year?—Yes. £540 has been quite sufficient to provide meals for 135,000 children.

3056. Did you find that there were many parochial and congregational organisations doing the same kind of work?—We knew of several. There was one at St. Thomas's, and there was one at St. John's; and knowing of them we asked the vicars of these two places if they would lend us their apparatus and their kitchen for the purpose, and they very gladly fell in with the suggestion and helped us very much indeed. We used two voluntary schools and two council schools. Then it was found that we had to open an additional centre, another council school, so that ultimately we had going, the central mission, three council schools, and two voluntary schools.

3057. Were there any large organisations which stood out?—No.

3058. For instance, the Salvation Army?—Everybody seemed pleased to help us.

3059. Did the Salvation Army work with you?—No; we never heard from them at all; they went on just as they had done before.

3060. Were they supplying breakfasts?—No. I think that they see to the wants of the older people. The organisations I have named are the only organisations in Bolton supplying meals for children.

3061. Your return shows that there were 1,374 children reported as insufficiently fed?—Yes.

3062. This rose in the course of the feeding season to 1837?—Yes.

3063. That was the highest point reached as I understand?—Yes. The rise was accounted for by the fact that a great many men came out of work just before Christmas and that threw an additional number on to the funds, of course.

3064. At what date was the 1374 arrived at?—That would be at the beginning in November when we started the free meals, and the other would be just before Christmas.

3065. That number was reduced when you looked into your lists, by a very large figure?—Yes, in March. We from time to time made inquiries so that we might not be imposed on; and we found in March when we made a very searching investigation, that the numbers, as you say, had fallen very considerably.

3066. Do you suppose that the numbers would have fallen very considerably if you had not made that investigation?—I do not think they would.

3067. Presumably at the end of March, when you had the highest number on your lists, the distress was not so great, or the need for the meals, as in January?—No.

3068. But still the numbers were at their very highest then?—Yes.

Mr. F. 3069. In some of these centres the reduction was
Wilkinson. very large indeed?—Yes.
27 June, 1905. 3070. Much larger than in others?—Yes, that is so.

3071. How would you account for that?—I cannot account for it. It was a case of having something for nothing, and they would have it as long as they could, until they were stopped. The great danger in this matter is that of imposition.

3072. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) But the teachers selected the cases, did they not?—Only just at the beginning.

3073. Who selected at St. Thomas, Halliwell, 404?—The headmaster.

3074. That was reduced by the visitor to sixty-nine?—Yes; the headmaster went through the returns with the officer from the office, and together they reduced that number from 404 to 69.

3075. (Chairman.) He took part in the investigation which led to the reduction?—Yes.

3076. But at the same time his own selection had led to that very large number?—Yes.

3077. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) How many children are there in that school?—It is rather a large school. There would be 700 or 800 children.

3078. That would mean that half would be fed?—Yes.

3079. Is that the largest school on this list?—No; Sunning Hill is the largest school. It is a very good school.

3080. (Chairman.) Do I understand that no one was admitted to these school meals except the children attending the particular school?—No, we admitted from several schools.

3081. So that the school is no guide here?—No, the school is not a guide. This was the centre, and I think in the return which I supplied to Mr. Pelham I stated the schools which attended that centre. I have given a plan.

3082. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Which school was reduced most?—I think St. Thomas's school would be reduced most.

3083. The teachers had a different standard, I suppose, with regard to what was needed?—Yes. The accommodation is for 850.

3084. (Chairman.) What is the process for the selection of a child to the benefit of these meals?—The principal teacher would have the matter in hand and would ask if any child in a particular class had not had any meal that day. The name would be taken and sent down to the office and an inquiry, in cases of doubt, would be made by the officer who had charge of that particular school, and a return obtained of the income of the family on a form, a copy of which I have supplied to Mr. Pelham. They were considered to be necessitous if the average per head came under 3s.

3085. Did you work more or less on the Manchester system. Was it known to you?—I do not know the system. We went on no rule.

3086. You had a poverty scale?—We fixed 3s. per head of family.

3087. You make no difference according to the number of the family?—No. If the average came under 3s. we considered it necessitous.

3088. It was a *prima facie* case?—Yes.

3089. When you found that, did you at once relieve?—Yes.

3090. Without further investigation?—Yes.

3091. Were those inquiries made by the school attendance officer?—By the school attendance officer in each case, and he made inquiries also on the question of the provision of clogs.

3092. Did you find his knowledge equally good as regards regular attendants at the school and irregular attendants?—Yes.

3093. He has a manageable area to go over?—Yes. There are thirteen officers. We vary the number of the schools that we give each officer. I should think that three or four schools each would be given.

3094. You would consider that the number of families for which he was responsible was not too large for him to have individual knowledge of each?—No.

3095. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) About how many children to each officer would that be?—Between 2,000 and 2,500. We have about 30,000 children on the school books at Bolton and we have thirteen officers.

3096. (Chairman.) Have you supplemented his reports in any way by reference to the guardians or relieving officers?—No. We have kept right away from the guardians in this matter.

3097. Or the district visitors and lady visitors?—The superintendent has occasionally been to see the relieving officer and pointed out that certain families needed relief.

3098. As a result of your investigations?—As a result of our investigations. Two lady members of my Committee are also lady guardians, and there is considerable harmony between the two bodies in the provision for boarding out children.

3099. So that indirectly there was a good deal of knowledge available from the Poor Law side?—Yes.

3100. Were these centres all at the schools?—Yes, except the Central Mission.

3101. In schoolrooms and class rooms?—Yes.

3102. How were the meals prepared?—In the basement in the Council schools, in the cookery kitchens; and in the Voluntary schools in the rooms hitherto used for the purpose. They have at St. John's and St. Thomas', which I have named kitchens of their own.

3103. They have special rooms provided for the purpose?—Not provided for the purpose—but used for tea parties and that sort of thing, in connection with the Voluntary schools.

3104. Rooms for providing meals?—Rooms for providing meals—very convenient rooms.

3105. Even there the meals were served in the ordinary schoolrooms?—Yes.

3106. Did you find any inconvenience from that?—No.

3107. Have you in no case used an outside room for the purpose?—No, we have used the school for the purpose.

3108. Would your Committee prefer to have rooms away from the school, if they could be got?—I do not think they are necessary.

3109. Were the teachers only employed in the supervision?—The teachers and the principal teacher.

3110. No voluntary help came in for the purpose?—In the mission Mr. Popplewell had quite a staff for the purpose. In the Voluntary schools the women who were paid by the central organisation for preparing the meals were voluntary agents and not in connection with the Education Committee. We have not had the slightest difficulty in getting necessary help; in fact we have had rather more help than we have needed all the way through.

3111. Was it mainly teachers' help?—It was mainly teachers' help.

3112. Were they willing to fall in with your suggestions?—Most willing to fall in with our suggestions.

3113. Did you feel that it was not work which the teachers should be asked to do if it could be avoided?—No; we thought it was work for the teachers; and we allowed them to return to school later in the afternoon. We gave them a *quid pro quo*.

3114. You felt it unfair that they should lose the breathing-space between school and school?—We felt that, but we felt also that they were the right agents for doing the work.

3115. You tried a cheap school dinner on payment?—Yes.

3116. Did you find that successful?—No; it was a failure. We gave those who wanted to pay for their dinners a brown ticket. We only sold twenty-three shillings' worth of tickets during the whole of the season.

3117. Two hundred and eighty-three in all—£1 3s. 7d.?—Yes.

3118. To what do you attribute the failure of that proposal?—I think that there were several reasons. I do not think that the children cared to pay a penny for the dinner. The parents did not care for them to have what

they called a poverty dinner; and while many of the children would have taken advantage of the provision I think that the parents would rather the children went home to dinner.

3119. Did the parents feel that it was lowering the children's position to sit down to a meal which other children were sitting down to free?—I rather imagine that that was the reason.

3120. So that probably if you had had a penny dinner somewhere else it might have been largely patronised?—I do not think so. I do not believe in the special penny dinner.

3121. When you say you do not believe in it would you kindly tell us what your views are upon it?—I do not think it necessary that we should provide such a dinner.

3122. You think that if a child can afford a penny that child had better be fed at home?—Yes, I think so. I have rather strong views on that question. I think that too much is being done.

3123. You confined yourself to dinners?—Yes. A few breakfasts were given to the children by the teachers themselves.

3124. That was a private matter with regard to the teachers?—It was a private matter altogether.

3125. Did your committee decide that the dinner was the right thing?—Yes. We inquired as to the number of children without breakfasts, but the number was so small that we did not trouble any further. Very very few come to school without breakfast.

3126. How was the inquiry made?—By the principal teacher in the school as with the dinners.

3127. As to who had come without breakfast?—Yes.

3128. What was the return, please?—I think that it was under thirty.

3129. For the whole of Bolton?—Yes; and some of the cases did not pan out all right when we made inquiries.

3130. You found the reason was not that they could not have it?—The father and mother were in bed and would not get up to get the breakfast.

3131. You are unaware of any large agency for providing breakfast in Bolton?—There is none; it is not necessary.

3132. Do you propose to go on with the same organisation in the coming year?—I think so. I do not think we shall have any difficulty. The whole arrangement for providing children with dinners was set to work within a week.

3133. So that you can provide for it without difficulty?—Without any difficulty.

3134. You ended when?—Only last week. We stopped in March the five additional centres because the numbers were so small. We felt that the children had better go on to the Queen Street Mission.

3135. Were the numbers further reduced after you had brought them down to 724?—Yes.

3136. Quite automatically?—Automatically. As the season improved there was less need, and the children fell away.

3137. What number had you on the books of the five centres before you discontinued them?—About 1,000.

3138. At the end of March it was reduced by 1,100?—There would not be more than 500, and between 200 and 300 at Queen Street. They finished last week.

3139. Queen Street itself is now closed?—Yes, on 13th June.

3140. Has it generally closed just about then?—Yes, just before Whit-week.

3141. It has been found that the children can then obtain the necessary meals without resorting to it?—Yes.

3142. (Miss Lawrence.) What is the character of the meals given?—Soups, and occasionally a bun with coffee; in the main, soup and bread.

3143. You did not give them solid meat?—They had meat once a week, but they did not have solid meat in soup at all.

3144. In what shape do you give the meat?—In soup. They have pea-soup one day, and they have meat soup another day, then pea-soup again and ordinary soup.

3145. They do not have potato pies with meat in them or anything of the sort?—No; they have hot-pot occasionally.

3146. Does each child on the list have a meal on four days a week?—Yes.

3147. Do you never give a child only two meals a week?—We have a system by which the names are handed to us of children requiring tickets for the following week. The number of tickets is despatched on Monday morning ready for Tuesday, no meal being required on Monday. The headmaster has a sufficient number for the whole week and he distributes the tickets for the day. If the child needs the meals for four days he can get them by applying to the headmaster.

3148. It does not always follow that he has a meal on the four days?—No, it does not always follow.

3149. What is the reason for omitting one day?—Bolton is on an island; they are rather peculiar people in Bolton, and they are generally on the Monday able to provide the wherewithal. They have a good week end as a rule.

3150. You think that provision for Monday is not necessary?—It is not necessary.

3151. On an average, how many a day do you suppose are fed in one centre?—Between 700 and 800 in the central institution. In the council schools it is very much smaller. St. Thomas's, Halliwell is the next big centre. There were 404 cases there of children having meals. They were able to feed between 400 and 500.

3152. How long did that take to administer?—About half an hour.

3153. What happened to the work of the teachers who, you said, were allowed to come back late to school?—How was that arranged?—The schools are very well staffed in Bolton, and there is always a sufficient staff in the schools to provide for the absence of a teacher. The schools are not allowed to suffer by that.

3154. You say that there is no fixed stipend for the caretaker for this work?—No.

3155. Have you always found that there has been no difficulty in the arrangements?—We can get quite a sufficient number to do it for nothing. As I said just now, if it is for the children we can get any amount of money and any amount of help without even looking at the rates.

3156. Was any appeal made on behalf of the local authority, or was it made as an independent thing?—On behalf of the mission. It is purely unsectarian and undenominational.

3157. Did you find any great difference in the number of boys and girls who required dinners?—No, the numbers were about equal.

3158. You have not attempted any plan of using the cookery centres for the provision of dinners?—Yes, in the three council schools the kitchen is used for the purpose. The meals are cooked in the cookery kitchen.

3159. But not by the children?—No.

3160. They are quite independent of the cookery classes?—They are cooked by the cookery mistress.

3161. Does she take a cookery class in the morning?—Yes, and she finishes with the class. During the morning the Mission brings the necessary meat and articles to be made into soup. Those, after being checked, are left at the school, and soup is made and served up by the teachers.

3162. How does the cookery teacher contrive to do that if she is occupied with the class teaching?—She is not altogether occupied; the children are doing other work. We have used the laundry boiler for making the soup. The laundry instruction is not going on at the same time.

3163. The children take no part in the preparation of the food?—No.

3164. (Dr. Parsons.) Do you know the total number of children relieved. I see that the maximum was 1,800 in any one week. Would that be about the total number relieved?—Yes.

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Mr. F. Wilkinson. 3165. That is about 6 per cent. of the total number of children?—Yes, there are 30,000 children on the books and we provided 130,000 odd meals.

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3166. You have no reason to suppose that that does not meet the need?—I think that it meets the need quite fully; and further I have a very definite opinion that by voluntary effort all this work can be successfully coped with. I have very definite conclusions on that matter.

3167. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You always inquire through the attendance officers?—Always.

3168. The inquiry through them could only be made gradually, I suppose?—It was done within a couple of days.

3169. Were they able to inquire into the circumstances of that large number of children?—Yes. We took them away from their ordinary work and sent them round investigating the cases, the names of which had been given previously, taking particularly their own districts.

3170. That mass of information is available for another year?—Yes; we have all the lists.

3171. A large number of these cases are chronic cases?—Yes.

3172. When I was with you in Bolton, either you or one of the teachers put those down as being about half?—Yes.

3173. So that would be likely to occur another year?—Yes.

3174. When the numbers were knocked down from 1,837 to 724, that reduction was made not on the ground of the undeserving nature of the parents, but of their having sufficient means?—The improved condition of the parents.

3175. It was nothing to do with their being drunken or dissolute?—No.

3176. That was not taken into consideration?—No.

3177. But only whether their circumstances had improved, and they were able to feed the children?—Yes.

3178. There was a case given to me of a boy who had been having free dinners all the time. There was a large family and the boy had been up for begging several times. The earnings of the family seemed rather large; in fact, more than 4s. a head?—Yes.

3179. You were unable to detect that at once?—No. We have the greatest difficulty in getting accurate figures in this matter, because they will not tell us the income of the family.

3180. (Chairman.) Was your scale known among the people?—No.

3181. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Your attendance officer, Mr. Hilton, has been a very long time at the work?—Yes, over thirty years.

3182. And nine years before as postman?—Yes.

3183. So that he knew everybody in the place pretty well?—Yes.

3184. I suppose that without him you would have found difficulty?—We have always had a good system in the office of getting to know the children in the town. We can easily put our finger on any child in the town. We have practically the life history of all the cases that have been before the Court, and we keep a proper record, so that we can immediately drop our finger upon cases requiring information.

3185. Mr. Hilton has rather exceptional knowledge?—Yes.

3186. He thought rather strongly on the subject of free meals?—Yes.

3187. I remember his telling me that they had done more harm than good?—In many cases.

3188. He mentioned the fact that children attending schools closed on account of measles got dinner tickets all the same and went to the centre?—I do not think I had made the enquiry when you were present; but unknown to anybody I sent five officers to the centres to ask the children who were present having meals, to hold up their hands if they had measles in the house. I thought that I would find out if the disease was being

spread in that way, but in no single instance did I find that there was a child attending from a house where there was measles.

3189. That was not the cause of the spread of infection?—No.

3190. It was thought at the time that I was there that it was?—Yes, at the time it was thought so.

3191. I think you thought that something ought to be done to enable you to find out the wages of the parents. You found that the employers told you higher wages than the parents?—The employers are very good to us. We have sometimes difficulty in getting to know the exact wages.

3192. Are the wages in the mills constant?—Yes, they are, but in many cases it is piece work, and there we have difficulty in ascertaining the exact income.

3193. Would not the piece work be rather highly paid?—Yes.

3194. So that those would be rather the better class?—Yes.

3195. (Miss Lawrence.) You can say that the population is very much engaged in mills?—Yes.

3196. You do not think that a midday meal supplied outside would be necessary for that sort of case?—No, I do not think so.

3197. Does a provident parent leave food for the child?—Yes; the neighbours are exceedingly good and they help one another in a wonderful way. Neighbour B will help neighbour A to provide meals for the children if neighbour A is at the mill.

3198. Are they every day at the mill?—Yes; they must be there every day in the cotton mills. There is constant employment.

3199. Are not all the neighbours there?—No. Many of the women are employed in the mills in Bolton, but a great many are not. Weaving is female employment. The people are exceedingly good to each other in that way.

3200. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You thought that there was an exceptional amount of unemployed in Bolton when I visited Bolton?—Yes. Dobson and Barlow, machinists, employ over 3,000 men. There were not at the time of your visit more than 1,000 men being employed. Now it is in full swing in many departments. They have work quite a long time. There are many large works of that kind in Bolton.

3201. They are in full swing now?—They are all in full work now. Cotton spinning is very good.

3202. You do not anticipate necessarily the same distress next year? I do not think there will be.

3203. We visited St. Edmund's School, and I remember that a large number of the children we saw, when we asked them questions, said that their fathers were painters and slaters, and so on?—Yes.

3204. Those are chronic cases?—Yes; that is the class that suffers most.

3205. They make quite big money when they are at work?—Yes, but it is not continuous work. There is an off-season.

3206. It is for those that you want the annual fund?—Yes.

3207. Do they get £4 a week?—No. A good painter will not get more than £2 a week.

3208. And he does not put much by, presumably?—I do not think he can. He must play for a good many weeks in the winter.

3209. (Chairman.) Would you hand to us a full statement of your income and your expenditure?—I will try to get it for you.

3210. Can you tell us at all how many applications for meals for children were actually refused?—I should say many hundreds.

3211. A very substantial number?—Yes. A great many of these boys and girls like to ask for tickets because so and so gets tickets, when there is food for them at home if they will go home. It is rather infectious.

3212. Was there no strong feeling of independence which limited the number?—A little, but not much.

3213. Were some so independent that although they badly wanted it they would not ask?—Yes. We had cases brought to our notice where parents were poor, but declined to let the children have a free meal. They were of an independent turn of mind.

3214. And they did not take advantage of the penny meal?—No.

3215. At what time of the day would the principal meal at Bolton for a working man's family be?—From 12 to 1.

3216. Would they have a mid-day meal, or an evening

meal after work was done?—A midday meal. They have tea about 6. Some of the mills cease at 12, and others at half-past 12, and there is an hour for the meal, from 12 to 1 or half-past.

3217. Do most of them get home in that interval?—A good many of them do not get home. Some are four miles away from their homes.

3218. A parent working in a mill anywhere near home would go home?—Yes, he would go home.

3219. Have you anything to add to what you have told us?—No, I do not think I have anything more to say.

3220. (Chairman.) We are much obliged to you for coming here.

Mr. F. Wilkinson.
27 June, 1905

SEVENTH DAY.

Tuesday, 4th July, 1905.

PRESENT.

Mr. H. W. SIMPKINSON, C.B. (in the Chair).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.

The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE.
Mr. R. WALBOND.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (Secretary.)

Miss A. E. NORRIS, called; and Examined.

3221. (Chairman.) You are the Honorary Secretary of the Bristol Children's Help Society?—Yes.

3222. For how long have you held that office?—I have been the Secretary for about five years, but I have been working with the Society for seventeen years.

3223. For about how long has the Society been in existence?—Twenty-one years.

3224. We propose to take your *precis* as the text of your evidence and put it on the notes?—Certainly.

The following *precis* was handed in:—

Bristol Children's Help Society.

A. METHODS EMPLOYED.

(1) The C.H.S. is the only agency doing exactly the same work in Bristol.

(2) (a) Some members of the Education Committee and Board of Guardians are members of the Committee of the Society and take part in administration.

(b) The Education Committee allows the free use of the Special Schools and provides gas for cooking dinners for the children of these schools only.

(c) I. No. II. No.

(3) (a) The dinners are partly paid for by the parents.

(b) The Society pays the deficit on the dinners, the cooks' wages and working expenses.

(c) The breakfasts are free, dinners partially paid for.

(4) (a) The Society does not provide for children of this class, except those attending the Special Schools.

(b) These children are provided with free breakfasts four mornings a week for about three months in the winter, or for a longer period should the need be abnormal.

(c) Children of this class are not generally eligible for the free breakfasts, but many are admitted. There is a clause in the rules of the Society which reads thus: "Those whose circumstances are deemed specially necessitous by the Local Committee."

(5) Recommendations can be made by any one who knows the need of the child, but are usually made by teachers, attendance officers, district visitors and ministers of religion.

SUMS EXPENDED.

	£	s.	d.
(1). Total amount in 1904	-	-	406 13 10
(2). (a) Food material in 1904	-	-	262 13 11
(b) Preparation and distribution	-	-	77 9 9
(c) Rent and apparatus	-	-	44 3 0
(d) General Expenses	-	-	22 7 2

(3). Dinners 1-46d. Breakfasts 79d.

(4). (a) Private Subscriptions, £219 11s. 3d.

(b) Not any.

(c) Payments by parents, £90 14s. 1d.

(5). At times, but the Society is usually fairly well supported.

C. RELIEF GIVEN.

(1.) (a) In some cases children get a free breakfast ticket and pay 1d. for a dinner. That is all the Society provides. At the Invalid Children's School milk and biscuits are provided; for these parents have to pay 2d. per week—it is optional, the children are not bound to partake, but the majority of those who have to wait until the last rounds of the carriages usually have this food between dinner and tea.

(b) Breakfast consists of porridge with milk and sugar, bread and treacle.

Dinners are varied: hot joints, soups, fish, stews, vegetables, milk, or suet puddings, fresh and stewed fruits, cheese, salads, scones, milk, bread and butter and jam.

(c) With the dinners there is sufficient variety. Breakfast may be improved upon. There is a small percentage of children who cannot take the porridge. The meals are usually enjoyed by the children except in cases as referred to above.

(d) Yes, the days the meals are provided the children

Miss A. E. Norris.
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Miss A. E. are fairly nourished but of course only get two meals per day.
Norris.

4 July, 1905.

I. Breakfasts four mornings. Dinners five days.
II. Every day if at school.
III. The Society does not make any provision for Saturdays, Sundays nor holidays.

IV. Breakfasts about three months in the winter. Dinners the entire school year. Yes, except in cases of chronic distress, such as widows with large families whose relief from the guardians is inadequate, or invalid fathers unable to work or provide for their families.

(2). Yes. Tickets are distributed by the head teachers of the schools each afternoon before the children are dismissed for the free breakfasts, and sold at 4d. each for the dinners.

(3). In 1904, 69,514 free breakfasts. 29,126 dinners. A much larger number during the past winter.

(4). About 2,500 at the breakfasts, and between 300 and 400 at the dinners.

(5). During the winter, but the records are not kept after the centres close.

D. RETARDED AND AFFLICTED CHILDREN.

(a) Yes, at the special schools.

(b) Yes, all three classes.

(c) Yes, by the Education Committee, not by the Society.

(d) Yes, by the Education Committee, not by the Society.

3225. I see you say that some members of the Education Committee and Board of Guardians are members of the Committee of the Society. I understand that they are not official representatives?—No.

3226. Does the Committee itself meet frequently?—In the winter what we call the Meals Committee meet on the first Thursday in every month. Our work is not confined to the feeding of children. We arrange for camping out in the summer months, and play-rooms in the winter.

3227. Is much work done by these committees, or is it left to local committees?—The local committees decide what is the need of their own centres, and reports to the central committee, and has to receive its sanction before they can do anything. It has to be all reported to us.

3228. Is the main work done by the central committee or the local committees when they are started?—By the central committee. The work of the local committee is principally to revise the lists received from the head teachers.

3229. All questions involving a decision as to an applicant have to be sanctioned by the central committee?—Yes.

3230. I notice that your work, as regards meals, divides itself into two parts—dinners and breakfasts. I propose to take the dinner part first, to clear that out of the way, before we proceed to the breakfast. The dinners I gather are mainly for special schools?—Yes, except that we have one centre in the city. We used to have the halfpenny dinner centres all over the city, but this part of the work was rather abused. People who could afford to pay more would send their children for the halfpenny dinner where they could provide it themselves if they chose to do so.

3231. The one dinner centre which remains is the survival of that original system of halfpenny dinners?—Yes.

3232. That is in Bedminster?—Yes—a large district—we have not been able to get the use of a large room there for a breakfast centre hitherto.

3233. You require a smaller room for a dinner centre than you do for a breakfast centre?—Yes, because we had a much smaller number of children. During the past winter, because of the abnormal distress in Bristol the Education Committee allowed us the use of two of their cookery centres where we supplied meals during the three months in the winter.

3234. Those were for dinners?—Yes.

3235. Were those in other parts of the city than Bedminster?—Yes: one was at the east end and one at the south.

3236. What sort of numbers were there?—Very small numbers. The cookery centres could only supply fifty-seven in one centre and forty-three or forty-five in the other. They utilised the food which the children cooked in their own cookery class for the children's dinner.

3237. You found yourselves able to work in the cookery instruction with the provision of a small meal?—Miss Sillitoe arranged the dinners to suit the needs of the children.

3238. That is the extent of the dinner work for ordinary children?—Yes.

3239. The largest special schools would be for cripples?—Yes—the invalid and mentally defective. We have two departments in one school. The other is quite a small one and is only for mentally defective children.

3240. Dinners are provided for all these children?—Yes.

3241. In that case are the dinners paid for?—Not fully. The children in some cases only pay a halfpenny and in other cases they pay a penny. We have to rely very much on the teachers as to what the children can pay, or are supposed to be able to pay.

3242. Would the children who pay the halfpenny receive the same meal as those who pay the penny?—Yes, unquestionably they would get the same.

3243. Are some given a free dinner?—No, none are free.

3244. None at all?—No. We have a small committee connected with the special schools, of which I am also a member, and we have a small fund, and we sometimes supply the teachers with small sums of money to pay for dinners. The society has to receive a halfpenny at least from each child.

3245. That is in the rules?—Yes. As a separate committee we pay the nurse's salary and supply dressings and cod liver oil, and that sort of thing, for the children. It is a voluntary committee and has nothing to do with the Children's Help Society. Some of the children we know are very poor and their parents cannot afford to pay a halfpenny, but it is paid from the funds of the voluntary committee. It has nothing to do with the work of the society.

3246. Do you know of any cases of children in any of these schools being unable to pay the halfpenny who have been refused a meal?—No. The teacher has funds at her disposal, from the small committee in connection with the work of the school, from which to pay for the dinners in some cases where it does not come from the parents.

3247. It is provided in some way or another?—Yes.

3248. How do you collect the payments from the children?—They pay the teachers every morning; or weekly. They pay 5d. or 24d., as they like.

3249. Is it paid in advance?—Yes, daily before the child has the dinner except where the nurse, in a few cases, collects it on Friday night.

3250. Then we come to your breakfasts, which are, numerically, the largest part of your work in the way of feeding?—Yes.

3251. You say, at the beginning of your *præcis*, that the Children's Help Society is the only agency doing exactly the same work in Bristol. We have a return from the St. Jude's Free Breakfast Fund which came into existence, I gather, only last winter.

3252. Did that work with you?—No. We are an undenominational society and the present vicar of St. Jude's is an extremely high churchman, and will not accept anything from us because we are an undenominational society. He will not have anything to do with Non-conformists in any way. At the latter part of the year, when his fund was exhausted, he was very glad to allow the children to go to our centre.

3253. So that children other than his own children are unable to attend his centre?—Yes—none but the children attending St. Jude's school.

3254. The money which he raised was not contributed to in anyway by your fund?—No. He will not act with our committee at all.

3255. Did you find cases of overlapping through the existence of this fund?—It was not possible, because the children could not have more than one breakfast on each morning.

3256. You found it to be the case that a child could not manage two breakfasts?—Yes, because the time would not permit of it, you see; nor were breakfast tickets given at St. Jude's School this past winter.

3257. Your rule requires that all the breakfasts which you give should be free?—Yes.

3258. I find that the class of children that receive them is strictly defined by Rule 5, which I will read:—"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." Do you admit to the breakfasts, without question, any children who come under that definition?—Yes. The names are submitted to the local committee and in most cases are known to someone or other of the local committee.

3259. You say that you do not provide for those whose parents are unable to make provision for them owing to the permanent insufficiency of their earnings?—Not all the year round, but only for the winter. It is not the normal distress that we provide for, but the abnormal distress in the winter.

3260. In the case of a child coming under Class 4 (a) in our heads of evidence, that child would be sent to the guardians. Would you refuse to help?—No, not for the three months that we are working. We admit any child.

3261. There is a little misunderstanding as to your answer, I think. You say that the society does not provide for children of the class in (a).—You would provide for them for three months?—Yes.

3262. I misunderstood your meaning then. Any children under these classes would be eligible for breakfast?—Yes. We do not refuse a breakfast to any child who comes under the definition in the rules. Of course, it must be in attendance at school.

3263. Would the greater part of the number come under the definite description at the beginning of the rule or under the last part which enables you to take into consideration special circumstances?—By far the larger number come under the description given in Rule 5. By ("special circumstances") we really mean children whose fathers are in prison, or anything of the sort—people whom we know are undesirable fathers—drunken fathers, for instance. We do not really cater for them, but we often think that it is not fair for the children to suffer for the sins of the fathers, and we know that we feed many children of drunken parents.

3264. The lists of children, are first of all, made out by whom?—By the school teachers and submitted to the local committee, and they are revised once a fortnight.

3265. They are revised once a fortnight by the local committee?—Yes.

3266. Are any doubtful cases submitted to the central committee?—No. The local committee has power to strike off any name from the lists. I have to attend all local committees. If there is any case reported, and they have not agreed on the point, they appeal to me. My decision is final.

3267. You are present as representing the central committee?—Yes.

3268. You take immediate action upon the local committee?—Yes.

3269. Are these breakfasts given in the schools at all?—No.

3270. In no case?—No, not in any case.

3271. You mention schoolrooms connected with churches and chapels. Those are not public elementary schools?—No, not education committee schools with the exception of the dinner.

3272. I am on breakfasts only at the moment. You have advisedly determined not to hold them at the schools?—The Education Committee will not grant us permission because it makes the rooms dirty.

3273. There are obvious objections you think?—Miss A. E. Yes. They cannot make arrangements for the meals. Norris. There are no arrangements for cooking and preparing the breakfasts. 4 July, 1905.

3274. You give us here the statements of expenditure for 1904. That seems to be to the 31st October?—Yes.

3275. Can you give us any figures for 1905?—Not the accounts. Our treasurer has been away and I am not able to do so.

3276. Can you indicate them to us?—The number of meals provided was 133,947.

3277. Therefore, the expenditure was considerably greater?—Yes, but I am sorry to say that Mr. Edwards has been away and I cannot give the exact amounts. I can give you about the amounts.

3278. Were you able to get sufficient income to meet the expenditure?—No, not during the past winter. We had a small amount on deposit, and we have drawn £100 from our Legacy fund.

3279. Did you consider it an exceptional year?—Decidedly.

3280. A year which you hope will not recur?—We hope not. We had to do what we had never done before, namely, make arrangements with coffee taverns. We could not provide a sufficient number of meals in the centres which we had opened.

3281. Was that done by means of coupons?—Yes.

3282. At how much?—A penny each.

3283. To the coffee tavern?—Yes.

3284. The price of your breakfast is extremely low—it is under 0.8 of 1d.?—Yes, it is low.

3285. You attribute that to the porridge, perhaps?—Yes, I think so.

3286. Which is both a cheap and nutritious form of food in your view?—The committee think so.

3287. Do you hold other views?—Yes. I think it is not quite substantial enough. It is easily digested and children soon get hungry after it.

3288. Is it, as a rule, relished by the children?—Yes, when they acquire the taste for it. At first they do not like it at all. In some districts they eat it readily at first; in some districts they do not.

3289. Do you find that it is becoming a frequent form of food elsewhere than at your breakfasts?—No, I do not think so.

3290. Has it made way in the homes?—In a few cases. I visit a good many of the homes in working class districts and in some cases they make porridge after our breakfasts cease. They find it cheaper, and the children having acquired the taste, ask for it.

3291. For how long has porridge been used for your breakfasts?—For about ten years. At one time we had alternative breakfasts—bread and treacle and cocoa, one morning; and the other morning, porridge. Then we thought porridge a cheaper and better food for the children. That is why we made the alteration. They principally get bread in their own homes. The Charity Organization Society said that we were pauperising the children. They questioned whether we were not pauperising the parents so we said we would not make the breakfasts sufficiently appetising to tempt the children from their own homes if they could get a better breakfast at home.

3292. Was there a higher attendance on the morning when porridge was not given?—Yes, decidedly. It was not wise to let them know which was to be the porridge morning and which was to be the cocoa morning. I think that now we have educated them up to liking porridge, in most districts.

3293. On four mornings you give the breakfasts?—Yes.

3294. Omitting what days?—Monday, Saturday and Sunday.

3295. You omit Monday because there has been a better meal on Sunday, presumably?—Yes, and also because, as we use the schoolrooms belonging to churches

Miss A. E. and chapels, it is extremely awkward to get the use of the buildings. Porridge has to be partly cooked overnight.

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3296. There is a double reason for omitting Monday?—Yes. If there is money coming into the home it is generally on Saturday.

3297. On what date did you close last winter?—The 31st March.

3298. Beginning when?—We began on the 12th December, which is earlier than usual.

3299. Do you find that the full number of children are in attendance when the meals begin?—Yes.

3300. Are they still in attendance when the meals leave off?—No. We close when the numbers begin to fall off. We gradually close the centres as the numbers decrease.

3301. You find a distinct falling off as the days get longer and the weather gets warmer?—Decidedly. Sometimes at a centre where we have had 400 we should only have 300. When we closed this year we had 257 attending one centre where we had had over 400 in attendance.

3302. This particular work comes absolutely to an end when the breakfasts close?—Yes.

3303. Do you feel that any provision should be kept up for small numbers during the rest of the year?—Yes, I think that there are a certain number of chronic cases that always need help, only we have not the funds, nor could we get the voluntary workers all the year round; all our helpers are honorary workers.

3304. In what way do you appeal for funds?—We have a subscription list and our president generally writes a letter of appeal to the paper. That is all we do; except that at Christmas we send out some collecting cards for Christmas contributions; these are generally sent to children.

3305. Have you any newspaper fund in Bristol?—No. This year there was a distress fund and the Lord Mayor sent us two or three subscriptions. He sent us ten guineas at one time and five guineas at another time.

3306. That was a special distress fund raised for this winter?—Yes. It was special for this winter.

3307. How is the distribution of the tickets among the schools managed?—We send the teachers lists which they have to fill in.

3308. Would you send us in a copy of any rules or instructions, please?—This is the list that we send to the teachers of the schools.

3309. This list would be filled up in the first instance at the beginning of the session?—Fortnightly it is revised.

3310. But it would be filled up and sent in to the Committee at the beginning?—Yes, at the beginning.

3311. On that list you send a corresponding number of tickets to the teacher?—Yes, we do. Each child is numbered and the ticket is numbered, and the child gets its ticket with its number or name on it.

3312. The ticket is individual to the child?—Yes. They do not do that in every school. We are trying to introduce that system because we think that it will check the leakage of tickets. Sometimes a much larger number of tickets is given out than the number of children we get in attendance at breakfast. A child gets a ticket with its right number, and if No. 18, for instance, does not turn up, the ticket cannot be returned to the teacher.

3313. Is the ticket only available for one particular day?—Every day in the week.

3314. The particular ticket is available for only one day?—No. After the breakfasts the tickets are returned to the teacher. If a number is absent the teacher can enquire why the child, having had the ticket, did not go to the breakfast.

3315. Supposing the teacher does not notice the absence, can that same ticket be used on the following morning?—No. The day of the week is marked on the ticket.

3316. Could a ticket for one Tuesday be used on the following Tuesday?—Yes.

3317. You think that in some cases the tickets are obtained and not used?—Often.

3318. In other cases do you think that tickets are given to one child and used by another?—They used to be. We found that the bigger boys and bigger girls would steal them from the younger children and that is why we had them numbered, or the name written on them.

3319. You are taking serious steps to prevent that evil?—Yes, we are trying to by giving each child a numbered ticket. We have to rely on the teacher to give the right number to the right child; of course we very much depend on the teachers in the distribution of the tickets.

3320. Are the teachers present at the breakfasts at all?—Very seldom.

3321. You do not call upon them to take any part in the superintendence?—No.

3322. Have you any difficulty in getting voluntary assistance for superintending the meals?—Yes, we have considerable difficulty because most of the voluntary workers live a long way from the city and it is extremely awkward for them to get down to the city in time.

3323. You would find it much easier to get a voluntary band of workers for dinner than for breakfast, in fact?—Yes, very much easier.

3324. About what is the largest number present at any centre?—This year it was just over 400.

3325. Would those all be served at the same time?—No—in two sittings.

3326. Do they sit down to have their meals?—Yes, they always have to sit. They sing grace before they begin. After the meals they are dismissed in an orderly manner and we prepare for a second sitting. We have no rooms large enough to accommodate 400 at a time.

3327. You make it quite an orderly meal?—Yes; we insist on that. It would be like a bear garden if we did not.

3328. Are these records which you keep with a view to next year?—No, they are not.

3329. Have you ever found occasion for that?—No; we do with regard to the camp work.

3330. They do not show in any way how often a child attends or on what particular days?—No, some teachers make daily returns but we do not expect them to because it makes so much writing for them.

3331. I gather that there is no special work done for what are called retarded children who are not defective children?—No, but they are admitted into the special schools at Bristol.

3332. They would be defective children in that case?—Yes.

3333. We are specially asked to have regard to a class of children who are not fit subjects for defective schools but who are supposed to be backward owing to want of nutrition. That particular class is not dealt with as a whole in Bristol?—No.

3334. Not apart from the rest?—No.

3335. Is any reference made to any medical officer in selecting the children?—Not for the children's free breakfasts, but with regard to the mentally defective, and invalid children.

3336. On entering the schools?—Yes.

3337. But not as regards meals?—No.

3338. Can you say whether there is any result visible from the breakfasts in the health of the children?—Yes. We see that, more especially with regard to the dinners amongst the invalid children.

3339. Those are regular dinners, which go on the whole year round?—Yes.

3340. Should you say that, at the end of the winter feeding, the children, as a class, who have received breakfasts are in better health than they were at the beginning?—No, because 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 easy and so bonny that you would not think 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.

3341. (Dr. Parsons.) They look better than they would if they had not had the breakfasts?—Yes. In some cases the children look very pinched. I have worked so much in the city that I know many of the homes and the circumstances of the children.

3342. (Chairman.) Are you convinced personally that the work is very valuable work?—Yes, I should not give the time to it that I do if I was not. I feel that it is really necessary. I feel that it is the most important work that I attempt, and devote the greater part of my time to it.

3343. Have you any suggestions to make for improvement in the present organization?—No, I do not know that I have anything. We should be very glad to have suggestions made to us if there are any. We do not know how we can improve our work, and should welcome any criticism.

3344. Except in the direction that you have indicated of seeing that the right children get the tickets?—Yes. That is the difficulty, and of course there are many cases where we know that the fathers could provide for them if only they would work.

3345. Have you in any case appealed to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children?—Yes.

3346. You have reported cases?—Yes. Our Treasurer and Chairman are both members of the Committee for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and we work in conjunction with the society. There have been a good many cases, where parents have been cautioned.

3347. Do you find that that has had effect?—I think it has. I cannot say that we have direct evidence that it has. It sometimes frightens careless parents a little bit.

3348. Have prosecutions been undertaken at the instigation of your members?—No, not as members of the Children's Help Society. We have never gone so far as taking that action.

3349. (Miss Lawrence.) You said that Miss Sillitoe did a certain amount of the organization?—Yes.

3350. Was that officially or unofficially?—Unofficially. It was just at the time that the Education Committee appointed several members of their committee to work in conjunction with ours to meet the abnormal distress. We did not know how to make arrangements to meet it. We do not think it worth while to open a centre unless we have from seventy to 100 children in attendance.

3351. All of whom would have a meal?—Yes. The breakfast centres. From the returns from the Education Committee it did not appear that there were a sufficient number of children to justify our opening a centre in every district. Miss Townsend, a member of the Education Committee, conferred with Miss Sillitoe and suggested that we might utilise one or two of the cookery centres to meet the special need in schools where the number of children, who needed a meal was small.

3352. Were meals cooked by the children in cookery centres?—Yes.

3353. Was that done according to the syllabus which they were supposed to be working under?—Yes; I think it was modified a little, but very little.

3354. You found that that food was quite suitable?—Yes, I think so.

3355. What did it consist of mostly?—One day they had soup, I know.

3356. Only soup?—Only soup and bread. Another day they had fig or date pudding; another, meat stew. I have not brought the list with me.

3357. On that occasion would they have no meat?—No meat.

3358. In every case was there only one dish?—Only one dish.

3359. Could they have as much as they liked of it?—Yes.

3360. There was no limit as to helpings?—No.

3361. Was the meal served at twelve?—At twelve at one centre, and a quarter past at the other.

3362. How many about?—Fifty-seven at Eastville School and forty-three or forty-five at Windmill Hill School.

3363. How was it served? who superintended?—The teachers.

3364. In each case?—Yes.

3365. In the special schools?—The cookery teachers. At Windmill Hill, and at Eastville centre.

3366. It is only in the cookery centres?—Only in the cookery centres.

3367. Did you find any difficulty about the teachers giving up their time?—No; they were perfectly willing. They volunteered to do so.

3368. Did the same teachers go back for further cookery instruction in the afternoon?—Yes, I think so.

3369. So that they virtually gave up the whole of the mid-day time?—No, because the meal would only take a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes.

3370. No longer than that?—It might possibly have taken half an hour, but no more. Then the children were dismissed to the playground and the teachers went to their own rooms.

3371. Then there was the clearing up to be done?—Yes—that the cook did. We offered to pay the cooks, but in both cases they refused to have payment. They said that they were only too glad to do it for the children. Two of the older girls waited each day and helped the cook to wash up after. The cooks refused to have extra payments at all from the Society and said that they were only too glad to give their services on behalf of the children.

3372. In the special schools for invalid children you give them rather more for dinner than you have pointed out?—Yes, we do.

3373. Is there no limit there to the helpings?—No; they can have as much as they like, in reason, of course.

3374. Of course what is good for them. What do you suppose is the cost of the dinners in the invalid schools?—In one school it is much more expensive than in the other.

3375. Can you account for that?—I cannot, except that Bedminster school has a much smaller number, and it is more economical to work with larger numbers.

3376. What would be the number in the invalid schools?—Red Cross Street, about seventy in the invalid school, and about eighty in the mentally defective. In the other it is twenty-five.

3377. What is the cost?—At Bedminster about 2d.; and at Red Cross Street barely 1½d. per head.

3378. Do the seventy or eighty all dine at once?—The mentally defective have their dinner upstairs in their own department, and the invalid children have it in their own departments downstairs in class rooms off the Central Hall.

3379. In those cases voluntary helpers assist?—Yes. Some of the teachers volunteer. The head teacher is generally in the dining hall, with the nurse that the voluntary committee engage, superintending. We have ladies who go down each day. After the dinner is over we play with the children and take entire charge of them, until work is resumed; teachers only help while dinner is being served. They have an hour and a half.

3380. Do the parents pay weekly in the case of invalid children, or every day?—Just as they can. They will pay the 2½d. on Monday morning, or 5d. as the case may be. Sometimes the nurse collects it on Friday as she goes round. Sometimes the children bring it daily.

3381. You do not refuse dinner if the money is not forthcoming?—No. If the parents do not pay for the dinner it is paid from the Voluntary Fund.

3382. Is that after enquiry?—No. We admit all the invalid children to dinner.

3383. Would you enquire if, after a few days, the child continued not to bring any money?—Yes, decidedly we should. We do not let it go on, but we should not refuse a child a dinner on the first or second day.

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3384. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You spoke of local Committees revising the lists fortnightly. What does that revision mean?—We have a list rendered to us giving the circumstances under which they are entered on the lists. Then the local Committee which consists of ministers, district visitors, Sunday school teachers, attendance officers, Poor Law officers, and the Head Teachers of each department of the schools in the district, revise this list. A case occurred at the last Committee meeting I was at where the father was dead according to the teacher's return. The school attendance officer was there, who said, "If you will wait a few minutes I will produce that man. He is just across at the 'Crown.'" In such a case we should have to decide whether the child's circumstances were necessitous or whether we were doing wrong in feeding the child. In another case there was a man whose children were coming most regularly to the breakfasts. At the beginning of the year we found that he was paying 7s. 6d. for a dog license.

3385. Did you take the children off the list?—Yes, we did in that case. It was very hard to do it, but at the same time it had been going on for so long and he had been remonstrated with again and again. Any cases of that sort we strike off.

3386. Are there many cases you have to strike off?—No, we do not as a rule, except in such a flagrant case as that, or unless we find a man is in work and then we do not do it the first week. If a man has been out of work a long time he gets very much behind in rent, and very much in debt, and we allow the child to remain until the next revision. If the man is still in work the child's name is crossed off.

3387. How do you find out whether the father is working?—The local committees are supposed to know something of the cases.

3388. Do they visit specially?—No.

3389. It is only from general knowledge?—It is only from general knowledge.

3390. In some cases the teachers even do not know much about the circumstances?—In some cases they do and in some cases they do not.

3391. The one who said that the father was dead did not know much?—No. Sometimes they implicitly believe what the children tell them and do not take any trouble at all about it. In other cases they give a good deal of time and thought to it.

3392. When you first get the list do you have to take many off?—No. We revise the first list. If there are any known unsuitable cases we do not pass them. As a rule we take the list during the first week or fortnight and investigate meanwhile whether the reasons given are correct or not.

3393. If they are not, at the next revision, when you have investigated, you strike off the name of the child?—Yes, and put on other cases that are reported. We are always adding to the list, of course, as well as striking off.

3394. You said that a certain number of parents could provide food if they would work. You do not take any steps to definitely influence those parents?—No. We have not the power of doing that.

3395. You feed the children and do you feel that that makes the parents less ready to work?—No, because I think that those sort of parents care little whether their children are fed well or not. If they are fed, well and good; if not they have to suffer. They are perfectly indifferent to their children in some cases.

3396. In the case of the drunken parent who could work but will not, is the community right in paying for the child, thus helping the father to get more drink?—We do not think it is right.

3397. But you feel that you must?—It is extremely hard to make the child suffer but we feel that we ought not to encourage these parents and that is why we strike off occasionally in a very flagrant case to make an example.

3398. You said that there were a number of chronic cases. What would they be. Are those the children of widows?—Yes, the children of widows, or of invalid men only receiving very small money weekly.

3399. They should be helped, you think, all the year?—Yes, all the year.

3400. What proportion would that be?—A small proportion as far as they come under my own personal knowledge.

3401. The bulk of the people are simply poor in the winter?—Yes, I think so.

3402. That is due chiefly to want of work?—Yes, when trade is bad, especially when out-door employment stops.

3403. In the case of dinners for which payment is made. I suppose a certain number of the payments are not really made by children, but by teachers, or other kind people who buy the tickets?—Yes, that is one reason why we discontinued the dinners. We felt that the parents were not paying for the dinners, and in other cases they could afford to provide food if they would but it was cheaper to get a halfpenny dinner for the child than provide it themselves. In other cases the clergy, or the district visitors would pay the halfpenny for the dinners. I have even had policemen on the beat give a child a halfpenny to get a dinner. I have known that more than once. In one very poor district in Bristol, when I was superintendent of a dinner centre, a young policeman would come again and again and say: "Give this child a dinner please," and would give me the halfpenny, but we did not encourage this practice. We work through the teachers, or we are supposed to, and tickets ought to be supplied by the Head Teachers only.

3404. (Dr. Parsons.) Has your experience led you to think that the class, which is mentioned in our instructions, of children who, though not physically defective, are retarded for want of sufficient nourishment, is a large one?—I have had very little to do with that class of children; I know very little about them because I am not working in the schools, but I know that we have a number of children at Red Cross Street School who are not mentally deficient, but who are not able to keep up with other children in learning, partly because they are physically weak, in many cases on account of neglect and want of proper feeding. However, I know very little about that class.

3405. Do you know whether any action has been taken under the Local Government Board's recent order with respect to making the parent contribute to the feeding of the child in cases where he is able to do so?—Nothing has been done yet. We have met members of the Board of Guardians, and of the Education Committee, and they want us to do something in this matter. We shall have a meeting on the 17th July to discuss what we are ready to do. They want us to continue the work on a smaller scale all the year round, but I do not know whether our Committee are prepared to do that or whether we shall be able to. We are willing to if it is workable, but I do not know that we shall be able to undertake the financial burden. We have had two or three meetings, but we have not taken any action yet I know.

3406. (Mr. Walrod.) I see that, with the exception of the milk with the porridge, you do not appear to give any liquid for the breakfast?—No.

3407. Do you find that they can eat the bread and treacle comfortably without?—Yes, they do, very much to my surprise.

3408. If you had the funds you would prefer to give something like cocoa?—Personally I should.

3409. Or coffee?—I should prefer to give them a cup of cocoa, decidedly.

3410. Is the milk fresh milk?—Yes.

3411. And very carefully selected?—Yes.

3412. Speaking generally, would you prefer breakfast to dinner?—Yes, I think so, because one thing is that it is very much harder to go to school and work on an empty stomach. In the day they often get help in some way or other. I do not exactly know how, but they get pence and food given to them. But in the morning they have to go to school without anything.

3413. You think that they are more likely to pick up something to eat during the day than they are in the morning?—Yes, that is our opinion.

3414. Some of the witnesses have rather hinted that especially when the weather gets warm children are too lazy to get up in time for their breakfast, and that in some cases they go without it. Is that a reason for the falling off?—We find that in very cold weather on a snowy morning we often get a smaller number of children.

3415. Do you attribute the falling off in the number when the weather gets warmer and the days get longer partly to the increased amount of work of the parents?—Yes, in the majority of cases and, perhaps, the children are not so hungry in the warm weather, they do not feel the need of food so much.

3416. I suppose that the falling off in the need of food would be less noticeable in the case of dinners than in the case of breakfasts, would it not—that a child is more likely to be willing to do without his breakfast in the warmer weather?—No. I think they fall off quite as much in the dinners as in the breakfasts in the warm weather. It is really in the very, very cold weather, that we get the smaller number. I have gone down many a morning when there has been deep snow on the ground thinking to find the poor children waiting there hungry and cold and have found comparatively a very small number.

3417. (Chairman.) As regards the meal given at the cookery centres, what arrangements do you make with the Education Committee as to payment?—We paid for the food, but nothing else.

Mr. ALFRED GODDARD called in; and Examined.

3425. (Chairman.) You are the Secretary of the Education Committee of Newcastle-on-Tyne?—Yes. I was clerk of the School Board from its establishment in 1871.

3426. You are one of the original officers of school boards?—Yes, I am.

3427. You are Honorary Secretary of the School Children's Benevolent Fund which works under the Education Committee?—Yes. I have held that appointment also from the very first.

3428. For how long has that Benevolent Fund been in existence?—The Benevolent Fund under its present name has been in existence since 1884, but we practically made a start in 1876 with the Poor Children's Clothing Fund. At that time it was not entirely in the hands of the School Board. Three or four members of the School Board joined themselves with about as many more ladies and gentlemen of the town and commenced in a humble way to supply clothing to necessitous children. The money was all raised voluntarily. We got parcels of clothing sent to us from all parts of Northumberland and Durham. The idea was to clothe necessitous children. That was in 1876, and it continued on that line mostly, with sometimes meals supplied, until 1884. Then the School Board took the matter entirely in their own hands owing to change of residence of some of the ladies and gentlemen who had left the town, and so on. They thought that the best plan would be for all the members of the School Board to act as a private committee and to administer the funds raised.

3429. Until the appointed day under the Education Act of 1902 the benefits of this agency were confined to children in the School Board schools?—Yes, absolutely.

3430. Since the appointed day they have been extended to all the public elementary schools in the borough alike?—Yes.

3431. You mentioned that there are several agencies at work in the city?—Yes.

3432. We have returns before us from certain of those agencies. I will mention them:—The Newcastle and Gateshead Children's Rescue Agency and Holiday Association?—Yes. That is a society that is doing a great amount of good in a variety of forms.

3433. The Walker Relief Committee; the Newcastle-on-Tyne West End Relief Committee. We have a separate return for Newcastle-on-Tyne St. Mary's Roman

3418. You pay for the cost out of pocket of the food material?—Yes.

3419. Not so much a head?—No—exactly the cost of material used.

3420. Have you known cases in which children in the mentally defective schools, owing to the regular feeding, have recovered sufficiently to go into the ordinary elementary schools?—Yes. I do not know whether it is entirely attributable to the feeding—I would not say that, but they are so much improved in health mentally and physically that they are passed into the ordinary schools.

3421. That would apply to the class of children that Dr. Parsons was asking you about, who are now received in the defective schools?—Yes, it would I think, and it would apply to invalid children. We notice there a very great improvement in the health of the children.

3422. But I suppose that in the nature of things they are very seldom able to go into the ordinary public elementary school?—Some of them do. Of course it depends on how they are afflicted—not if it is spinal complaint or anything of that sort. Some of them have to go very much to their disgust.

3423. Is there anything you would like to add which we have omitted to ask you?—I do not know that there is anything.

3424. (Chairman.) We thank you very much for your evidence.

Catholic Girls' and Infants' School?—Yes. I do not know much about that, but I know that they have supplied meals.

3434. You say that in consequence of the existence of these other agencies overlapping does occur?—I fear that it does. I have no striking instance of it.

3435. You have no antagonistic working on the part of any of the associations which I have mentioned?—Not at all. We work very harmoniously, in fact, we aided the funds of two—the West End Relief Committee and the Poor Children's Holiday Association and Rescue Agency—out of our own funds. We sent them £10 and £5.

3436. Does the Walker Relief Committee undertake altogether the work in the Walker schools?—Yes. Walker has only quite recently come within the borough boundary. Newcastle has had its boundaries extended since November 9th last year. At that time winter had commenced and Walker continued to carry on their own fund.

3437. Have you been able to leave the work in the Walker schools entirely in their hands?—Practically. We helped them a little later on in the winter. I may say with regard to the Walker Relief Fund that it is worthy of note that the great bulk of the money that came in was contributed by the workmen in the various works in the locality.

3438. So I see. I see according to their return £262 was received from collections at works of various sorts?—Yes—and there were subscriptions from private persons.

3439. Some £94 from private subscriptions?—Yes. The fund there, as you will see, was not restricted to children attending school.

3440. No. I see that there is a good deal of miscellaneous work, and some of the other agencies do other work besides that of feeding children?—Yes.

3441. The administration of your School Children's Benevolent Fund is entirely in the hands of the Education Committee?—Entirely. We have besides six representatives—three head teachers of council schools and three head teachers of voluntary schools.

3442. Six teachers sit on the Committee?—Yes.

3443. Do the Committee meet frequently?—Yes; as a rule once a month during the season.

3444. And do they transact serious business at those meetings, or is it mostly formal business?—There is nothing that you can call serious business except the passing of accounts. All accounts are submitted to a small sub-Committee of the Committee.

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3445. Where is the main work of the Committee done? Is it really done in your office?—Yes, it is done in my office with the aid of the head teachers. They issue orders under our scheme. Now for the first time it is practically in the hands of the head teachers. Formerly, in School Board times, it was in the hands of the school attendance officers.

3446. I am coming to that presently. Do the Committee themselves organise centres, or do they utilise other existing agencies?—They have utilised other agencies during the past season.

3447. Is the work mainly done by means of coupons presented at restaurants and to tradesmen who provide food?—Yes. We have not provided food ourselves this season.

3448. During the last season you had no centre of your own?—No, we had not.

3449. You mention that during the past season the premises of two schools only were required?—Yes; that was one at Walker and our own day industrial school which has been closed for several years. The Newcastle Holiday Association and Rescue Agency Society offered to supply dinners to children brought to the latter centre.

3450. The School Children's Benevolent Fund has no centre at all of its own at which it provides meals?—Not now; but for a great many years we used to provide the meals at our own schools.

3451. You dropped that?—Yes.

3452. What were the reasons which led you to do so? Perhaps you will tell us?—We sent out this letter to the Honorary Secretary of the Head Teachers' Association in April last year: "The Education Committee will be obliged if the Head Teachers' Association will confer and advise the Committee, at an early date, upon the following points:—(a) Whether the present system of supplying boots and clothing can be further developed or improved, and, if so, by what means. (b) Whether it is practicable in the poorer districts to provide meals before school hours, and if so, where and to what extent this is necessary. (c) Whether it is possible for the teachers to supplement the resources of the Benevolent Fund by arranging a display of physical exercises in the summer, similar to that held in 1900, or by school concerts in the early autumn. Yours faithfully." The head teachers' reply on the 2nd June: "Dear Sir,—After receiving your letter of 19th April the Head Teachers' Association considered it at a large meeting recently held, and also further considered the matter in a representative committee. Their disposition seemed one of anxiety to assist the Education Committee in as hearty a manner as possible. (1.) *Boot Supply.* They recommend that, where necessary, orders for boots be distributed to the needy children by the head teachers" (previously it had been done through the attendance officers), "who will call in the advice and assistance of attendance officers if necessary. (2.) *Distribution of Clothing.* For many years head teachers in better class districts have been in the habit of yearly gathering clothing in their schools, and sending it to the head teachers in poorer districts for distribution. They recommend that this system be continued, and further developed so as to include all schools," that means voluntary schools), "and the association offers to undertake to develop and systematise the distribution. *Supply of Meals before school hours.* It is agreed that generally it is neither practicable nor necessary to provide meals at school for children before school hours, also that generally exceptional cases might be met by the distribution of coupons by the relieving officers of the district. In times of exceptional and general distress it is suggested that cooked food (to be consumed at home) be supplied from certain centres (to be appointed) to children on the production of coupons. That the centres for distribution be not located at schools" (you see that they made a point of that) "to obviate the disagreeable smells and the vitiation of the school atmosphere. *Supply of Funds.* The head teachers seem unanimously to be of opinion that an annual collection should be made in all schools in the autumn for the Benevolent Funds. They presume that the practice hitherto adopted by certain teachers of sending part proceeds of their school concerts to the Fund will be continued. They consider, however, that joint drill displays and joint concerts are detrimental

to the regular work of the schools, and do not produce results commensurate with the labour and trouble they require."

3453. That letter was received by the Committee, and was that generally adopted?—It was generally adopted and practically agreed to.

3454. So that on the basis of that letter has been conducted the work during the past feeding session?—Yes.

3455. Is there much clerical work connected with the Benevolent Fund?—Yes.

3456. Which is transacted entirely in the Education Committee's office?—Yes; a clerk of mine looks after it.

3457. Has any difficulty ever been found as regards the audit of accounts?—No difficulty whatever. These accounts do not come into the Education Committee's accounts at all. It is a private affair.

3458. Is a separate payment made to the officers who do this work in the office?—No.

3459. That is what my question pointed to?—No salaries are paid for the work. There have been no gratuities. I have copies of some of the forms which we use (*producing the same*).

3460. Do I understand that under the present system all the assistance is given free?—Yes, and that has been given free for years. There was one season when we got about £17, I think it was, owing to a change of board. A suggestion was made by a new member that the children should have an opportunity of contributing something towards the cost of the dinners.

3461. That was exceptional?—That was exceptional.

3462. And done once in a way some years ago?—In one triennial period a good many years ago.

3463. It was not considered on the whole to be successful?—No. The parents do practically contribute largely. You will see from our balance sheet that the schools during last session contributed about £250, that is to say, that the head teachers sent to the fund about £250, and we got subscriptions from others to the amount of about £350 or £360.

3464. Do you suppose that many parents who availed themselves of the relief would actually contribute in that way. It is rather the better class parents?—The better class.

3465. It does not in any way take the place of parents' payments for meals?—No. It comes from other parents no doubt.

3466. No attempt has been made to start a school restaurant or cheap dinner upon payment under your auspices?—No, nothing whatever.

3467. Have you any opinion about that. Would such a thing be likely to answer in Newcastle?—No, I think not. We have a good many centres at Lockhart's Cocoa Rooms. They are not much in the west and east wings of the city, but principally in the centre of the city.

3468. Do many parents who could pay for the children's dinners utilise that means of provision of food for their children?—No, I think not.

3469. The children fed there are almost entirely the children who take coupons from you?—Yes, I think so.

3470. You say in your *precis* that the selection of children is now entirely in the hands of the head teachers?—Yes; the selection is in the teacher's hands absolutely as regards food.

3471. Was there friction between the teachers and the school attendance officers which led to that letter?—I do not know, but I daresay that the head teachers thought they should have it in their hands.

3472. Do they regard it as a valuable piece of patronage?—There was never any serious complaint, but I daresay they thought that the work would be more speedily done by being in their hands. On the other hand, I think that there has not been quite enough investigation made prior to the giving of meals, or the distribution of boots, and so on.

3473. Do you think that investigation of some kind is always made, or is the child's word taken merely?—The child's word and the child's appearance on the particular morning.

3474. And possibly also the criticism of other children may have something to do with it?—I do not know.

3475. Do you find great differences in the demands made by teachers on the funds. Do you find that one teacher will ask for a great deal of help while another will not?—Yes; there was a disposition to do that. We had to be very careful. We knew what money we had in.

3476. You would cut down the requisitions sometimes?—We had occasionally to cut down. If I may mention the matter of boots again, some teachers wanted a five shilling pair of boots much better made, and so on. If we had gone on in that way we should soon have exhausted our funds. We had to keep a careful watch to see that the orders did not represent more money than we had in, or expected we would get in within a reasonable time.

3477. Did you find that the alteration by which the school attendance officers were eliminated increased the demands upon your funds?—Yes. It was particularly shown in the matter of boots. We issued over 2,000 pairs of boots, including clogs and stockings.

3478. Last winter?—Yes.

3479. As compared with what sort of number in previous years?—A much smaller number. It was more than double last winter, I should think.

3480. Presumably your committee got to find out that the claims from certain schools were much larger in number than those from others?—Yes. I have a return here which shows actually the money spent (*producing the same*).

3481. Will you mention a few cases?—Taking the Council's Schools, the highest is £30.

3482. The Victoria Jubilee Council School seems to be much the largest?—That is in a poor working class district.

3483. Is that a very large school?—It is a very large school. It is a school of about 1,800.

3484. In that case they asked more for food than for boots—£16 10s. for food and £13 16s. for boots; in another case £22 for boots and only £1 7s. 10d. for food. Is that explicable on any *prima facie* grounds?—It is easier to supply a breakfast or supply a dinner than it is to produce half-a-crown for a pair of boots.

3485. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Is the last case the case of a poor school?—It is in a working class neighbourhood.

3486. (Chairman.) How do the two schools compare in point of size?—Raby Street is an exceedingly large school. In addition to the three permanent departments, we have two temporary departments on the same site, so that there will be upwards of 2,000 children, say 2,200 children, on that site. Both schools are very large.

3487. The Victoria Jubilee is also a large school?—Yes, over 1,800. There will be at least 2,000 on their books, I should think.

3488. The largest claim of the voluntary schools comes from St. Mary's Roman Catholic School?—Yes.

3489. Is that the school which has its own fund?—Yes.

3490. It is the largest, in spite of that?—Yes.

3491. £18 11s. for boots and £3 12s. for food. Is that a very large school?—Yes; it is a school of three departments. It is a school of about 1,000 altogether.

3492. There are large claims from the Clergy Jubilee School?—Yes; that is one of our poorer schools. It has been condemned practically by the travelling architect.

3493. Is that a large school in numbers?—No; there would not be more than 500 in average attendance, I should think.

3494. We understand that it is entirely in the hands of the teachers at present?—Yes. There were six

Council schools that made no demand whatever. They were situated in good neighbourhoods.

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3495. Those were schools that you would expect not to want help?—Yes.

3496. Did any schools apply which you would have expected would not have asked?—One or two. Those in good neighbourhoods that got help from us only got very little. There are always a few poor children even in a better class neighbourhood attending the schools.

3497. Were there cases in which you were surprised at the moderation of the demand?—Yes—Todd's Nook; that is a large school. Our schools are nearly all schools of 1,000 children at least.

3498. The voluntary schools I suppose are of all sizes?—The only large school is the Elswick Works School. That is an immensely large voluntary school. I believe the accommodation stands at about 2,500 on the old 8 square feet basis.

3499. There the demand is moderate. It is only £10 altogether?—Most of the parents there work in Armstrong's works.

3500. In good work, earning good money?—Yes.

3501. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Have Armstrong's any food fund and so on at the works?—No, I do not think so. The men still contribute a penny a week. It used to go to the support of the elementary school.

3502. (Chairman.) How is it utilized for the benefit of the children?—For the benefit of the institutions round about. It used to go towards the maintenance of this huge elementary school and also to maintain the institute. They have a splendid library and lecture rooms and rooms for technical classes, and so on, in the evening.

3503. To return to the selection of children, you say here that the child is not punished for the fault of the parent?—No.

3504. And that if a child has a starved and hungry look it is supplied by the head teacher with a food coupon?—Yes. We have only had one season's experience.

3505. This would point to its being largely a question of impression on the part of the teacher?—Yes.

3506. Without much investigation?—Yes; there could not be.

3507. You would not expect the teachers to be familiar with the homes?—No, they are not familiar with the homes, or as familiar as attendance officers.

3508. The attendance officer still takes part in the administration of some of the other agencies?—Whenever his services are asked for.

3509. Would that refer to some of the agencies that have been mentioned. Would they in selecting their children pay attention to the attendance officer?—Sometimes they might appeal to the attendance officer of the district. I do not hear much of its being done.

3510. The West End Relief Committee specially mentions, besides the head teachers, members of the committee, relieving officers and others?—Yes.

3511. The Walker Relief Committee says "school teachers only." With regard to the Holiday Association's Report as you call it, I think, for short I have failed to find in this volume any reference to this particular work. I can find nothing about the 25,000 meals supplied at Gateshead, and the 16,000 at Newcastle. Are they given at a centre?—Yes, they are given at the official abode in Newcastle and Gateshead. They have a convalescent home in the country where they send delicate children, and so on, for several weeks.

3512. In what form do the teachers give the relief under your committee?—In the form of coupons.

3513. The teachers send their demands to you, and do you give them money, or tickets?—We give them a pound's worth of coupons to commence the season with in book form.

3514. They reach them in the form of coupons?—Yes, in book form. They have to give us two or three days notice when they need more.

3515. Are those coupons available at stated places?—No, not at stated places because we could not find cocoa rooms spread all over the town such as Lockhart's.

Mr. A. Goddard. 3516. Have you a specimen of a coupon here?—Yes. (Producing the same).

4 July, 1905. 3517. "Newcastle-upon-Tyne Education Committee Benevolent Fund." Taken there is a date. "To Mr. Blank." Who fills that in? Are these issued in blank?—Yes.

3518. The school teacher settles where the relief shall be given?—Yes.

3519. Has he a list before him of places which he may choose from?—No. The teachers with the aid of the attendance officers of the district are always prepared to name certain respectable tradesmen where the necessary food can be got, whether it is a glass of milk, or a bun, or anything of the sort.

3520. You have no list of people who supply food?—No.

3521. You leave that to the teacher to settle?—Yes. Some go to this rescue agency place. They make dinners there for several children. The West End people supply soup. They have our coupons.

3522. The coupon contains a blank space for the name of the tradesman, and it goes on "Please supply blank"—that will be filled in with the name of the child?—Yes.

3523. "Age"—and then a blank?—Yes.

3524. Why do you put "age" in there—to prevent the coupon being handed to someone else?—Yes.

3525. "Attending blank school, with food to the value of a penny—signed, So-and-so, head teacher." Then there is a similar coupon on a different coloured paper in the same words—"with food to the value of 2d."—Yes; they can go to the extent of 2d.

3526. (Mr. Walrond.) Is there any arrangement with the tradesmen as to what they will give for a penny?—No.

3527. (Chairman.) On the back of the coupon is a note to the tradesman that "All coupons must be returned to the Secretary, Education Offices, Northumberland Road, together with an account for goods supplied, not later than the 1st of each month. That is in similar words, I suppose, on the back of other coupons?—Yes.

3528. These books of 1d. and 2d. coupons are issued to the teachers?—Yes.

3529. They are free to give these to the children?—Yes, absolutely free.

3530. The tradesman to whom the coupon is presented is absolutely free to give any form of food up to the value specified?—Yes—to give food to the children who ask for it.

3531. Would the tradesman be able to give a packet of sweets or cigarettes to the extent of a 1d. or 2d.?—No, you would not call that food, would you.

3532. How would you know that he had not given food?—If he had given cigarettes or sweets we should not know, but such a thing is not improbable.

3533. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) It might be a jam tart, might it not?—It might be. It is not an ideal system. We only call in the aid of these places where there is no proper cocoa room.

3534. A teacher would fill in the name of an ordinary cocoa room?—Yes, such as Lockhart's.

3535. At Lockhart's the bill of fare would prevent the child from abusing the coupon to any great extent?—Yes.

3536. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) The child might get a bun?—Yes. This season they commenced, I believe, at Lockhart's, but Lockhart's wanted us to send the children to their centres at about half past eleven so that they did not come into contact with their regular customers later on at twelve or half-past, but we did not do it.

3537. (Mr. Walrond.) The school hours did not admit of half-past eleven?—They would admit of it, but it would involve an alteration of the timetable.

3538. (Chairman.) I see that Lockhart's received a considerable sum. Then there is a tradesman, Alfred Hindmarsh, £8 11s. 5d., what business does he do in food?—It is a cocoa room.

3539. Besides many miscellaneous tradesmen there is the Newcastle and Gateshead Poor Children's Holiday Association. That would be the centre?—Yes.

3540. No doubt there, as a matter of course, they would receive nourishing food?—Yes, soup and bread.

3541. And the Newcastle and Gateshead Fund the largest, similarly?—Yes, the food there would be good substantial nourishing soup, with perhaps four ounces of bread—a four ounce bun.

3542. It would not be possible for you to say how many breakfasts and how many dinners were given?—Yes. I can give the number of dinners.

3543. Would the coupons be marked to show whether a child had a breakfast or a dinner. So far as you have explained the system at present I do not see how the knowledge would reach you. You have given the number of coupons which you paid for last winter?—They were dinners practically.

3544. Could you tell if they were dinners?—The accounts would come in simply for meals. They would be practically all dinners.

3545. You think that that is the more usual form of use of the coupon?—Yes; this season at all events it has been so.

3546. The sum spent on boots and clothing is about three times what is spent on food by the association?—Yes.

3547. Do you make an annual appeal for funds?—Yes; the chairman generally does. It very much depends upon what kind of season it is.

3548. Do the newspapers help you much?—Yes.

3549. They do not run funds of their own?—No.

3550. But they back your fund?—Yes.

3551. Is there any impression owing to the close connection of the Benevolent Fund with the Education Committee, that the rates pay for this?—I believe that some people think so. I think that possibly it prevents some people from giving.

3552. We have heard of the same thing in London and that is why I ask you the question?—I refer to it in the *precis*. I touch upon it.

3553. Such an impression is not unknown among residents in Newcastle?—No.

3554. The figures which you give us here are for the Session of 1904 and 1905?—Yes.

3555. Are these made up to May, or something of the sort?—Yes.

3556. So that we have the very latest figures before us?—Yes, it represents the closing of the fund for the past season. We have a good balance in hand—I think £100.

3557. Do you happen to know what Lockhart's give for a penny?—They would give soup and a bun—I do not mean a currant bun.

3558. An appetising form of bread?—Yes—a four ounce bun.

3559. You have no special bargain with any of these agencies as to what they shall give for the sum?—No. We know that the Rescue Agency and the West End Agency give soup with a little variety—sometimes it is vegetable soup and something else as you will notice in their report.

3560. On the whole then, you find you can get the money that is needed?—Yes. We have never had an adverse balance in the twenty-one years since this fund has been entirely in the hands of the education authority.

3561. You find, no doubt, that in hard weather when the need becomes more severe, you get in more subscriptions?—Yes. There is a very good lot of people in Northumberland and about that district. They are charitable.

3562. A strike has the effect, has it not, of stopping the channels of charity?—Sometimes a little.

3563. But it may increase the need?—Yes. People have the good sense, I think, even if there is a bit of feeling between masters and men, to come to the rescue.

3564. I suppose that these coupons may be used on any day?—On any one day.

3565. Would Lockhart's refuse on a Saturday or during a holiday to honour a penny coupon?—They would not refuse, but we started the fund as an aid to school attendance.

3566. That was the basis of it originally?—That was the basis of it originally—to secure their attendance at school.

3567. (Mr. Walrond.) Is not the coupon dated?—It is dated when it is issued.

3568. (Chairman.) I suppose that a coupon may be presented at any time. You would not refuse to pay the penny for it if it came in very late?—No. If the coupon is issued we regard it as a liability.

3569. Do you find that many of the coupons issued do not come back to you?—No.

3570. The number generally tallies pretty well with the issue?—Yes.

3571. You say that any poor hungry child can always get a meal by calling at the centre of the Poor Children's Holiday Association?—Yes.

3572. Does that mean without coupon?—Yes—at any time of the year. One of their points is never to refuse an actually destitute child at whatever time of the year he may present himself, or at whatever time of the day.

3573. While relieving the child would any inquiry be made afterwards?—Yes. You will find all that stated in the book which you have. Inquiries are made. There are two or three officers and the master and matron.

3574. They would not let a child come day after day without inquiry?—No. They profess to keep an open doorway and night, and they do keep an open door. I was through the place a little while ago and I saw their methods of work.

3575. (Mr. Walrond.) They have more than one centre?—They have a centre in Gateshead.

3576. (Chairman.) The bulk of their work seems to be done at Gateshead. I suppose that is much poorer than Newcastle?—Much poorer.

3577. That is the only agency in Gateshead so far as we can ascertain?—Yes. The School Board used to have a distress fund during the winter.

3578. We have no return from the Education Committee of anything?—No. I do not think that their Education Committee has moved in the matter at all.

3579. Do the head teachers, as a matter of fact, keep a register of the children to whom these coupons are given?—Yes, that is one of the instructions issued by the Education Committee to all head teachers. I think that I have a copy of the memoranda that went out to the head teachers touching upon all these points.

3580. If you will kindly hand that in it will be very useful?—Certainly (handing the same to the Committee).

3581. You clearly say that head teachers are in no way tied down to dealing with one firm or one class of firm. "No doubt, with your knowledge of the district, together with that of the school attendance officer, you will be able to select suitable places." I see that the Committee allude at that point to the school attendance officer?—Yes; at least I did.

3582. By "during school hours" you would include between 12 and 2. You would regard the school hours as from 9 to 4, would you not?—Yes. The Committee make a point of "before, during or after school hours."

3583. "During" would include the interval between morning and afternoon school?—I think that it would meet the case of a child at 10 o'clock in the morning feeling faint.

3584. But if a child is authorised to receive food before, during or after he would not be prevented from receiving it during the break?—No.

3585. That is the point. You say particularly here, "The selection of children is at the absolute discretion of the head teachers who must register all such cases and forward a weekly return to the secretary." Were those weekly returns, as a matter of fact, all sent in?—Yes.

3586. But I suppose that no action was taken upon them?—No.

3587. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) What did the weekly return consist of? Was it a list of the children?—Yes, it was a list of the children (producing the same).

3588. (Chairman.) You have been kind enough to make several suggestions at the end of your *precis* which, perhaps, you may like to say something about. Is there any prospect of any alteration being made by the present system?—Of course, you gentlemen will know all about the order of the Local Government Board with regard to underfed children. As the matter stands at present, there is a small committee representing the Education Committee appointed to confer with a committee of the Board of Guardians with reference to what steps should be taken during the coming winter.

3589. But so far no decision has been arrived at?—They have not yet really met, but it stands on the minutes that they are to meet and they will be meeting shortly.

3590. (Miss Lawrence.) Do you think that the amount of work done covered the ground of necessity during last winter?—I do.

3591. You think that it did entirely?—Yes.

3592. Why I ask that question is of course because of the very large balance that you have over. Did you make any special appeal because in the previous years you only had £9?—We got more money than we expected to get. We estimated that we should require £500, and we intimated that in a letter that went to the Press, and also in a letter that went to the teachers. I dare say that that caused the teachers to give extra help and to make extra efforts. We got, as I said before, about £250 from the head teachers and about £350 from the public. I was careful to count the number of private subscribers. It comes to 151, so that the average subscription was £2 or two guineas.

3593. Have you any knowledge of how many times a week a child would be fed?—I estimate four times a week on an average.

3594. The question of how many at a time really does not apply in these cases, because the children go all over the town to be fed?—Yes.

3595. There is no sort of regular sitting down meal?—There would be at the Rescue Agency and at the West End, and so on. There would be forms and tables.]

3596. When the children present the coupons are they always given food ready to eat, or do you suppose that they ever get uncooked food which they take home?—I have no reason to think that they get uncooked food.

3597. You do not think that it would be possible for them to take food home and that other people should eat it?—No, it would not be possible.

3598. Why do you think it would not be possible? Have you any returns that would show that?—I should think that the common-sense of the tradesmen would protect the committee in that respect. It is an order for food, not uncooked food.

3599. No but "food" would cover either, would it not?—I do not know what uncooked food they could get. They could scarcely get a penny worth of raw meat could they, or a penny worth of uncooked potatoes.

3600. With regard to the special schools they have a regular dietary I see, and a very excellent one?—Yes, it is a very excellent one.

3601. Is that provided by a cook on the premises?—Yes, by the caretaker who acts as cook. There are only forty children altogether.

3602. Are they mentally defective, not physically defective?—They are nearly all mentally defective. It is for physically and mentally defective.

3603. Do all the outy stay?—They do not all stay.

3604. What proportion stay?—Three parts of them stay. There is a difficulty in getting them to and from the school. They have nurses or an older member of the family to take them to school.

3605. Who provides the 2d. that the dinner costs?—The dinner is provided by the head teacher and the caretaker. It is not a charge on our Benevolent Fund. The children pay the money.

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3606. The 2d. is paid by the children, or by the children's parents?—Yes, and by subscriptions got by the Chairman of the Committee.

3607. There is a Committee that manages this?—Yes, a special committee. A lady is the Chairman, Dr. Ethel Williams.

3608. If a child does not bring 2d. is any inquiry made before it is given a free dinner?—I do not think so. The child would not be allowed to go without dinner.

3609. An inquiry would be made afterwards?—Yes. Any deficit is met by subscriptions got by the lady chairman.

3610. I understand that this is quite separate from the other fund?—Yes, quite. They are entirely by themselves in a school that we have specially provided for them.

3611. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You estimate that the children are fed about four times a week on the average. Would that vary in different schools? Would some teachers think that two or three times a week was sufficient?—I could not say with regard to that.

3612. I suppose that you have no figures from a return of the actual number of meals that each child gets?—No; we could not go into that in detail. We have had no extra staff and have had to get along as best we could this season. I went into the calculation and found that the number of the dinners given represented 442 a day. Of course that would represent more than 442 individual children. I estimate that somewhere between 600 and 700 would be the number of children. That represents about 1½ per cent. of the children on the books of the council and voluntary schools in Newcastle. That is not a high percentage after all.

3613. No, it is not. With regard to Raby Street, for instance, very few children got meals, but many got boots?—Yes.

3614. Why do you think that the teachers did not get more meals if they could get the money? Was there no need?—No need, I take it.

3615. Do you find that teachers vary as to their impression as to what children need a meal, because they would imagine that they would if they only go by the looks of the child?—I cannot say.

3616. Do the teachers live near the schools or in other parts?—We have no teachers' residences in our groups of schools.

3617. And the teachers, I suppose, generally live in the better parts?—Yes.

3618. They would not have much opportunity of seeing the children outside the schools?—No. Some of the teachers live at a very considerable distance from the schools. There is a good service of trains and trams.

3619. You said that there was not quite enough investigation you thought?—Yes. I would suggest for the coming winter a proper and very close investigation before the meals are started. It could be done in some way or other. I dare say that our attendance officers would be the best men to do it. The teachers should be asked to furnish a list, and that list should be split up amongst the attendance officers.

3620. You would let them visit?—I would let them visit, allowing them about a fortnight.

3621. Then you would get a much closer knowledge of the children's circumstances?—Yes.

3622. Teachers cannot be expected to have that knowledge?—No. Under our old system we were more certain of the children who required food than we are under the system just commenced.

3623. (Miss Lawrence.) You started with a list at the beginning of the winter. Would you have that going on?—Yes.

3624. You would have a supplementary list?—Yes.

3625. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) It could be added to?—Yes.

3626. Then you would get the attendance officer to visit those cases?—Yes, we would get the attendance officer to visit those cases, or district visitors, or somebody else.

3627. The philanthropic and other people you mention here?—Yes.

3628. Are there any other funds than those which you have mentioned?—St. Mary's always had a fund of their own and always managed to feed their children prior to our starting.

3629. Are there any others?—The vicar of Newcastle used to appeal. When our chairman appealed on behalf of the School Board children the vicar of Newcastle appealed on behalf of the voluntary schools.

3630. Do they keep up their soup kitchens now?—I have not heard of it.

3631. Do you think that your coupons are saleable?—No, I do not think so. We give the names and address, and age, and the school.

3632. In a cocoa room they would not investigate whether the child bore the same name as the coupon?—No, but they could see whether it was nine or ten, and not nineteen or twenty.

3633. There is a certain amount of clerical labour involved every day on the part of the teacher who fills in the name and age?—Yes and there is a good deal involved at the office, I can tell you. The organisation of the rescue agency is very good indeed. It is an ideal sort of organisation, I think. They have on their Committee men in the district from the Duke of Northumberland downwards. They have Members of Parliament and others. Earl Grey is identified with the work, and they get money from the better class people.

3634. (Dr. Parsons.) Under what circumstances are the 1d. and 2d. coupons given?—I should think that it would very much depend on the age of the child. A child of fourteen would require something more substantial than a child of ten.

3635. The 2d. is not for two meals?—No; it represents a single meal.

3636. You have no arrangement to secure that the person to whom the coupon is given is the one who actually gets the meal?—No, but there has been no case reported to me by anybody of its not being so.

3637. We have been told of bigger children taking away tickets from the little ones, not in Newcastle, but elsewhere. Have you heard of anything of the sort?—No, I have not heard of that.

3638. With regard to a child presenting a coupon at the eating house, is he served just the same as an ordinary customer who presents a penny. Does he get nothing more than an ordinary customer. Are special terms made?—I am quite certain that he would get as much as he needed for a penny.

3639. No special arrangement is made with the eating-houses as to what they will supply?—No. You see we had very little time when we came to these resolutions. The thing had to be got into operation when the bad weather came on. No doubt we shall protect ourselves with regard to that in the coming winter.

3640. The coupons are, as it were, paper money that can be spent at these eating houses, just in the same way as a copper penny can?—Yes.

3641. (Mr. Walrod.) I see in the letter of the 2nd June, 1904, that the Head Teachers' Association, after saying that they do not consider meals before school hours are necessary, recommend as follows: "In times of exceptional and general distress it is suggested that cooked food (to be consumed at home) be supplied from certain centres (to be appointed) to children on the production of coupons." I understand from your evidence that that plan is not adopted, of the food being consumed at home?—No.

3642. The child goes to a refreshment room and eats the food there?—Yes.

3643. Would you advocate the child getting food and taking it home?—No, it would be very awkward.

3644. It would be very unsatisfactory, would it not?—It would be very unsatisfactory, especially if the food took the form of soup and bread.

3645. If he took it home someone else might get hold of it?—The soup would be very cold before it got to some of the homes.

3646. You have disregarded that recommendation of the teachers?—Yes.

3647. I understand that you would like to see the establishment of these centres, where food can be provided, universally over Newcastle, if possible?—Yes. I do not think that we shall have any difficulty in getting suitable centres. Probably they will be offered rent free, or if we have to pay a rent, it will be a small rent. There are a lot of mission rooms, parish halls, and places of that description that may be got in Newcastle.

3648. Would you like to see the system of coupons which are presented to individual tradesmen given up? Yes. It would be better for the children and more satisfactory to the Committee.

3649. You would have more guarantee that the food was of proper quality?—Yes.

3650. Your idea would be that all these agencies should combine, except perhaps your Benevolent Fund, to provide the meals, and that then your Benevolent Fund should issue the coupons for the centres?—I would prefer that the Education Committee was not the organiser. My idea is to have one big general representative Committee for the whole of Newcastle, and that they should do their work through district sub-committees scattered all over the town—it may be ten or a dozen.

3651. Would that body both provide the meals and select the children who should take advantage of them?—The District Sub-Committees should certainly nominate the children to be relieved.

3652. Has this been considered apart from the question of the Local Government Board Order?—No, it has not been considered. It is only my idea. Up to the present it has not been mentioned to anybody.

3653. Have you ever considered the question of receiving payment, or part payment, for meals, and do you think that that would be satisfactory?—As I say, we once got in £17 many years ago during a triennial period of the school board. We had a new member and he thought that an attempt should be made to get something from the children, but that was the only attempt.

3654. You do not think that an attempt in that direction would be successful now?—No.

3655. In the cases that are relieved the poverty is so great?—Yes.

3656. (Chairman.) What function would you give to the Local Education Authority supposing this idea of the large centralized committee were carried out. Would it exercise benevolent supervision?—Yes.

3657. You would give them the use of gas and coal and premises and extra rooms, and so on?—Yes, in case they wanted rooms.

3658. And you would endorse the work by sending representatives to sit on the committee?—Yes. I take it that there would be representatives from the Education Committee, and representatives from the council and boards of guardians. It should consist of some of the best known and wealthy men about the district. I think that a general committee like that would command greater sympathy and confidence than a committee of the council or a committee of the board of guardians who make rates and spend the ratepayers' money. I have papers here with reference to medical inspection.

3659. If you will hand them in they will be useful. We are indebted to you for your evidence.

(The Papers were handed to the Committee.)

Mr. R. BLAIR, called; and Examined.

3660. (Chairman.) You are Executive Officer of the London County Council?—Yes.

3661. Your duties are confined to education?—Yes.

3662. For how long have you held the post?—For fifty-one weeks.

3663. Would you tell us shortly what your previous educational experience had been?—I have been a pupil teacher (Garlieston Public School). I have been assistant at a secondary school for twelve years, for four of which I was second master (Aske's Hatcham School, New Cross). I have been head master of a secondary school, and I have been head master of a technical school (Cheltenham School of Science and Technical School). I was an inspector under the Science and Art Department. I was transferred with the Science and Art work to the Scotch Education Department, and I was in Scotland as inspector altogether for six and a half years. I went to Ireland as Chief Inspector under the new Department of Agricultural and Technical Instruction and within a year I became Assistant Secretary of that Department. Altogether I was four years in Ireland, and I have now had one year's further experience in London. I have had some experience of education beyond the limits of the British Isles, having visited America as a Moseley Commissioner, and having visited France and Germany for the purposes of the Department of Agricultural and Technical Instruction.

3664. Have you any immediate personal connection with any organization for providing meals in schools?—I ought to say that the question was referred to me by one of our committees of making some general inquiries with special reference to some of the proposals of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children. I asked the councils' district inspectors, to name to me teachers who in their districts took, as they thought, the greatest interests in this subject of underfed children. I asked these teachers to meet together in their several districts and discuss certain questions which I proposed to them and to send me a memorandum from each of these, and to send up some one with the memorandum, possibly the chairman, to explain or defend the memorandum. I met the chairmen with the memoranda,

discussed them at full length in the office, and that was the first occasion when I brought myself fully into contact with the organizations.

3665. At what date was that. Was it May of this year?—Four or five months ago.

3666. Are you empowered by the London County Council to express their views on the matter of our reference?—No. I ought to say that, although the County Council have named me as their Executive Officer to come and help you here as far as I can, I am not here to represent the views of the County Council. What I say here to-day is said, so to say, entirely by myself and on my own responsibility.

3667. No doubt you are familiar with the Report made in May of this year, by the Joint Committee on Underfed Children to the London County Council?—Yes.

3668. Will you turn to pages 7 and 8 of that Report and tell us what, if any, action is being taken to meet the defects there pointed out, and to carry out the suggestions for improvement which are there made?—The defects which have been found to exist in the system established by the school board, and watched over by the Joint Committee are as follows:—(1) The duty of the managers in respect of visiting the homes of the children and procuring information regarding their home conditions has been in the majority of cases imperfectly fulfilled.

3669. It would be convenient if you would go through those *seriatim* and tell us whether anything is being done to carry out the recommendations that are made to remedy those defects. You will find that there is a list of defects given in the paragraph, and below follow a series of recommendations to meet, in detail, each of those defects?—I do not think that anything has yet been done to carry those out.

3670. Has the Report been received by the County Council?—The Report has been, to the best of my recollection, before the Education Committee. I think it has also been before the Council, but I cannot at this moment answer definitely.

3671. You cannot tell us whether any action will be taken upon that Report?—I cannot say.

Mr. A. Goddard.

4 July, 1905.

Mr. R. Blair. 3672. Have you personally any remarks to make upon the defects which are pointed out and the recommendations which are made by that Committee?—
4 July, 1905. I do not know whether you would allow me to say that I had nothing to do with the drawing up of this Report.

3673. We quite understand that. We have had the Report explained to us by Sir Charles Elliott. We therefore think it quite unnecessary to ask you to give us an account of the existing organisations in London. That has been already very fully before us through Sir Charles Elliott's evidence, and the evidence of other responsible persons connected with the leading organisations. Perhaps I may call particular attention to the last of the defects:—"Meals should be continued, where found necessary, throughout the year,"—and to the suggestion that the cookery centres might be utilised as places where small bodies of from twenty-five to thirty children can generally be supplied with a dinner made up from the food which has been cooked in the course of the day's instruction. The suggestion is that to meet the needs existing after the full season is over, those cookery centres might be found very useful. Have you considered the matter personally?—Yes. I have personally given a good deal of consideration to this from two points of view; first from the point of view of domestic economy and secondly from the point of view of what are generally called underfed children. With regard to domestic economy I ought to say that I am very much dissatisfied, and I am speaking generally and not with regard to any particular part of the British Isles, with what I regard as the prevailing system of domestic economy teaching. I think that the objects of that teaching are not what they ought on the whole to be. Domestic economy as at present taught is, on the whole, cookery taught by itself, laundry taught by itself, and housewifery taught by itself. The teachers themselves, as a rule, have frequently no communication with each other, the cookery teacher probably not knowing the teacher of laundry and the teacher of laundry probably not knowing either the teacher of cookery or the teacher of housewifery. At all events they do not come into direct communication with each other. The instructress have qualifications each in a particular line; the full qualification in three or more subjects is not very common. Instead of securing what I regard as the main object of domestic economy teaching, the management of a home, as the subject of instruction, you find the work split up and divided between this person and that person and the other person. I want to have, the home as the basis of domestic economy teaching. That is the central fact. The management of the home is governed by the purse, and I want to have the cost of things throughout governing the teaching of domestic economy. I want, in the teaching of domestic economy, to have in mind the weekly wage, say of an artisan—if it is 33s.; and the question of what proportion should be spent on rent, on fuel and light, on food, pocket money, travelling expenses, insurance and benefit societies, on clothing, on cleaning materials, and what should be set aside as a reserve fund, and so on; and how most economically spent. Spending on food is only one of the means of expending properly or of properly saving, though no doubt the most important. I do not know whether that gives you, in a word, what is in my mind. I want to change, so to say, the objects of domestic economy from what they are now, rather spread out and vague and undefined, so that they may have this single object of the management of a home as the sole aim of teaching domestic economy.

3674. In giving effect to this proposal do you see your way to utilising the cookery instruction in the direction of giving assistance in the provision of meals?—I spoke of two points of view. I have given you the first one. Secondly it seems to me that the order of the Local Government Board, with the accompanying circulars, while not altogether satisfactory, indicates sources of support in solving some of the difficulties; and I look upon the order as an opportunity for me to explain my domestic economy ideas. We have three sets of children, we might say, to think of. First, those children whose parents can pay for the meals; secondly, those children whose parents, for some reason or another, say through temporary disability, cannot pay for their meals; those meals I think should be paid for by charity or through some

voluntary organisation or association; thirdly there are those children whose parents cannot, from permanent disability, pay for their meals: I think that those meals ought to be paid for by the guardians. I would propose that our schools should provide, through the domestic economy centres, such meals as the children want from day to day, and I would utilise the teaching of domestic economy to teach the children what class of meals the children ought to have, and I would utilise the meals, when cooked, for the children in the school. So far as provision of a mid-day meal, my ideas are not new. I am only bringing from the secondary schools the ideas that at present prevail in these institutions. In the secondary schools you have meals provided. I should say that there are very few secondary schools in London where there is not some form of meal provided.

3675. Is not the main reason for that that the children, being drawn from a much larger area than in the primary schools are unable to get to their homes?—There is a great deal in that. Yes. I should think that probably that is largely true. Meals are provided in the secondary schools for one-fifth or one-sixth of the children on the whole, and I think you would overcome a great many of the difficulties if you provided meals at elementary schools in a similar way. The great difficulty is figures, I mean the number of meals to be provided. I propose an experiment. I am only proposing an experiment to the extent of fifty meals per school, but that would not meet the need. Fifty meals on the average multiplied by the number of centres would not meet the difficulty. I want, however, to have an experiment to find out whether the meals would be popular. Having shown the popularity, it could next be considered how best such provision could be developed.

3676. In saying that, have you in mind a meal for which children would pay?—I have in mind a meal costing 14d. to 2d., for which some children would buy a ticket, having had the money from their parents. Others would pay a ticket received from some voluntary organisation, and others would pay a ticket which they had received through the guardians.

3677. Do you anticipate any difficulty in getting the children to sit down together when you have some who have themselves paid and some who have been paid for by others?—I do not think that there need be much difficulty, but, of course, the children who pay the money themselves would know who paid. The others need not actually produce their own tickets. This difficulty could, I think, be overcome by careful management of details.

3678. You do not anticipate that that would be a fatal objection to the scheme?—I do not think so. It did not occur to me as a fatal objection.

3679. Have you anything to guide you in deciding whether it is likely that a paid for meal would be popular, and that there would be a demand for it?—Yes. In the first place, before coming to my own conclusions, I consulted a good many head teachers through one of our Domestic Economy Superintendents and through one of my principal assistants. The head teachers were in favour. They thought that the meals would be paid for. Further, very satisfactory mid-day meals are paid for at 2d. per meal in Defective Schools.

3680. We have had a very good account of the system from Mrs. Wilton Phipps, and it occurred to us that that was distinctly an indication that there would be no difficulty in getting payment from parents for children in an ordinary school?—I do not think it would be difficult. I was told that there were plenty of people who would be glad and willing that the meals should be provided.

3681. There is not, to your knowledge, at this moment any meal of that kind given in connection with an ordinary public elementary school?—It is done in two schools.

3682. Have you had any complaints from teachers of difficulties caused by the use of school rooms and class rooms for meals under the present system?—On the contrary I have found the teachers, on a whole, very willing to assist.

3683. Or any complaints as to their being expected to superintend?—I have not had any complaints brought to my notice. I found one school where the teachers

were not willing to take up this idea of arranging for mid-day meals. This the only case of unwillingness to assist that has come directly under my notice.

3684. That was one school out of what number?—I should say one out of probably twelve which I had examined for this purpose to find out whether objections were likely to arise. I felt that it was of no use trying an experiment unless I had the co-operation of the teachers.

3685. Have you heard anything from the teachers as to their dislike, or otherwise, of taking the responsibility of selecting children now for free meals?—As regards that, this is a question which I submitted to the Central Conference, which I referred to a little while ago: "Whether you think that the head teachers alone can select, at all events, in the first instance, children on the ground of physical deterioration, or how far you think that teachers want the assistance of medical officers or of nurses for this purpose; or whether you consider that it would be more advisable to place this work entirely under medical supervision." That question I submitted to the teachers. After that question was discussed with the eight teachers I had before me I asked them to vote on the question, because I wanted to see how far we were all in agreement. They agreed that they were all able to pick out cases of underfed children. Then I asked how many of them were in favour of medical help in special cases. Five out of eight voted for it. Remember that these teachers represented local committees. Then I asked, "What would be the best steps to take to ascertain the number of children in each department suffering from malnutrition." The general agreement was, that the teachers could pick out the average case, but that in the difficult cases they wanted medical help. That was the view of those who came before me.

3686. So far you have regard merely to the child and not to the circumstances of the parent where help is wanted?—I have only spoken of that but our teachers are in communication with our attendance officers, and they often get information from our attendance officers which is very valuable in that respect.

3687. Will you sum up the results of your conferences with the teachers under a few short headings?—These are the conclusions of the conferences I had with the teachers—that existing local committees do not sufficiently visit the homes of proposed cases of relief by means of existing agencies; that head teachers require help in selecting cases of underfeeding or bad feeding; that pressure on parents was required in order to make them fulfil their obligations to children in respect of providing food, the law to be strengthened if need be; that bad feeding was almost as serious a problem as under-feeding.

3688. The proposals you have mentioned with regard to giving meals in connection with cookery centres have not yet been carried out, I understand?—No.

3689. They have not actually been put into force?—No.

3690. There are cases, I understand, in London in which meals are provided in connection with cookery centres through the local managers?—Yes.

3691. Have you personal knowledge of those cases?—I know that dinners are provided occasionally for teachers, and sometimes for children. I do not think it is done to a very large extent and I am not personally familiar with it.

3692. Sir Charles Elliott mentioned one case in which he was himself a manager of a school in which it was done?—I know it is done.

3693. (Miss Lawrence.) With reference to the question of cookery centres at schools you would only suggest that the cookery centre should supply the school to which it was attached, or would you suggest that it should send out meals?—In the first place, I cannot say off-hand that all our cookery centres are at schools in which there are halls. We want a room in which to provide the meal, and so it might be necessary, from that point of view, to send the meals across to another school. Then we certainly have not cookery centres at every school so that, for a time at all events, if my proposal were extended we should have to use a centre for one or two schools. I do not think that there is any need to consider this at present because the numbers (in the experimental stage

at all events) of dinners that we should provide would hardly do more than satisfy a single school, if that.

3694. It seemed to me that the usefulness might be slightly hampered by the fact that in some districts you have a cookery centre where perhaps meals are not required—a cookery centre attached to a well-to-do school?—I do not fear the well-to-do character of some of the schools. I think it is in those that the meals would be popular.

3695. That is with regard to paying meals?—Yes, for the children whose parents would themselves pay.

3696. Have you any opinion as to the value of the educational effect with regard to children going home to dinner or not. Some have a very strong opinion upon that point. Granted that the parents can provide the meal at home they consider that the fact of having a family meal together at home is distinctly beneficial, rather than that the child should dine out?—I have some experience of the homes of the poor and I do not believe in the family meal—I mean I believe it is the right thing but the idea that you and I have in mind does not exist. They do not have meals in that way.

3697. Even with parents who can afford to pay?—I am thinking now mainly of what we might call the working population. I think it is a rare thing to have them all sitting down together to meals in the sense in which you are thinking.

3698. Therefore you do not attribute much importance to that idea?—No. I think there is a good deal to be gained by pupils and teachers all sitting down to a meal in school; the manners of the table may be taught in that way. There is a great deal to gain by all sitting down at school round a well-laid table.

3699. Would you be satisfied with the opinion of the teachers in their selection for free meals?—I must rely on the evidence of the teachers themselves, and they do not feel disposed to take the responsibility in the difficult cases.

3700. But in the ordinary case, would you accept their opinion?—Yes.

3701. You do not think that there would be any danger of their not taking the circumstances into consideration, but only the child's condition. It is a big question?—It is a big question. The teachers are not appointed to investigate the circumstances of the parents: they have their ordinary and first business of teaching to carry on.

3702. Yes, and that is why I asked whether you would be satisfied with their opinion?—They know, from the attendance officers, a good deal of the circumstances of the children, but after all it is not their main business.

3703. Do you think that more help, not of a medical character, would be valuable merely from the point of view of investigations, or not?—I am not prepared to say that they want more help except in difficult cases. I think that, on the whole, it will work out very well.

3704. In the case of a child whose parents deliberately spend their money otherwise than in giving food to their children the teacher would probably select that child, would he not?—You mean, where a teacher has before him a child who is underfed and before enquiring into the circumstances he is met with the difficulty of the child going without a meal.

3705. Yes?—And he says, "I must feed that child."

3706. Yes?—I am afraid that sympathetic teachers would do that.

3707. You can hardly expect them to carry on investigations afterwards, because they have their own work to do, as you say?—They have their own work to do, but I think they would not continue the feeding of the child without in some way ascertaining the circumstances.

3708. You think that they can be relied on not to continue it?—Yes. I think that they might give meals at first without investigation, but I think they would not continue to give them without investigation.

3709. With regard to the children cooking the dinners at the schools, do you anticipate any difficulty on the part of the parents of the children who are in the cookery centres. Do you think that they would raise any objection?—No objection has come to my mind. I do not know what difficulties you are thinking of.

Mr. R. Blair. 3710. We have heard that some parents are capable of saying, "I am not going to have my child learning cookery to provide dinners for other people's children." Would that be a general objection or not?—I think not. On the contrary I expect the mothers would soon learn to appreciate the practical nature of the instruction.

3711. You think that that would be the tendency more than the other?—Yes, I think it would.

3712. Do you think you could sufficiently vary dinners, having due regard both to the teaching and the children who are being fed?—I do.

3713. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) You were speaking of the teachers getting information from the attendance officers. Do you think they commonly do that. The attendance officers are not attached to the schools for that purpose, are they?—No, but the attendance officers go round to the homes of the children and they know pretty well what the homes are like, and the conditions of living in them.

3714. Are the attendance officers now attached to schools or to districts?—To districts.

3715. It makes some difference?—It does.

3716. In that case they have to transfer from other officers?—Yes; or consult one another at their daily meetings at the local offices.

3717. So that they would not know anything about the homes of the other children?—They would not know anything about the homes of all the children in a given school. They would know of some of the children only.

3718. When they visit the teacher for the list of absentees do you think that either the attendance officer or the teacher would have time often to go through the dinner list as well?—No, but you must remember that the attendance officer is doing this thing week in and week out throughout the year and is going over the district again and again.

3719. He has about 3,000 children in his district I suppose?—I think it is only 2,800.

3720. You got the teachers' evidence as to what they thought they could do themselves, but do you think they have either time or opportunity for making investigations after they have begun to feed?—Of course it depends on what kind of investigation one is going to have. You could have what may be called a rough and ready investigation that for all practical purposes would be quite serviceable or you could have a very full investigation, in order to defend the case, should necessity arise.

3721. Teachers' views would vary so much, of course, as to what was desirable in the way of investigation?—Of course there is the personal equation to deal with.

3722. If you were only leaving it to their opinion without further inquiry and revision by someone would you not think that personal differentiation would be more accentuated?—Yes, but the revision of those opinions in London is a big task.

3723. Under the Joint Committee there is a local committee with regard to each school that is supposed to conduct the investigation, consisting of visitors and managers, and so on?—If you mean that in connection with each school or group of schools you want managers or a small local committee to whom the teachers can go occasionally and explain what they are doing and for general revision I agree it would be a useful thing.

3724. You do not think it desirable always to have a Committee to revise the teachers' list?—I think it would be a good thing, but the revision cannot with certainty be done before the meal is given in the first instance at all events.

3725. But they can take the teachers' list and go through it, can they not?—The difficulty I felt after talking the matter over with the teachers was that these managing bodies or local bodies had still to rely on the teachers and attendance officers for their information.

3726. According to the scheme of the Joint Committee they ought to rely on their own personal visits?—You have heard what the teachers say about that.

3727. I am trying to get at whether they should visit more. You are apparently leaving them out rather from the scheme?—My difficulty is to find that they will visit sufficiently.

3728. From my own personal knowledge I know that in many schools managers do visit sufficiently, but in a very large proportion of them they do not?—They do not.

3729. The question is which is the right course?—You have to decide between them. I think it would be a good thing to have a local body to discuss with the teachers what they have done and to revise it if you like, but that local body will always be dependent not so much on their own personal observation of the conditions under which the child lives as on teachers and on attendance officers.

3730. I cannot understand why you think that. I should have thought that if you had a local committee living on the spot or visiting in the district, which the teachers do not do, they would rely much more on what they knew of the homes than on what the teachers told them?—I do not think so. You will find that the case sometimes, but speaking generally it is not so, I think.

3731. You say that in the average of cases teachers can tell if a child is underfed, but you said it was very difficult to decide whether it was bad feeding or underfeeding from the mere look of things?—The teachers impressed on me very strongly their views that as much trouble or probably more trouble existed from bad feeding than from underfeeding.

3732. By bad feeding they meant the wrong kind of food?—The wrong kind of food and given at the wrong time of day, and so on.

3733. The teacher would not know that. He would only see that the child was not well nourished?—Teachers talk to the children and gather information in that way.

3734. (*Dr. Parsons.*) By bad feeding do you mean food that is of an unsuitable kind for children?—Of an unsuitable kind or given at unsuitable times.

3735. Do you mean food not sufficiently nutritious or do you mean food that is unwholesome or unsuitable in kind. We have heard that children are very fond of pickles and that sort of thing?—I am afraid the parents do not appreciate "nutritious," or "unwholesome" or "unsuitable"; I hope the teaching of Domestic Economy will put the next generation in a better position in this respect.

3736. If a child was suffering from what you call bad feeding rather than insufficient feeding would the furnishing of additional meals be of service?—That is a doctor's question, but I should say clearly yes—that the giving of a wholesome meal to the child must be a good thing.

3737. In addition to a meal which it cannot digest you would give it also one that it can?—I am not thinking of two meals at the same time of course, but within a reasonable time of one another.

3738. Can you form any idea of the total number of children in London who are in need of feeding?—I have not had figures prepared for me in this respect; and I understand that no great reliance can be placed on existing estimates.

3739. (*Chairman.*) Have you anything to add?—No, I have nothing to add. I hope you will allow me to apologise to the Committee for the unprepared way in which, owing to pressure of work, I have had to come before them.

3740. (*Chairman.*) We tender you many thanks.

Dr. J. KERR, called; and Examined.

3741. (*Chairman.*) Would you tell us what your official designation is?—Medical officer, Education.

3742. Under the London County Council?—Yes.

3743. May we take it that the Minute in the agenda of the County Council of the 14th March, 1905, represents the constitution and the duties of the Medical Department at that date?—Yes at that time.

3744. Then I propose to put that on your evidence?—Yes.

L.C.C. AND NON-PROVIDED SCHOOLS.

MEDICAL SUPERVISION OF SCHOOLS.

The present staff consists of (a) the medical officer (Education), (b) the assistant medical officer (Education), (c) a lady assistant medical officer (half-time), (d) two quarter-time assistants, one permanent and one temporary, (e) six oculists and (f) twelve nurses.

The work of the education branch of the Public Health Department may be classified as follows—

(a.) The general condition of the scholars in the schools, physique, condition of special senses, (i.e. vision, hearing, etc.), mental abilities of different classes of children, the separating of "special class" children.

(b) The prevention of the diffusion of acute contagious diseases.

(c) The promotion of personal cleanliness.

(d) The hygiene of school work (hours of work, mode of work, reading, writing, drawing, manual recreation, exercises).

(e) The sanitary condition of school buildings (lighting, heating, ventilation, space, etc.).

It will be convenient to deal with the work in detail under these heads, explaining the extent to which our proposals involve additional assistance.

(a) *Vision testing.*—In vision testing a systematic annual examination of all the children in the standards is now made and each defective child seen by one of the council's oculists, after which notices in cases which require it are sent to the homes of the children concerned. This work at present engages six oculists for twenty school sessions weekly. The teachers also provide as far as possible for the seating of children in relation to their vision.

Cases of children requiring special treatment.—Formerly considerable numbers of children passed by the medical officer as suitable for special methods of education disappeared into non-provided schools. Lately special admission examinations have taxed the medical staff to the full, ten examinations per week being now necessary instead of six or seven, but this possibly represents an accumulation. Pressure should be exerted to have all such children in non-provided schools submitted for medical inspection. The extra work involved will be somewhat more than that of one extra quarter-time assistant.

(b) *Prevention of acute contagious diseases.*—The rules *Dr. J. Kerr.* affecting the occurrence of infectious disease have been rewritten, and all the forms and instructions much simplified. 4 July, 1905.

Extensive work is being gradually carried through in the Woolwich district, where the history as regards the occurrence of measles of every child admitted in the infant schools is being followed. The enormous importance of this disease, the most fatal of all diseases of school life, and apart from fatality probably the most debilitating and deteriorating on future vitality, can scarcely be estimated. Already we see that it will probably be necessary in the future to keep this record for each school child in London, and on the class record closure or not will be determined by the school doctor on the occurrence of a single case. School closure at the time it is often ordered at present by sanitary authorities or others is, we know, perfectly futile in preventing diffusion of diseases.

Since the late authority, some eighteen months ago, provided laboratory facilities for the medical officer, it has been possible to investigate diphtheria bacteriologically, and it is claimed that any outbreak in a London school can be controlled in a week. But the examination of the children, with the growing and examination of the cultures, means much work, and at present can only be done in cases which threaten serious outbreaks.

Non-provided schools are at present under the same regulations as the council's schools with regard to contagious epidemic diseases.

Personal cleanliness and the securing of improved attendance.—Personal cleanliness is secured by the visits of twelve nurses in council's schools. They examine the children, conferring with the teachers on certain defects. They also schedule children with obvious disease, as ringworm, favus (an obstinate parasitic scalp affection found almost entirely among aliens) and vermin on the clothes or scalps. After due warning such children may be excluded from school, and, if thought necessary the parents may be prosecuted. The work began in the schools is now also in many cases notified to the local sanitary authorities, who follow it up and insist on the cleansing of verminous houses under the London County Council (General Powers) Act 1903.

The difficulty here is the supervision of the nurses, all cases for exclusion being first medically inspected in school. Twelve more nurses, could be effectively employed in the council's schools alone, but it would require the time of a quarter-time assistant entirely to follow up their work; and the cleansing of the non-provided schools cannot be undertaken by less than six nurses and most of the time of a quarter-time medical officer.

Appended is a short statement of the working of the cleansing scheme in the girls' and infants' departments from its inception to 30th November, 1904.

	No. of departments cleansed.	No. of children examined.	No. clean.	* White cards.	* Red cards.	Proposed for exclusion.	Excluded for prosecution.	Brought before Magistrate and fined
1904.								
18th January to 20th July (6 nurses)	69	22,913	15,391	4,690	1,301	299	93	16
29th August to 30th November (12 nurses)	79	27,781	20,088	4,922	1,694	410	133	5
TOTAL	148	50,694	35,479	9,612	2,995	709	226	21

* The first notification to parents is on a white card, and the final notification on a red card.

The average fine inflicted has been 6s. and costs.

Dr. J. Kerr. School hygiene.—In addition to the branches of work already mentioned there is a great deal of work not being systematically applied, but yet of very great hygienic value, in school visitation—conferences with teachers on school conditions and school work, informal inspections of particular children, classes, or premises, and so forth—work which the teachers appreciate and which is of great use to the medical officers. This could be at once extended to non-provided schools. Until definite and complete arrangements have been concluded a temporary list could be kept by the medical officer of such non-provided schools as the managers desire to be treated by the medical officer on the same conditions as the council schools. At first this work would not require separate help, but it may grow very rapidly.

In order to ascertain the views of the managers of the non-provided schools, a circular letter explaining the nature of the supervision of council schools was addressed to the managers and they were asked for their observations. 149 replies were received. Of these 132 express the desire of the managers for the extension of the system to the school under their management. Seven state that supervision is not desired, and the remaining ten are indefinite.

In connection with the general question of school hygiene, we have considered the report recently issued by the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration, and especially the recommendation which states that the Committee are emphatic in recommending that a systematic medical inspection of children at schools should be imposed as a public duty on every school authority.

We have not overlooked the fact that the circumstances of work in London schools are different from those in any other part of the country and that English ideas would not tolerate continental methods. No comparisons therefore, are made with, nor are any statements put forward in regard to work done elsewhere. A thorough supervision of the schools and detailed examinations of children would not only not be appreciated but probably be resented by very many parents. A visit to each school once a fortnight would now require the services of 100 doctors, giving quarter-time as the oculists do at present. It is a modest suggestion that a regular visit should be paid by a medical officer to each school (not department) once in each quarter. For this work it will be necessary to appoint about twenty local assistant medical officers. These officers should be asked to give quarter-time services, i.e. three school sessions weekly, to school work, under the direction of the medical officer. It is easier to get first-class men to give such a portion of their time than it would be if a larger demand were made on them. For these officers we suggest an annual salary of £150 inclusive of travelling expenses. If well qualified they could readily take up the routine work which they would mostly have to do. They would do the work at present done by the oculists; would at their visits confer with the head teachers regarding children affected by eye, throat, nose, aurial or other disorders affecting health and school progress. They would inspect over-age children and make a first selection of cases deemed worthy of further examination for special education. The routine work in regard to cleansing and infectious diseases would also be followed up by such officers, each of whom would have in his district about fifty-three elementary schools.

Should the council approve of the principle of appointing local school doctors, we do not suggest that the appointments should all be made at once, but that at first six should be made, and that when a little experience shall have been gained of the working of the system further batches should be appointed at intervals of a few months.

Summarising the proposals made above, it will be seen that to undertake the additional work connected with the deficient children in the non-provided schools the services of a permanent quarter-time assistant will be necessary. We desire not to renew the appointment of the present temporary quarter-time medical assistant, but to appoint in his place a permanent half-time medical assistant who would devote about one-half of his time to the examination of children for admission to special schools, and the other half to office work connected with the medical supervision of non-provided schools. We are of opinion that the services of the five quarter-time and the one half-time oculists should not be continued,

but that twenty quarter-time medical assistants should be appointed, under the conditions explained above. It will probably be necessary to consider the question of the appointment of a considerably increased staff of nurses; but we think it better to defer reporting on this subject until after the question of the medical staff has been settled. Finally we suggest the extension, immediately to the non-provided schools of the general superintendence of the medical officer, where it is desired by the managers. The additional annual expenditure involved by our present proposals would be £2,300 none of which will fall within the current financial year.

3745. Have any changes been made since that date in the medical staff?—Yes; we are going to appoint twenty men to do work in the schools as medical school inspectors. They will probably be appointed this week.

3746. The appointment has not been confirmed yet?—It will be confirmed this week. The men have been selected.

3747. Is that increase in the staff in any way due to the Report of the Physical Deterioration Committee?—No, I do not think so. It was practically settled before that.

3748. Are the medical staff at present in any way consulted in cases of underfeeding as to the giving of meals?—They see children who are debilitated and ill nourished in the schools, but apart from that they have no part in it.

3749. Would you give us very shortly a statement of what is now being done in public elementary schools in the way of medical inspection?—Do you mean work which we are doing?

3750. Yes?—I have made a long series of notes of my experience in Bradford. I should think that that would be more useful to you even than my experience in London.

3751. Our reference is as to what is now being done. We are not to make any recommendation, but any memorandum that you can give us we will gladly print. Your knowledge of Bradford does not extend up to the present moment?—No.

3752. It relates some years back?—Yes.

3753. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Is the work at Bradford now being carried on on the same lines?—Yes, practically on the same lines. There at Bradford *Dr. Crowley* is the medical superintendent.

3754. (*Chairman.*) It will be more useful I think if you will now give us your London experience?—We inspect school buildings to a certain extent as far as we think they affect health in relation to capacity and methods of ventilation and warming. We continually have reports in about the furniture, about the lighting, and about the educational apparatus. They come in under our old system from the oculists generally. We had a form drawn up on which they filled in details of each visit. Then we are always having conferences with teachers on points which arise in the methods of education. We are continually investigating cases of children who present abnormalities in any way with regard to the senses. We examine with regard to vision, hearing, defective memory, speech, and so forth. We examine children also as regards normal development or abnormal development and their relation to the work that is put upon them at various ages in school.

3755. Have you been able to begin any regular system of anthropometric measurement?—I have done very little of that. I have some charts here. That question has always been postponed and shelved. It is again postponed for the present and withdrawn as a regular thing, but we are doing a little now and will do more next year.

3756. Have you been able to do anything in relation to registering diseases?—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.

3757. (*Dr. Parsons.*) What is the reason for selecting Woolwich?—Woolwich is isolated from the rest of

London. We wanted to study for four or five years one district. It was a convenient and manageable area. We have to do with all kinds of children who appear to be abnormal to the teachers. They are submitted to the medical officers on their visits. The only regular inspection made of the children is visual testing. They are all tested once a year as to their visual peculiarity. Those who are defective are given cards to take home, warning parents of their defects.

3758. (*Miss Lawrence.*) The inspection is not once for all but once every year?—Once every year.

3759. Do you make use of the teachers?—The teachers make the first examination and the oculists control that.

3760. You have a regular staff of oculists?—We have had. We shall replace them by the twenty medical school inspectors I have spoken of.

3761. It will be part of their work?—Yes.

3762. Not their exclusive work?—No, but part of their work. We want men who have general experience of school work.

3763. Is there any suggestion of enlarging the staff further?—Is has not been considered up to the present.

3764. Can you speak for the County Council in this matter?—The County Council have not considered any further enlargement up to the present.

3765. May we take it that you are speaking for the County Council or for yourself?—I am speaking for the County Council, but I think that the County Council want it to be known that they are not responsible for anything I say.

3766. That rather takes from what you have said as regards representing them?—I believe that they have appended that to their instruction.

3767. With regard to the staff of nurses, how are they employed?—We have twelve nurses at present and it is under consideration to increase that by twenty. We look on the nurses as purely educational in their work. They do nothing in the way of treatment at all. They examine children in the schools chiefly in respect of dirt and contagious diseases of the grosser sort, such as ringworm skin diseases.

3768. Are these nurses exclusive of those employed in the defective schools?—Yes. Those employed in the defective schools merely take the children home and that kind of thing and this staff of twelve visits in the ordinary schools. We have what we call the cleansing scheme now applied through the nurses. If there is a dirty school the nurse examines every child in it and she catalogues those that she considers ought to be cleansed. They are given a white card, warning their parents that cleansing is required. We have only been doing that in relation to parasites in the head, vermin, and so on. If the card is not attended to during the week (it has instructions on it as to how parents can cleanse the children) the child is separated from the others. The nurse sees the child again. She passes its name into the School Attendance Department and they serve a red card warning the parents that if nothing is done at the end of a week it will be excluded from school altogether and they will be liable to prosecution. If they do not have the child cleansed by the end of the week it is excluded and the parents prosecuted.

3769. For how long has that system been in force?—For about twelve months now. It works with perfect smoothness.

3770. Have you had many prosecutions?—Many. I dare say one hundred. They all have to pay up in the end. If a child is not in a fit condition it is excluded and the parents are prosecuted. It is rather roundabout. There is a law in Glasgow which gives greater power. Twenty-four to forty-eight hours' notice can be given to a parent to cleanse the child and if it is not cleansed then the sanitary authorities can cleanse the child and recover the cost from the parents. We need something of that sort in London.

3771. Is there any procedure open under the Cleansing of Persons Act?—No, nobody need do anything unless he likes under that Act.

3772. Has there been any difficulty raised by parents in connection with examination by nurses or any medical

examination in the schools?—One or two want to know what powers we have, but we simply pay no attention; that is the best way. We examine the children first and let parents complain afterwards.

3773. You have no legal power, as a matter of fact?—I doubt whether we have not legal power. It is commonly held that it is an assault, but I doubt that. I doubt whether the teacher is not in *loco parentis* while the child is in school. It has not been discussed.

3774. There has been no case in court to your knowledge?—No.

3775. (*Dr. Parsons.*) That was not the view which the London School Board took when vaccination was under consideration. Then every facility was given to the parent for objecting?—Yes, but I doubt whether that facility would be given now.

3776. Have you filled up the form of headings for medical inspection?—No.

3777. Does the work extend both to the provided and non-provided schools?—It will be extended to non-provided schools after the end of this year.

3778. It has not been up to the present?—It has not been in any case up to the present. The non-provided schools are in a state of chaos. We are having it organised with a view to extending it. We have organised it with regard to infectious diseases.

3779. What are the duties with regard to infectious diseases?—Each case known to the teachers is notified to us.

3780. As well as the other notification?—Yes. We have several cards. The date of last attendance and so forth is notified, and these are all passed through my hands. In cases where we know that schools ought to be watched we watch very carefully. We can close separate classes. We very rarely close a school. We close a class and not very many. In case of scarlet fever, for instance, we go down and examine the children.

3781. You find infectious diseases tend to be limited to particular classes?—Yes. You can actually say that there is such a percentage of children in a class who have not had measles and you may expect them to have it.

3782. Is that the case with some diseases more than others?—Yes, it is the case with some diseases more than others. Measles we cannot control very well. Scarlet fever we can greatly control, and diphtheria we can stop in a week. We do that by examining all the children and picking out those who give reactions bacteriologically.

3783. You take swabs of the throat?—Yes, invariably in every case investigated. If we had a case on Monday and another on Thursday we should be suspicious, and, if necessary, all the children would be examined, or possibly only a few of them whose noses were discharging or had had sore throats, and been away. Last week seven children were examined. Diphtheria threatened to break out, but none was found and none has been found since. Therefore there is no further cause for alarm with regard to that school.

3784. How far is this particular branch of work worked with the local medical officers of health?—We do not work with them at all in the way of their doing anything in our schools. They get reports and occasionally want a school closed, and we always close it if they want it. In the majority of cases we do not close a school unless they want it. They generally want to close a school when practically every child who is going to have measles has got it and all the damage is done.

3785. Practically they leave to you the question of excluding children and closing schools?—It has come to that in the majority of cases.

3786. You have told us about examination as to sight. Is there any other examination of children that is carried on such, for hearing, for instance?—You cannot do any general examination for hearing. It is a very troublesome subject. The children who appear deaf in school are seen by the doctors. Children with discharges from the ear and that kind of thing need to have their parents stimulated to get them treatment. It is a very dangerous business.

3787. When you go to the school are the children selected by the teachers for examination?—Most of the

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Dr. J. Kerr. teachers know them, but the doctors are going round the schools every day and will look over a class sometimes. They will examine every child in a class if they think fit with regard to skin disease and so on. Children who appeared deaf they would see, and if necessary would have them submitted for formal examination as a deaf child. We have all kinds of examinations.

3788. Are those carried on at schools?—At centres. Some are at my office. We have about ten a week. They are really examinations under the Epileptic and Defective Act. We utilise that for other cases as well—the deaf and blind, and so on. Cases that cannot be dealt with at the other examinations and want more detailed examination are brought to the office.

3789. How often is any particular school visited?—I cannot say that. Some would not be more than once in a year and others almost once a week.

3790. It is not a matter of routine?—No; routine would be a mistake. We turn our attention where it is most required.

3791. The schools in the poorer districts would require visiting much more often than others?—Yes, very much more.

3792. With regard to the nurses do they do anything in the way of dressing?—No; we allow no treatment at all by the nurses.

3793. In the case of ringworm, for instance, which requires prolonged treatment, who would undertake that?—In that case the nurse decides whether it is ringworm or not and the child is excluded from school and the parents are told to get treatment. Very often the nurse is uncertain, and in that case she removes stumps of hair and sends them up to us and we examine them microscopically. With regard to ringworm and favus, and diseases like that, in many cases where a child has returned to school even with a medical certificate if the nurse has doubt about it she communicates with us. In the majority of cases the nurse is right. We have several hundreds a year of these cases sent up for examination in that way.

3794. Do you take any special precautions in the case of a child who has come back from hospital after scarlet fever, for instance?—We are just starting in the Woolwich district, where we are inquiring into measles, to exclude children who have returned from the hospital from school for a fortnight before they return to school to see if any case happens in the house. We find that often children who have been in hospital are the origin of other cases. A common history of a diphtheria outbreak would be that two or three cases occurred in a school after a child had been away with scarlet fever. It was infected in hospital, it was a carrier but it did not show diphtheria itself. We have found it time after time. With regard to children who have been away with scarlet fever in that one district, we are observing whether a fortnight's exclusion is not advisable.

3795. Has any examination ever been made by you in respect of vaccination?—No. We have done nothing about that except in odd cases. We have recommended that unvaccinated children, as far as known to the teacher, should be excluded from school.

3796. Where there is danger of smallpox?—Where there is danger of smallpox.

3797. (*Miss Laurence.*) Are the new doctors who are to be appointed going to give their whole time?—No—quarter time—three half days a week.

3798. You say that you rather prefer a medical man to be appointed only from the school authority point of view. You think that there are so many calls on general practitioners?—Yes; it is essential that a school doctor should not be in general practice. I have had personal experience of that. It is absolutely essential if he is to get the school work done.

3799. How will it be arranged with regard these? Have they private practice?—No. We have excluded general practitioners. They are mostly comparatively young people who will become consultants. It would not matter so much with regard to them, but for a doctor who was to be a school doctor for a district it would be essential that he should not be in general practice.

3800. Should he confine himself entirely to school work?—Not entirely, because most districts could not

pay him, but he should be a school doctor and go in for consulting work.

3801. As separate from a general practice?—As separate from a practice.

3802. Are many mentally defective children found in the ordinary schools who are not reported?—We are not looking out for them. The accommodation is so limited that we do not want to find them.

3803. Do you anticipate that the staff will be sufficient or do you want to see it larger? We shall have to wait to see what they do.

3804. You mentioned favus. Are there not two schools open for that?—No; there is one school in Whitechapel to be open for about eighty.

3805. How often would it be necessary to have a doctor visiting that?—We will have a doctor and a nurse attached to that going in and out constantly.

3806. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Is it a common disease in London?—In the East End among aliens.

3807. It is a very rare disease in England generally?—Yes.

3808. It is a variety of ringworm?—Yes.

3809. But very much worse?—Yes, it is very much worse.

3810. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Are you making observations of children in Woolwich for all sorts of disease?—No, only in relation to measles.

3811. You are not examining in reference to lungs or anything of the kind?—No. We want to do some work of that sort. We have had two or three schools measured and have very interesting results.

3812. You do not see any chance of doing it at present?—It will come in time. It ought to be done. I do not think a general census, as people commonly think of it, would be educationally of much use, or a weighing of children, but it would be exceedingly valuable indirectly. I have three charts of schools; two of them are our own, and one is a chart which Dr. Eichholz used with reference to the Committee on Deterioration. We have the heights put down. My assistant Dr. Thomas went into this. I suspected that we might find healthy and unhealthy groups. In a year where infantile mortality was low, the group of children corresponding to that year was very good, but where infant mortality was high we got a bad group. You see how the groups go up and down.

3813. You think it would be very valuable to have this in certain selected schools?—In London it must be done on a large scale sooner or later, because of the valuable information of an indirect nature that can be got out of it. Wherever the death rate is low, you get a jump in the corresponding group of children. This is taken from the appendix to the Report of the Committee on Deterioration. It was the increase that caused us to look at the Manchester death rate.

3814. Do you anticipate nurses ever doing anything with reference to dressing sores and that sort of thing?—I do not think it is desirable that they should.

3815. Why?—I do not think it will ever be advisable that school nurses should attend to wounds and dress sores. It is the duty of the children's parents. I do not see why it should be done at the public expense. The nurse should try to educate the people up to doing it. That is advisable, but I do not think it advisable that the parents themselves should be relieved of the duty.

3816. It is done in some places?—It is done in some places but where I have seen it done it has been a perfect farce and waste of money.

3817. Why a farce?—Before we had our own nurses we had voluntary nurses coming in and the work that was done was not well done. We have had them the whole afternoon looking at children with cut fingers or bruises.

3818. Did it not do the children good?—I doubt it. It made them self conscious. They went about looking for wounds for the nurse.

3819. At Birmingham the other day I saw sent out to a nurse all the children with very bad sores on the feet. She was dressing them. Do you think that is of no use?—I do not think it should be done at school. I think the children's mothers should look after that sort of thing.

3820. There are a great many children in the London schools in the East End with bad sores on them?—Yes, but if you are going to deal with these things it is very much better to go to the root of the matter rather than diminish the symptoms at the top.

3821. By going to the root of the matter you mean seeing that the parents see that the children do not get the sores?—Yes, just as in the case of the vermin.

3822. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Might not the nurse visit the home?—The nurse visits the home and gives instructions. The parents have instructions sent to them.

3823. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Does not the nurse go to the home?—We have strictly told the nurse that she must not in any case relieve the parents of duty. I have known the nurses give the women 6d. to take the children to have their hair cut, but I have told them not to do it again.

3824. (*Mr. Walrond.*) For how long has the eyesight inquiry gone on?—Four or five years, but we have materially modified it in order to be able to handle the children better. We look at school as a place where children should be educated as much as possible and handled as little as possible. We have not been keeping statistics since the first two years. If you want to get statistics you must take all the ages. We only take statistics of the children showing defects.

3825. You throw away the lists of the normal children?—Yes.

3826. With regard to the abnormal children what do you do?—We have a list and it is sent to the oculist.

3827. Is it kept at the school?—Yes, and the following year when he goes he has the previous year's record to compare with the one that he is working on.

3828. In the meantime he recommends that a child should have glasses of a certain strength?—He does not go into that. He sees whether it should be examined. He also occasionally investigates outbreaks of infectious eye diseases. Small outbreaks of acute conjunctivitis called "pink eye" occasionally occur. There is also the disease called trachoma, which is a scourge in Eastern Europe, but which except among the aliens, is one of the rarest diseases in England. It is of the greatest importance to limit it even here, as in America it seems to be extending among the general population so that in New York they have sixty ophthalmia inspectors at work. It wants looking after, or it might become very bad in England. If an oculist finds a case in school it is followed up and removed from school as soon as possible. With regard to glasses the parents are told to go to the hospital or to seek some remedy, but we do not examine the eyes with regard to refraction, to determine the strength of glass required.

3829. You do not?—No; there is not time.

3830. Your inquiry is not at all like the one conducted by Doctor Brudenell Carter some years ago?—That was a very scanty inquiry with regard to what had to be done. He was trying to make a scientific investigation to determine proportion and so on, but our aim is to determine what visual defect is interfering with the child's education. Our whole aim is educational rather than ophthalmic, if I may say so.

3831. If you have a child that requires glasses do you notify the parent?—The parent is notified by a card which is sent home advising him to take the child to be examined by a properly qualified medical man.

3832. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Do parents do it?—Some of them do it. They do not do it to anything like the extent that they ought, or the hospitals would be swamped at once; as it is they can hardly get through their work.

3833. (*Mr. Walrond.*) You do nothing in the way of loaning spectacles?—We do not. We are trying to start a voluntary fund, so that children can get glasses at reasonable prices. If a child goes to hospital and glasses are prescribed, and then the parents go to the hospital optician and find that the glasses will cost perhaps 15s., it is absurd, because often the whole of the family's income is only that. We find that glasses can be supplied quite cheaply and perhaps some voluntary arrangement will be made presently.

3834. You have no arrangement with a big optician to supply glasses at certain prices?—Not at present, but glasses can be supplied at half a crown.

3835. (*Dr. Parsons.*) That depends on the kind of *Dr. J. Kerr.* glasses very much?—Yes.

3836. Those in stock can be supplied cheaply, but if they have to be ground specially they will cost more?—If ground specially you can get them for 3s. 6d., but those in stock will be only about 1s. 6d. and upwards. Very few children require treating with astigmatic glasses. Most of the children simply only require spherical glasses to aid them.

3837. Do you find any objection to examination of children on the part of the parents?—Only in some cases. The parents of mentally defective children have very great objection to examination.

3838. Beforehand?—Yes. The Act gives us power to compel examination, or many of them would not be examined.

3839. (*Clairnan.*) Is there anything done with regard to inspection of children kept away from school on the ground of illness?—Yes. In most cases the parent would be summoned before the "B" Committee as it is called. In some cases the divisional superintendent who looks after school attendance refers them to a local doctor who has to do with the county council. Other cases are submitted directly to me or to one of my assistants, but we discourage that as much as possible on account of the amount of work which it would mean. We could not cope with it all if we had it in our hands.

3840. Are there certain doctors whose certificates are recognised by the county council?—I do not exactly know the standing of these people, but there are some people who act in conjunction who can be referred to. They are not referred to extensively, I think that they are people who have to do with the fire brigade and so on and are known in that way.

3841. I was wondering whether they were the Post Office doctors whom we recognise here?—No, they are not.

3842. Are there any defects in the present system of medical inspection in London which you desire to call attention to?—No, I do not think so. Any defects we know of we try to remedy.

3843. You would remedy them if you had the money?—Yes.

3844. Have you any idea of the cost of the medical department to the rates?—No; it is quite trifling.

3845. It is only a small fraction of a penny rate, I suppose?—Yes.

3846. Have you any remarks to make as to the results of the system so far?—I think that we are saving the children a great deal of disease. In the case of diphtheria we are preventing a very large number of cases, and no doubt we are saving a large amount of scarlet fever. I cannot say much about measles. We are certainly improving the tone of the schools in the way of cleanliness and improving the whole morale I may say. People are getting more self-respecting through our insisting on these things. We stimulate the sanitary authorities with regard to house cleaning. If children come to school in dirty condition the nurse visits their homes, and if the homes are dirty we notify the sanitary authorities of the borough and they visit and insist on the home being cleaned. They have power now in London under a recent Act to insist on a house being cleansed, or to cleanse it themselves after due notice. They go as far as requiring wall paper to be stripped, and the house disinfected before they will pass it if it is a verminous house.

3847. Can you say whether the system of regular meals in the defective schools, so far as you have seen it, has had a beneficial result on the children?—In the cripple schools.

3848. Yes?—It is quite impossible for anybody to say, the children are suffering from disease. They are put under comfortable conditions all day long and they are taken about in ambulances. The natural course with regard to disease in most cases is for recovery to take place, and they recover. You cannot say it is the dinner, and you cannot say it is the ambulance.

3849. Have you seen the effect in any of the mentally defective schools. In some of them there is a system of regular meals I understand. Take Milbank for instance?—I have not attended to that.

Dr. J. Kerr. 3850. Have any of the proposals made by you in your evidence before the Physical Deterioration Committee been carried into effect?—Will you remind me of them?

3851. Individual examination of 50,000 children for instance?—That has not been done. We keep postponing that.

3852. It is constantly before you?—Yes; it is a thing that will have to be done some day, but the time is inopportune at present as there are so many other things to follow out. What I have indicated is a small instalment. We have something each year. It is wanted badly in London.

3853. You recommend a school for backward and debilitated children?—Yes. Nothing is done in that way.

3854. A hospital for the accommodation of semi-invalids?—We have not that. There are many children in the cripple schools that we could very well plant out for a few months, but we have not any places.

3855. Then with regard to insisting on hygienic conditions as to schools?—That is our daily occupation. The doctors report constantly to me and I report to other Departments things that want attention, and if they are not attended to we want to know why in a very short time. We are constantly bringing up schools as far as we can, with due regard to the ratepayers.

3856. The increase of staff will help you with regard to that?—Yes.

3857. With regard to a register of diseases you told us that a small beginning was made in one part of London? Yes. We record every case in a large book in each school, but we have not a record of the child's name. We can tell you any day how many cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever and so on there have been in London in the previous week.

3858. (*Mr. Walrond.*) Visual Defect.—What would

you do with regard to that?—I would record it against each child's name. The visual state is kept in a register.

3859. At each school? Or at the central office? At the school each teacher is supposed to have hung up in each class room a list of the children who do not come up to the normal standard of vision, but they do not do it as a matter of fact and we do not insist on it at present.

3860. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) With regard to deafness, is not that as important as eyesight?—I think it has been very much overrated with regard to the prevalence of it. I do not suppose that ten per cent are so deaf as to interfere with their work.

3861. Are there not cases where it is better to put them in the front row than at the back?—The teachers know the cases. Deafness that causes trouble in school is almost always associated with mouth breathing.

3862. Have you examined for that?—Yes. You know it by a glance.

3863. How is that treated?—The teacher gets the parents to have an operation performed. Frequently the deafness that is reported is entirely a mistake. It is mental.

3864. Mental dulness?—No. It is not mental dulness even. It is failure to appreciate the tests. A young child is usually exceedingly acute in hearing if you use your voice in the playground, but if you test it by a tuning fork or a watch it is not. It is psychological.

3865. It is failure to detect certain sounds?—Yes. It is brain deafness rather than anything else.

3866. (*Chairman.*) Have you anything to add?—I do not think so. If you find by-and-by that there is anything that you would like me to add, I will come again.

3867. (*Chairman.*) Thank you. That is very kind of you.

EIGHTH DAY.

Tuesday, 11th July, 1905.

PRESENT.

Mr. H. W. SIMPKINSON, C.B. (*in the Chair*).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.

The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE.
Mr. R. WALROND.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (*Secretary*).

Mr. JOHN KIRK, called; and Examined.

Mr. J. Kirk. 3868. (*Chairman.*) You are the secretary of the Ragged School Union?—Yes.

3869. You are also a member of the Committee of the London School Dinners Association?—Yes; and I have also been a member of the Committee of the Vegetarian Society.

3870. You have had great experience in relation to the feeding of children?—Yes—practical experience.

3871. Does the Ragged School Union itself organise any meals for children in public elementary schools?—No; it simply caters at the expense of the various funds for the children in the surroundings of the particular schools. Here are list of the centres. Some of them come directly under our responsibility and some are affiliated branches with separate local committees. For the most part they are sustained either through the London Schools Dinner Association or the Destitute Children's Dinner Society and we simply do the administrative work. Volunteers offer their services, and we find the plant and the accommodation.

3872. Does your society supply funds as well as do the catering?—No—only in a small supplementary manner for food for the family and in the way of plant. Small

funds go in that way. I take it that this inquiry is specially with regard to school children.

3873. Yes. This is confined to children in public elementary schools?—So that it would not embrace the adults coming for free breakfasts on Sunday mornings, the soup kitchens for family dinners, and food relief in individual cases of sickness.

3874. That is outside our reference?—I may say that we supply no funds for actual food for the school dinners, though the buildings, plant, and service would be a distinct contribution.

3875. Is the work confined to London and the district?—It embraces such outlying places as Gravesend. It would not all be in the County of London.

3876. It would be London and district?—Yes. London and district.

3877. Have you a list which you can give us of the centres with which you are connected?—Yes. The return has been divided into those coming directly under our control as a central body and those centres that are affiliated. I am afraid that it will not help you very much because we have not the last reports. We have

taken the very last reports we have at hand, as regards the dinners given to the children.

3878. Are these figures opposite the names of the centres the number of dinners supplied?—Yes, for those particular schools.

3879. In what period?—I am not sure that it is in every case the last report.

3880. For the last completed year?—Yes for the last completed year.

3881. The list is divided into Ragged School Union centres and affiliated branches?—Yes.

3882. In the case of the Ragged School Union centres are the expenses of those contributed to by the regular Feeding Associations in London?—Yes, entirely.

3883. They are entirely supported by those?—Yes, so far as supplying food is concerned. There will be the building and the plant and the services of friends as contribution towards the meal.

R.S.U. CENTRES.

Ashley Mission, Bethnal Green	-	-	-	6,000	London Schools Dinners.
Doddington Grove, Battersea	-	-	-	7,057	Destitute Children's Dinner Society.
Latimer Road, Notting Hill	-	-	-	10,356	" " " "
Camberwell Mission	-	-	-	4,578	" " " "
Hoxton Market	-	-	-	12,922	London Schools Dinners.
Hoxton Costers	-	-	-	22,867	" " " "
Lamb and Flag, Clerkenwell	-	-	-	12,867	Destitute Children's Dinner Society.
				<u>76,647</u>	

AFFILIATED BRANCHES.

Amicable Row, Bermondsey	-	-	-	12,181	Local Collections.
Bermondsey	-	-	-	2,100	" " " "
Blackfriars Road	-	-	-	126	" " " "
Bosworth Road, Kensal New Town	-	-	-	8,800	" " " "
Canning Town	-	-	-	200	" " " "
Hope Mission, Banner Street, St. Luke's	-	-	-	3,300	" " " "
Christian Street, Commercial Road	-	-	-	8,000	" " " "
Clerkenwell Close	-	-	-	10,000	Destitute Children's Dinner Society.
Collingwood Street, New Cut	-	-	-	130,000	Private, and Destitute Children's Dinner Society.
Copperfield Road, Bow	-	-	-	58,566	" " " "
Dalwood Street, Camberwell	-	-	-	8,500	Local Collections.
Edmund Street	-	-	-	200	" " " "
Field Lane, Clerkenwell	-	-	-	33,000	" " " "
Gospel Lighthouse, Borough	-	-	-	2,500	London Schools Dinners.
Gravesend	-	-	-	16,233	Local Soup Kitchen.
Grays Yard, Oxford Street	-	-	-	30,000	" " " "
Harrow Green, Leytonstone	-	-	-	6,000	Destitute Children's Dinner Society.
King Edward, Spitalfields	-	-	-	14,000	London Schools Dinners.
Lansdowne Place, Borough	-	-	-	18,044	" " " "
Love Lane, Shadwell	-	-	-	5,000	Local Collections.
Nichol Street, Bethnal Green	-	-	-	11,032	Lady St. Helier's Fund.
Ogle Mews, Marylebone	-	-	-	8,000	Destitute Children's Dinner Society.
Palmer's Place, Holloway	-	-	-	900	Local Collections.
Paradise Street, Bermondsey	-	-	-	14,000	" " " "
Radnor Street, St. Luke's	-	-	-	5,140	" " " "
Ranelagh Hall, Harrow Road	-	-	-	1,200	" " " "
St. James's Place, Notting Hill	-	-	-	2,000	" " " "
Sermon Lane, Islington	-	-	-	2,385	" " " "
Stephen the Yeoman, Bermondsey	-	-	-	4,000	London Schools Dinners.
Windmill Street, Lambeth	-	-	-	4,988	" " " "
30 Branches	-	-	-	<u>420,395</u>	

Total, 37 Centres with 497,042 Meals reported.

3889. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Are those centres of yours any schools in each case?—No; they have all been transferred.

3890. Have you no day schools?—Practically none. There are two or three lingering on for a few months but we have withdrawn our grants from them altogether. I think that Dr. Barnardo at Copperfield Road is continuing in the girl's department. Then there are George Yard, Chapel Street, Stratford, Ogle Mews, and Marigold Place, Bermondsey.

3891. (*Chairman.*) Is it possible to say how much money your society contributes directly to the feeding of children?—A very small sum and it is so interwoven with what is done in the way of soup kitchens, I could not separate the two and give the proportion directly for the supply of dinners for the school children.

3884. The support of the societies will be confined to the paying of so much a head for meals in each case?—Yes, in each case.

3885. What would the sum paid per head be?—They make the returns in the usual way to the different centres more especially to the London School Dinners Association on the Committee of which I happen to be. A grant is made according to the requirement of the particular fortnight, as Mr. Diggle explained to you.

3886. Does the London Schools Dinner Association make grants to these centres?—Yes.

3887. Is it possible for you to indicate on this list which of the centres are assisted by which of the associations?—I can give you most of them from memory. In regard to the school I have the superintendence of in Camberwell, for thirty years we have remained faithful to our old love, the Destitute Children's Dinner Society.

3888. Will you enter opposite each, the society by which it is supported?—Yes (*see margin*).

Mr. J. Kirk. that he founded the society. My predecessor, Mr. Gent, used to go to the Westminster Deanery during Dean Stanley's regime to the committee meetings regularly when I first entered the office in 1867. My earliest recollections are of little parties of children coming to the office with the soup which had been made in the morning by themselves for the secretary to taste its excellent quality. That is nearly forty years ago. I shall never forget the dear little ones coming along and how proud they were to show what they had done in the morning. In some schools in the early days they had the scraps from the neighbouring warehouses, and to this day Messrs. Copestake send all their spare food to give to the children and the adults of one of the local schools. The whole movement started with a desire to feed the hungry—the children and the parents. In 1886 an enterprising man in connection with the "Globe" newspaper spent the whole winter in going about the slums of London, particularly through the surroundings of the Ragged Schools, and his conviction was that something of a supplementary character was urgently required in addition to what was being done in feeding and clothing. At his instigation a conference was convened at the Ragged School Union office at which Mr. Diggle, chairman of the then School Board, and Mr. Spicer, and others interested in poor children, attended, and there was formed a Poor Children's Aid Society to provide boots and clothing and food in a judicious way, which would supplement and not supersede or overlap local or central agencies. In 1889, as the result of an agitation in the Press, there was a meeting held at the London School Board offices. It was then resolved to form the London School Dinners Association, and to incorporate with it the food branch of the Poor Children's Aid Society. Then there was the Vegetarian Society, sustained at first by Mr. A. F. Hills of the Thames Iron Works. His idea was that it might popularise vegetarian food if barrows were sent about the streets supplying the food in cans and mugs as a milkman supplies milk. That did not succeed. It was mainly because people object to the name "Vegetarian." It was not that the food was not most excellent. With all these efforts I have been personally associated. They have been working actively for the benefit of the children.

3895. We have had no direct evidence, so far, as regards the work of the Vegetarian Society?—After a time Mr. Hills was obliged to withdraw his support, for private reasons. It then had to stand on its own basis. There are two or three centres now I believe—one in St. Peter's, Walworth, and one at Victoria Park, Bethnal Green.

3896. Is the work mainly done in the direction of catering in connection with pecuniary aid given by existing associations or do the society raise money themselves?—They raise money themselves and get what they can from those to whom they supply the food. Some of the grants to the East Lambeth School Association, for instance, go towards paying for the food they get from the vegetarian depot.

3897. The Vegetarian Society itself would raise funds directly for the purpose of feeding the children?—Yes, but it would not refuse any payments from the schools themselves. Reference ought to be made also to the Referee Fund which started in 1879.

3898. We had a very full account of the Referee Fund from Mrs. Burgwin. From the accounts before me of the Children's Dinner Fund of the London Vegetarian Association I see that they received in subscriptions £381 odd, as well as £277 from the sale of dinners?—Yes. It was a very small affair at the outset. Mr. Hills sustained the whole thing from his own purse and met all the expenses.

3899. Have you any remarks to make as to the methods by which children are now selected to receive free or cheap dinners?—I find, in the main, that our friends take into consultation the teachers of the surrounding schools and supply them with the number of tickets they require and provide the dinners accordingly, fifty to one school, 100 to another, and so forth.

3900. Your societies would not go behind the statement of the teachers?—No.

3901. Have you any knowledge of the work of the relief committees under the Joint Committee on underfed children of the County Council?—Generally, I know that

inquiries are made, and that something is done to check the teachers in the selection of the children.

3902. Do you consider that it is a good thing to obtain payments from the parents, even if it is very much less than the cost price of the meal?—Unquestionably, even if it is a halfpenny or a farthing, something ought to be obtained from them whenever possible.

3903. That is a matter upon which opinion seems to be divided. In some cases we are told the parents imagine that they are paying for the whole?—I shall have a word to say about that presently. There is great confusion in the public mind with regard to that. We spend any amount of money on mental food. We swallow the whole thing but we grumble at the penny dinner. In my opinion there is infinitely more pauperising from free education than there is from free or cheap feeding. But that is another question altogether.

3904. You consider it a good thing that parents should pay, however small a sum?—Yes, unquestionably.

3905. Have you any knowledge of the regularity with which meals are given. There seem to be many cases in London where meals are only given twice a week?—That, I think, is the general method. In our schools as much time as the voluntary friends can spare is given. Many of the workers are engaged in finding their own bread and cheese and they can only spare a limited time to feeding the children. It is all voluntary.

3906. Meals may be provided on five days a week in some cases but at a given school only on two?—Yes.

3907. What would you say with regard to that?—The late Dr. Fuller, if I may quote him as an authority, contended that two good square meals for a child twice a week would keep it going, even if it had only scraps of bread and weak tea during the rest of the week. He considered that that would build up enough flesh and bone. That was the basis of the Destitute Children's Dinner Society, but many friends could not fall in with that idea. It was also said that we must not crystallise our methods too much, but must make them elastic to meet the fashion of the times.

3908. Have you any view with regard to the relative importance of breakfast and dinner, supposing that only one meal can be given?—Of the two I prefer giving breakfast, I think. It is a good foundation for the child for the day. As far as our own schools are concerned it is really a matter of the convenience of the friends. If they can manage breakfast better than dinner the breakfast is the better meal, but I do not think there is any principle involved in the thing.

3909. No important principle?—No.

3910. As a matter of fact I suppose that there are more dinners given in London than breakfasts?—Yes, far more. Breakfasts are quite an exceptional thing. I know some cases where friends leave suburban homes about seven in the morning to provide children with breakfast in time to get to school.

3911. Have you seen anything of the Salvation Army system of breakfasts?—No I have not in this country. I saw it in Canada two years ago.

3912. You have not, in your work in London, come across the slum depôts at which we understand breakfasts are provided every morning for a farthing?—I have been in them, but I cannot say that I have been to one of the breakfasts. I am familiar with these depôts and I have been in and out amongst them, but I have not seen the breakfasts and cannot give details.

3913. Have you any opinion as regards the proposal that there should be a cheap dinner provided at every school for which the parents should pay the cost price, say a penny or three half-pence?—I have felt all along that it would be only just to the poor that they should have the same advantages as I have for my own children. Take the case of children going to one of these secondary schools. The mother perhaps is busy or wishes to be free for the day. If she gives fourpence or sixpence, the cost price of a meal, the meal is secured without any idea of pauperising. It is a great convenience, and I think that poor people should have a like convenience without the threat of being penalised.

3914. Do you think that the poor would take advantage of it where their homes are close by?—I am

always a champion of the poor. There is as much virtue and morality amongst the poor as amongst the rich. There are those in all sections who will take wide advantage of any public benefit, but for the most part I feel that the balance would be on the side of good. Of course there may be abuse as there is in all these things.

3915. If there were such a meal would parents take advantage of it. I do not mean advantage in a bad sense?—I think they would. It is much better for the children to have a place to go to, than to have to run the streets for two hours with only bread and dripping, or what not, if as happens mother is at work.

3916. As a rule the homes are so near the public elementary schools that children can go home?—Yes, but often the mother is out. They do not sit down to a comfortable meal. You see them by the hundred running about.

3917. You would not exclude the children who could go home whose mothers are at home if the meal is provided at school?—No. I would have the opportunity given of some such advantage in the school itself, or near the building.

3918. You think that parents would regard it as a benefit?—Yes, I feel sure they would.

3919. You have specially mentioned in your short précis the case of retarded children. Will you tell us what you have to say about them?—We have a register at our Ragged School Union of all the feeble and crippled children. A portion of them is confined to the sick room. Our visitors arrange that they shall have some nourishing food supplied to them—dinners or what not. A good deal is done in that way. But that would scarcely come within the scope of your enquiry with regard to school children.

3920. Those would be invalid children unable to attend school?—Yes.

3921. The term "retarded" in our reference has rather a technical meaning. It means children who are attending school who are not defective, but supposed to be backward through the want of food?—There is no separate provision made for them apart from the cripple and invalid centres, where food is provided, the different central funds providing grants.

3922. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) With regard to this list what is the reason for the very great difference in the number of meals given in different centres. For Collingwood Street, New Cut, the number is 130,000. Have you a larger centre there?—No, but there is a huge soup kitchen sustained mainly by Mr. Denny. The locality would include the whole of the New Cut, and an immense amount of feeding is done for the whole district.

3923. It is a large soup kitchen maintained by him?—Yes, largely.

3924. The feeding of the children would be partly by funds that he raises and partly by these different Associations?—Yes.

3925. Funds for that would come from outside sources entirely?—Yes. We do not contribute at all.

3926. He has to raise the money. We shall not have his balance-sheet, shall we?—It is out of his own pocket.

3927. In the same way that Dr. Barnardo would raise funds for Copperfield Road?—Yes. It would be on the Council's list.

3928. Taking the places that I know who would be at Love Lane, Shadwell?—Mr. Mills, the superintendent of the City Missionary, and the soup kitchen is run for the benefit of the people in the neighbourhood. School children come in for a share of it. We are not contributing from our funds towards its maintenance.

3929. It is merely an ordinary soup kitchen and a certain number of children are received?—Yes.

3930. Christian Street in Commercial Road in the same way?—Yes. That is another mission.

3931. They are almost all Jews in the Christian Street School?—Yes.

3932. Would there be children who came to a Sunday School?—I do not know exactly.

3933. Then George Yard and King Edward, Spitalfields?—George Yard is in High Street, Whitechapel. It is quite distinct from King Edward's. It is a quarter of an hour's walk away.

3934. George Yard does not appear?—I know that they do feeding.

3935. It is one of your oldest centres?—Yes.

3936. Can you get figures with regard to that?—Yes, I can amplify the list and give you all the details with regard to each centre.

3937. (Chairman.) Any information you can give us would be very valuable?—Very well. Provision is made at a good many of our schools. We have opened a new building at Tooting where there is provision made for dinners. It will in due course appear as a feeding district when the need comes. There is all the accommodation.

3938. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You are still keeping up Sunday Schools at those centres?—Yes.

3939. Are the tickets ever given through the Sunday Schools?—No, never.

3940. The feeding is always distinct from the Sunday School organization?—Yes, entirely.

3941. (Dr. Parsons.) Are the meals furnished by the Ragged School Union wholly vegetarian?—No, not at all; very few of them are. I was asked to join the Committee and assist them with the experience I might have, and I did so, but not as a vegetarian. I have said that the project which Mr. Hills had in his mind was not a success—that food should be taken about in the streets and supplied just as a dairyman supplies milk.

3942. I was wondering how you could work with the Destitute Children's Dinner Society which makes the provision of meat a *sine qua non*?—That could not be managed at all of course.

3943. Your work is administrative?—Yes.

3944. You cater for schools which are provided with funds from other sources?—That is so. Camberwell is the one that has come under my own personal superintendence now for many many years as honorary superintendent. There we get a grant from the Destitute Children's Dinner Society. Here is the Report (*handing the same to the Committee*). That is where I spend all the leisure time I have on Sunday.

3945. (Chairman.) Have you any remarks to make upon the present system of organising this matter in London?—I should view with great concern the idea of the State taking it up.

3946. That is outside our reference altogether. We want to consider how to make the best of voluntary associations. Could you give us any indication as to any changes you would like to see introduced into the present system?—We must remember that constant changes are going on now. It will be needful to adjust our feeding arrangements to co-ordinate them with the new order of things. Hitherto, practically, the national schools have obtained their supplies from other sources. The London Schools Dinner Association has been in the main confined to the County Council Schools, but now that they and the National Schools are all under one authority it will be needful to co-ordinate the relief. I am hoping for a good deal from the proposal of Relief Committees for each school. I think that if the authorities are linked with the teachers and have a definite committee in each school it will be fairly easy for those outside who are trying to help the children to act through that relief committee. With regard to boots and clothing there is often a difficulty. Applications come in from two or three sources to the office. I am hoping to see the proposal carried out, that there shall be in connection with each school, particularly in the poor districts, this relief committee. It should command the confidence of everyone. It will prevent a good deal of the advertising newspaper element and tend to bring direct relief to the children without all the evil influences that we see around us.

3947. Have you anything to say about how you would like to see the Relief Committees constituted?—I think that the sketch which has been given by the County Council is the right one—that there should be one or two managers, the head teachers, and one or two outside friends of an independent character. What I should deprecate would be the penalising of people because they are poor. They should not necessarily be branded as paupers. We are there to help the children. Sometimes there is really too critical a spirit manifested.

Mr. J. Kirk.
11 July, 1905.

Mr. J. Kirk. 3948. Would you utilise the School Attendance Officer?—Certainly—to visit the homes of the children.
11 July, 1905.

3949. You think that he is the proper person to visit the homes?—Yes. I would not make it too official. It detracts from that brotherly sympathy which should permeate the whole of the work of caring for the children in which we have the highest interest and which we desire to further to the uttermost.

3950. Generally speaking, have you any further suggestions to make?—I think not. It is embraced in what I have said of the Relief Committees. A Relief Committee in connection with each school is the crux of the whole thing, and I would let all outside charity come through that Relief Committee.

3951. Have you seen a good deal of overlapping going on?—No. I have seen a good deal of irregularity but not much overlapping. I am not frightened by the bugbear of overlapping. I am far more concerned about the middle classes, or lower middle classes, who are

being pauperised by free education, and private schools being starved out of existence.

3952. Have you seen examples of teachers being flooded with gifts from newspapers, and matters of that kind?—Yes, I have seen a great deal of that and often not a little envy on the part of other teachers who are not in the same happy position. You cannot prevent spasmodic effort of that kind. There is a good deal of it. When the door is open there is the temptation to the enterprising teacher to get publicity. You cannot help it.

3953. You attach great importance to regularity and permanence?—Yes—through a responsible committee. I have a record here of our feeding arrangements. It is rather personal as being in the form of an interview, but I might put it in (*handing the same to the Committee*).

3954. This contains an account of what the society is doing in the way of assisting and feeding children and adults?—Yes.

3955. (*Chairman.*) Thank you very much.

Dr. J. M. MARTIN, called ; and Examined.

Dr. J. M. Martin. 3956. (*Chairman.*) You are Medical Officer of Health under the County Council of Gloucestershire?—And also for three districts in Gloucestershire.
11 July, 1905.

3957. Would you specify them?—The Stroud Urban, the Stroud Rural, and the Nailsworth Urban.

3958. Are you also medical officer for the purposes of the Education Committee?—I have not been formally appointed but I have acted for the Committee whenever they have wanted advice; in this case, I must confess, on my own initiative.

3959. Would you tell us what your experience of the medical work in schools had been before the institution of the Gloucestershire Education Committee?—In November and January of 1899 and 1900 I was assisting Doctor Newsholme at Brighton in hunting for mild unrecognised cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever, and it was that that gave me my first appreciation of the importance of school work. After my appointment as medical officer of health for the Stroud Rural District Council I had occasion to know from my own experience of the influence of schools in the spread of disease; and in the November after my first appointment I got the managers of one of the voluntary schools in my district to have an examination made of the children. That was practically when it began. The managers of the schools continued the examination up to the time that the schools were taken over by the County Council under the Education Act of 1902.

3960. Was there a school board at Stroud at that time?—Yes.

3961. Did you ever hold any official appointment under that school board?—No.

3962. But you were enabled to visit other schools than the voluntary school which you mentioned?—I did not do the work at the voluntary school myself. The managers paid a local practitioner to do the work, but in all cases where we have had outbreaks of notifiable infectious disease I have visited the schools and made examinations for mild cases myself.

3963. May we take this report which you have sent us as supplemented by your further notes as constituting your evidence in chief and ask you questions upon it?—Yes, you may. (*The witness handed in the following Report and Precis.*)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON THE EXPERIMENTAL MEDICAL INSPECTION OF THE CHILDREN ATTENDING THE FORTY-FOUR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE STROUD UNION.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

The first occasion—so far as I am aware—on which any school in this county was systematically inspected was in November, 1901, when the Governors of the Stonehouse National School, on my suggestion, and on the representations of Dr. G. T. B. Watters (one of the Governors), made arrangements primarily for the detection of unrecognised

cases of scarlet fever: in the course of the examination Dr. McLannahan found that 43 per cent. of the children were suffering from various contagious conditions, chiefly lice in the head. These examinations were continued each term up to the time the schools were taken over by the County Council, and at the final examination (with the exception of a few cases of impetigo) the school had a clean bill of health. That the conditions originally found in the Stonehouse school existed in others in this neighbourhood was shewn by my experience at the Stroud temporary Isolation Hospital where on admission 30 per cent. (including adults as well as children) were found to have lice or nits in their heads. Further, it is the general experience that one of the most powerful influences in the spread of infectious diseases is the number of mild unrecognised cases attending school which cannot be detected except by those with special knowledge.

I have dealt with this subject in my various reports, and drew special attention to the matter in my County Summaries for 1902 and 1903. In April 1904 I made a report to the school management sub-committee of the Education Committee in the course of which I pointed out that though the idea of medical inspection of children attending public elementary schools was no new thing and had been extensively adopted in the United States of America, on the Continent of Europe, and—in varying degrees of completeness—in some large towns in England, the matter had as yet been taken up by no County Education Committee. At the request of the sub-committee I made a further report in the following month suggesting a scheme dealing with the forty-four schools (and about 7,000 children) in the Stroud Union; the proposal then made was that the medical man nearest each school should act as the medical inspector and the cost for the *minimum* amount of work necessary was estimated at £150 for one year. This report was adopted by the sub-committee at their meeting on the 14th May 1904 and confirmed by the Education Committee on the 28th May: at the following meeting of the sub-committee on the 11th June, a special local committee was appointed to carry out the scheme—Mr. Alfred Apperly, Mr. E. E. Evans, Mr. A. B. Ghewy, Mr. F. A. Hyett, Sir William Marling and Mr. A. J. Morton Ball (Chairman of the Committee for the Stroud group of schools) was co-opted as a member of this Committee, which has held seven meetings.

It was at once realised that the work would be more thoroughly and uniformly carried out by one man devoting his whole time to it, and at the first meeting of the Local Committee this was decided and various forms in connection with the work were considered, and at the next meeting Myer Coplans, Esq., M.D. Lond., D.P.H. Cambridge, was appointed to act as Medical Inspector under my directions.

From Dr. Coplans's Reports it appears that all the forty-four schools were visited during the autumn term of 1904 and of the 7,294 children on the books 6,679 (or 91.6 per cent. of the total) were examined; and during the following spring term twenty-nine schools were

visited and 5,072 children (69.5 per cent. of the total, or 83.8 per cent. of the numbers on the books at eight schools) were examined.

The particulars which Dr. Coplans noted are given under the following headings, with the total cases found in the course of the two examinations.

Contagious Conditions		1st.	2nd.
Ringworm of head	- - -	85	21
Ringworm of body	- - -	9	4
Vermin	- - -	238	94
Eggs of lice	- - -	642	303
Large Ulcers	- - -	17	1
Small Ulcers	- - -	43	16
Ecthyma	- - -	3	—
Itch	- - -	22	1
Inflamed eyelids	- - -	16	7
Ulcerated dirty head	- - -	19	9
Ulcerated mouth	- - -	1	—
Scarlatina	- - -	5	—
Acute Tonsillitis	- - -	36	—
Chicken Pox	- - -	1	—
Whooping Cough	- - -	1	—
Tuberculous discharge	- - -	3	3
Totals		1141	459

Non-contagious Conditions		1st.	2nd.
Ichthyosis	- - -	7	8
Alopecia	- - -	5	3
Ear discharge	- - -	7	9
Nettle rash	- - -	8	0
Psoriasis	- - -	8	6
Eczema	- - -	49	23
Dirty heads	- - -	571	166
Total		655	215

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Of the 6,679 children examined, 17.10 per cent. were described as suffering from some contagious condition and 9.8 per cent. from non-contagious conditions. During the second inspection in the spring of 1905, of 5,072 children examined, 459 or 9.05 per cent. are described as suffering from some contagious condition and 215 or 4.24 per cent. from some non-contagious condition.

One of the objects in selecting the Stroud Union as the area for the experiment was that it contained well marked "urban" and "rural" schools which could thus be compared. For this purpose I grouped the schools as urban, semi-urban and rural and then calculated the proportions of affected children in each group; the rates per 1,000 children are given in the table on the next sheet.

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MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

STROUD UNION, 1904-5; CHILDREN AFFECTED PER 1,000.

	Inspection.	Depart- ments.	Children Examined.	Ring- worm.	Vermis.	Eggs of Lice.	Itch.	Scarlet Fever.	Chicken- pox.	Whooping Cough.	Other Contagious Conditions.	Total.		Dirty Heads.	Total Vermis, Eggs of Lice, Dirty Heads.
												Contagious Conditions.	Non- contagious Conditions.		
Urban Schools	Christmas, 1904	12	1,817	18.2	26.4	10.1	7.2	—	6	—	29.7	186.1	51.7	38.0	168.5
	Easter, 1905	12	1,817	7.2	16.0	69.9	6	—	—	—	7.7	101.3	42.4	27.0	112.9
Semi-Urban Schools	Christmas, 1904	21	2,484	14.9	29.0	73.7	2.4	2.0	—	—	16.1	138.1	89.4	77.3	180.0
	Easter, 1905	18	2,182	3.2	14.7	43.5	—	—	—	—	5.0	66.4	36.7	30.7	88.9
Rural Schools	Christmas, 1904	24	2,378	10.1	49.6	113.6	1.3	—	—	4	18.5	108.5	142.6	130.4	293.6
	Easter, 1905	9	1,073	4.7	30.8	75.5	—	—	—	—	10.3	121.2	54.1	40.6	152.9
TOTAL	Christmas, 1904	57	6,679	14.1	35.6	60.1	3.3	8	2	2	20.7	170.9	98.1	85.5	217.2
	Easter, 1905	39	5,072	4.9	18.5	69.7	2	—	—	—	7.1	90.5	42.4	32.7	110.9

On the basis therefore of the figures obtained by Dr. Copland it appears that.

I. (a) Out of the 6,679 children in the whole Union first examined 27 per cent. were suffering (1) 17.1 from some contagious condition and (2) 9.8 from some non-contagious condition.

(b) Of the contagious conditions, vermin and eggs of lice account for far the larger proportion, 13.2 per cent. of the children being thus affected.

(c) Of the 9.8% of non-contagious conditions, 8.6 are described as "dirty heads."

(d) Disease due to parasites—ringworm, scabies—affected 1.7 per cent.

(e) Only few cases of the ordinary infectious diseases were found—viz. a total of 7.

II. (a) For contagious conditions, urban and rural schools are nearly equally affected—19 per cent. of the children.

(b) For non-contagious conditions, rural schools compare unfavourably with urban schools in the proportion of 14.3 per cent. to 5.2 per cent.

(c) Adding the totals for vermin, eggs of lice and "dirty heads" together, this proportion becomes 29.4 per cent. to 16.9 per cent.

III. Considerable improvement was effected after the first inspection both in the proportion of contagious and non-contagious conditions to the extent of some 50 per cent., non-contagious slightly more than contagious conditions.

The general results of this experimental scheme appear to bear out the experience obtained by the examinations made at Stonehouse National School in 1901 and 1902, and it would appear probable that the same results which were finally obtained at Stonehouse—"only a few cases of impetigo"—could be obtained throughout all schools.

With these facts before us, two questions arise to be answered:

1. Are there sufficient grounds for establishing a general system of medical supervision over schools?

2. If the above is answered in the affirmative, how can this supervision be most advantageously and economically provided?

One result of the experimental scheme has been to confirm the statements made in my previous reports as to the extent to which preventable contagious conditions exist amongst elementary school children. According to Dr. Copland's figures out of the 6,679 children examined at the time of the first inspection, 1,796, or 27 per cent. were suffering from some preventable condition and during the second inspection 674 out of 5,072 examined or 13.3. The improvement effected between the two inspections is thus some 50 per cent.

Therefore, from the facts that more than one quarter of the children were found to be suffering from some "preventable" condition of the skin, and that this proportion was reduced by one-half at the time of the second examination it would appear that there are sufficient grounds for some form of inspection.

When the conditions found are grouped into those easily recognised, and those requiring special training for recognition, the percentage works out to be:

	1st. exam. per cent.	2nd. exam. per cent.
1. Easily recognised when looked for	81.8	84.9
2. Not so easily recognised	10.9	7.4
3. Requiring special training	7.3	7.7

In the first group would come—verminous conditions (lice and eggs of lice), ulcerated heads, dirty heads.

In the second group—ringworm, ulcers, scabies, ecthyma, and inflamed eyelids.

In the third group—infectious diseases, tonsillitis and various skin diseases.

For the recognition of the great proportion of the above medical training is not necessary, and if these alone were to be dealt with, inspection by a medical man, would be unnecessary, but if the risk of overlooking any of the more dangerous conditions (which are perhaps the most difficult to recognise) is considered, it is obvious that some form of medical supervision is essential.

The form that the medical supervision should take depends greatly on the distribution and accessibility of the schools, but the present experiment has demonstrated the importance of central control, the necessity of keeping in touch with the local sanitary authority, and the need

for all possible tact and consideration in making the examinations. It has been pointed out above that a large proportion of the conditions found would be easily recognisable; how far the needs in various cases would be met by trained nurses, who have had special experience of skin diseases is a matter for consideration; but it is possible that under the supervision of a medical man nurses would satisfy many requirements. Fortunately for the district, but unfortunately for the experiment, the prevalence of such diseases as diphtheria and scarlet fever, was at a minimum during the whole time, but there can be no doubt had there been any tendency for an epidemic of these diseases, that the medical inspection would have been of the greatest service in gaining an early control of the disease. For these diseases, inspection by a medical man is essential.

There is little to be learnt from a study of the sheets, giving the average attendance at the schools, during the period of the medical inspection.

In the Stroud group of schools at the commencement of the inspection (August 1904) the average attendance in the standards was 90 per cent., in November it went up to 91 per cent., and then remained at 90 per cent. till February, when owing to an outbreak of measles in a few of the schools, the attendance fell to 89 per cent., in March to 84 per cent., and in April to 81 per cent. It appears therefore, that the attendance was certainly not seriously reduced by the primary inspection, but owing to the outbreak of measles and other considerations it is impossible to say whether the attendance would or would not have been improved.

The experimental scheme has met with the fullest co-operation by the teachers, and with but very few objections from the parents; in all cases which have come to my knowledge, I have called at the houses, and find that, while there has been some objection to the methods of examination, on the principles of the scheme being explained all objection was withdrawn in every instance, but one.

The Royal Commission on Physical Training (Scotland) and the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration, both strongly recommended such a systematic medical inspection of school children as that we are now considering. The latter body reported amongst other matters:—

"The Committee are emphatic in recommending that a systematised medical inspection of children at school should be imposed as a public duty on every school & par. 323, authority, and they agree with the Royal Commission on p. 65. Physical Training (Scotland) that a contribution towards the cost should be made out of the Parliamentary vote."

In another part of their report it is stated "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."

This Report was published nearly two months after the Gloucestershire Education Committee resolved to carry out the present experimental scheme.

I would conclude that:

1. The results of the experimental scheme of medical inspection of children attending the public elementary schools in the Stroud Union prove that some sort of medical supervision of elementary schools is necessary in the interests of the children and for the prevention of disease.

2. Probably some share in the work might be undertaken by nurses skilled in recognising skin diseases.

3. Medical inspection from time to time would be necessary for doubtful cases, and for the detection of mild unrecognised cases of infectious diseases.

4. The anthropometric surveys and registers of sickness recommended by the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration (Report 20 July, 1904, Recommendations 1 and 2 page 84), might be most usefully kept in connection with the schools.

5. Lessons in hygiene in the schools would be of great assistance in the work of medical inspection and improving the general tone of living.

Note.—The above report is intended to deal only with the results of the inspection undertaken and matters closely related to it. There are, however, many other points that might be usefully considered if some such scheme is adopted generally.

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Considera-
tion.

Recommend.
No. 41, p. 91
should be imposed as a public duty on every school & par. 323,
authority, and they agree with the Royal Commission on p. 65.
Physical Training (Scotland) that a contribution towards
the cost should be made out of the Parliamentary vote."
Loc. cit. par.
326, p. 65.

Conclusions.

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PRECIS OF EVIDENCE.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

The accompanying Report gives the summary of the events of the experimental scheme in this county, from its commencement in August, 1904, to its premature end in May, 1905. It is supplemented by the following notes in order that all the suggested headings for evidence may be answered.

A.—Staff.

1. The scheme was carried out under the directions of the county medical officer of health through Dr. Myer Coplans, who was appointed solely for the purpose of this scheme.
2. Nurses were not engaged, but that their services would be useful in future work is suggested.
3. None.

B.—Organisation.

1. The experimental scheme dealing with one section of the county during nine months.
 - (a) Primarily for the prevention of infectious diseases.
 - (b) In the case of eleven schools, on the report of the school attendance officer.
 - (c) (d) (e) and (f) It was intended that notes should be made on these points, but the information is not available.
 - (g) 1,131 children were examined and 252 or 22 per cent. are stated to have defective vision.
 - (h) and (i) No observations.
 - (j) Full results of the inspection are given in the accompanying report.
2. (a) 93 per cent. of the children were weighed and their heights were measured.
 - (b) Records were obtained with respect to scarlet fever, measles, chicken-pox, diphtheria, mumps, whooping cough, croup, ulcerated sore throat, rheumatic fever, chorea and small-pox.
3. The area of the Stroud union was selected for the experiment, partly because it contained well marked urban and rural districts.
4. The schools were visited in order, for the systematic inspections and at irregular intervals, when cases of infectious conditions occurred.
5. Every child without selection.
6. A copy of the enclosed Table B of symptoms of infectious diseases has been sent to the head teacher of every school in the county.
7. Notes are sent by the head teachers to the parents.
8. None.
9. At the termination of the first complete inspection of the forty-four schools, the medical inspector reported that the scheme had been "welcomed by the vast majority of the parents." In all cases of objection which have come to my knowledge, I have called at the houses and find that, while there has been some objection to the methods of examination, on the principles of the scheme being explained all objection was withdrawn in every instance with one exception.
10. (a) Yes, to medical officer of health of the district.
- (b) Yes, see accompanying Table B and Instructions C.
- (c) No organised arrangement exists, though this information is often given.
- (d) From the annual reports of the medical officers of health it would appear that they often visit the schools for the purpose of detecting mild unrecognised cases of notifiable infectious diseases.
11. (a) Yes, with respect to infection to the sanitary authority.
- (b) The head teacher is empowered to do so by the Education Committee who offer to pay 1s. for the medical certificate.

C.—

The grant for the year's experimental scheme was £150 to cover all the expenses. The medical inspector was to receive £120.

1. The summary of the results obtained is given in the accompanying report A, from which it would appear that some system of medical supervision is necessary in the interests of the children and for the prevention of disease.

2. The present scheme was brought to a premature ending owing to personal difficulties. The experiment has demonstrated the importance of central control, the necessity of keeping in touch with the local sanitary authority, and the need for all possible tact and consideration in making the examinations.

3. The improvement effected between the two systematic inspections appears to have been about 50 per cent.—non-contagious conditions in slightly greater degree than contagious (see page 3 of Report A, III., and Table given on the following sheet).

3964. (Witness.) With regard to the history of the work in the county, I have reports with notes, which I shall be very glad to hand in. They are already in the possession of the Local Government Board. (*Handing the same to the Committee.*)

3965. I will ask you now some questions about the medical inspection which was carried out in the Stroud Union during the past year. It was eventually determined to place it all in the hands of one medical officer?—That is so.

3966. Will you tell us the reasons which led to that?—We felt that the interest of private practitioners was in their private practice and that we should probably not get such uniform results if the work was divided up amongst a number of men as we should if one man were in charge of the whole number of schools under observation. I also felt that the private practitioner would not have time to go into matters so thoroughly as a man who was devoting his whole time to the work. It also struck me that it was work of rather a special character, which would be appreciated more by a man who was working on public health work than by a man who was in private practice, the position of the two men being somewhat different; the one aiming at curing disease and the other at hunting for disease.

3967. As I understand it, were such a system as this to be made universal in the county, the main part of the work would be done at the beginning. It would not be necessary to have such a close investigation year by year as you would have on your first visit to the schools?—That is the opinion I have held all along, and the opinion which I have expressed when the question has arisen—that the first examination is the heavy examination. As soon as a man got to know his material and got some hold of it, the work, generally speaking, would be more or less of a routine character to him.

3968. Cost is a very important element in this matter. This particular investigation seems to have cost about £150?—As a matter of fact it has not cost so much as that. We have expended, I think, up to the present moment under £100; but the experiment was brought to a premature end after nine months.

3969. Could you give us any estimate of the cost for the whole county of carrying out such a system after it got into working order?—I have not prepared an estimate. I do not think it could be done under £2,000.

3970. About £2,000 a year would enable you to carry out year by year in Gloucestershire such an inspection as you yourself would think important?—I think so. I would not bind myself to that. It might be a little less or more, depending on the scope of the work that was undertaken.

3971. We quite understand that it is only an estimate. Would that mean the employment of several medical officers full time on this work only?—That would be my own idea. It would depend largely on the development of public health work. If ultimately there was constituted one county authority with assistants instead of the present system, it could be worked in with such a system.

3972. The effect of the inquiry which you have been speaking of was very largely to reduce the number of cases of disease?—Yes.

3973. I see that only twenty-nine schools were visited on the second occasion: were those arbitrarily selected—forty-four on the first occasion and twenty-nine on the second?—They were arbitrarily selected to this extent, that the schools were the more easily accessible schools;

3974. They were not specially chosen with a view of any particular kind of disease?—No, they were not.

3975. The intention was, I suppose, to visit all the schools, had the enquiry not been brought to a premature conclusion?—Yes, that is so.

3976. Would you tell us what means had been employed between the two inspections which resulted in the reduction of infectious cases?—Moral influence only.

3977. Would you develop that answer?—The attention of the parents was called to anything that was found wrong with the children, by notes sent to the parents by the teacher. The teacher's attention was also called to it at the same time. Here is one.

3978. The note was to this effect. "Your child has been found by the medical inspector to be suffering from disease, a condition which is infectious and which is liable to be communicated to other children. It is necessary that the child should be cured of this condition before returning to school. He (or she) will not be re-admitted without a certificate of freedom from infectious disease signed by your own medical attendant or the medical inspector of schools." Was it found actually necessary to exclude any children?—In some cases they were excluded, but in the majority of cases it was not found necessary. In one school in which ringworm was very prevalent, a separate desk was given to the children suffering from that complaint.

3979. They were isolated in the school?—They were isolated in the school.

3980. Was it found necessary to proceed to prosecution for non-attendance?—Not in the case of the examination which we have just terminated; but in the case of Stonehouse National Schools the parents of some of the children were prosecuted.

3981. With what results?—They were fined by the magistrates. I could not quite understand it at the time, but the explanation is—you could discover that the children had something the matter with them; you could exclude them from the school but there were no means of compelling the parents to take steps to remedy the matter. The only step that could be taken was to prosecute the parents for non-attendance at school of the children.

3982. They were prosecuted and convicted?—They were prosecuted and convicted.

3983. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Was there any form besides that one demanding practically their exclusion. That seems rather to say that they must not come back; but you say they were not really excluded?—The form was not used after we had been working for some time. Dr. Coplans told me there were difficulties and that the forms were not used very much; but we started with that form.

3984. You had no other forms asking the parents to get the children right to prevent their being excluded?—No.

3985. The form was so very arbitrary that you could not really use it. You could not exclude a large percentage of the children?—No; they were not excluded—only the very bad cases were excluded. The attention of the parents was called to others.

3986. But you had not any form for calling their attention to others?—That was the form that was started by Dr. Coplans and issued.

3987. (Dr. Parsons.) The exclusion was by the school authorities themselves and not by the sanitary authority under Article 57 of the Code?—By the school authority. All the work was done under the school authority.

3988. (Chairman.) You also had in a form which was sent to parents indicating what should be done in the case of dirty heads?—Yes (*handing the same to the Committee.*)

3989. Short directions as to the proper treatment?—Yes, that was drawn up by Dr. Coplans. I had nothing to do with it. I saw it after it was drawn up.

3990. The result of the inquiry showed that in certain particulars the rural schools were worse as regards diseases than the urban schools?—Yes.

3991. Was that a surprise to you?—It was a surprise.

3992. Can you account for it in any way?—The one suggestion which has occurred to me—and I think there is something in it—is with regard to the water supply.

Perhaps before I say that, I should give you some idea as to how I obtained these groupings without having the figures. I had the list of schools and I grouped them roughly according to whether they were of an urban or a rural character. I know the district well. After I had so grouped the schools I took down the figures. So far as I can gather, the water supply in the places where the schools are rural schools is less satisfactory than in the other parts; and I think it is a question of having water and a question of the customary use of water.

3993. You attribute great importance to the existence of a sufficient water supply, the use of which is understood?—I do undoubtedly.

3994. (Dr. Parsons.) Where they have to fetch the water from long distances they use less of it, do they not?—Yes, they use a great deal less.

3995. Is there any difference in the class of people in the rural and the urban schools; in one, for instance, agricultural labourers and in the other clothworkers?—No marked difference. The cloth hands come from long distances to the mills in the Stroud valley. The mills are so scattered about that there is not one particular part which is devoted to the industry and another part which is not. The mills are in the valleys and the people live chiefly on the hills.

3996. (Chairman.) No serious objections were taken to the examination of the children on the part of the parents?—None, so far as I am aware.

3997. You say in your report that very few objections were taken. Of what nature were those objections where they were taken?—Chiefly to it as marking the children. In one case in which complaint was made (this was during the second examination), the names of two children had been called out with the names of five others for examination. The five were known to be dirty at the last examination, and these two were known by the schoolmaster to be specially clean children, and the parents objected to the names of their children being called out with the names of those who were known to be dirty, as casting a sort of stigma on them.

3998. What steps did the parents take?—They wrote to one of the managers of the school, who sent the letter to the Secretary for Education, and it was passed on to me. On investigating the case I saw the father and mother. The father was most annoyed; but as soon as I explained fully to him the object of the examination he withdrew the objection.

3999. You say that objection was withdrawn in every instance but one. Would you tell us about the one in which it was not withdrawn?—The one was in a remote part of the district, and they regarded it as an interference with their children. They said that if their children were dirty they would look after them themselves; and they would not consent to any of their children being examined. There was no definite reason for it that I could make out.

4000. In that case was the child excluded from the school?—No, it was not.

4001. It was not considered necessary?—It was not considered necessary.

4002. (Dr. Parsons.) What was the salary or remuneration that was given to the medical inspector?—He was promised £140 for the year—£120 was to come out of our grant of £150 from the Education Committee, and £20 was to come from the Committee for the Stroud group of schools for giving certificates for absentee children. If the school attendance officer had reason to suppose that a child was absent from school because he was ill and there was no medical certificate forthcoming, he would ask the medical inspector to visit the child and give a certificate; and for that work the medical inspector would get £20.

4003. That was work outside the systematic examination?—Yes, outside the systematic examination.

4004. Do you think that you could generally reckon to engage a competent medical man for the purpose as a permanency, for such a sum as you have mentioned?—Most certainly you could not do it.

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4005. So that if the work had to be permanently organised you would require to give a much larger salary?—I think so.

4006. The work has now, I understand, been suspended, for reasons which I need not go into now, personal to the inspector; but is it intended to take it up again?—I am not in a position to say, because the matter has not been considered by the Committee since the work was stopped.

4007. Did it occupy the inspector's whole time?—Yes, he was devoting his whole time to it.

4008. There was one examination made in the autumn of 1904, and another in the spring of 1905?—That is so.

4009. Did it occupy his time continuously from the date that the first was commenced to the date that the second was finished?—I made a mistake in an answer which I made just now. He was devoting his whole time to the work up to the end of 1904. Just before the end of 1904, he was appointed medical officer of health for one of the rural district councils' districts adjoining. It was not our intention that he should take up such a position; but it was not contrary to the agreement, and he was allowed to hold it, and he still holds it. From the 1st of January he would devote part of his time to the work of the district; how much, of course, I cannot say.

4010. He was not required then to give the whole of his time to the work?—It was intended that he should have given the whole of his time, and the conditions on which he was appointed were intended to clearly state that. It was clearly stated that he should not engage in private practice; but unfortunately it was omitted that he should not take a public appointment.

4011. Was he required to live in the district?—He did, as a matter of fact, but there was no stipulation to that effect.

4012. Here is a list of the conditions which were ascertained at the examination of the children in the schools. Was anything done with respect to eyesight and with regard to inflamed eyelids?—With regard to inflamed eyelids, that was included generally under the infectious conditions, and attention was drawn to it.

4013. Was anything done with respect to errors of refraction?—Dr. Coplans examined 1,131 children. Of those suffering from defective eyesight the proportion is 22 per cent. I may state that these figures are entirely based, as I say in my report, on Dr. Coplans' figures, and I cannot vouch definitely for the accuracy of the figures.

4014. The children were examined for errors of refraction?—That number—1,131.

4015. Were those taken at random, or selected?—They were taken from the schools which were convenient with regard to accessibility in the immediate neighbourhood of Stroud.

4016. If so large a proportion as 22 per cent. were found to have defective eyesight in the way of refraction, that would seem to show that there is a wide need for similar examinations throughout the other schools?—It would.

4017. Were defects of hearing inquired into?—So far as I am aware no inquiries were made.

4018. I did not see Impetigo in the list of contagious conditions, although it is mentioned that a few cases were found at the second examination?—It comes under the heading of Ecthyma.

4019. It is a condition which sometimes leads to schools being closed. I have known instances?—Apparently there were only three cases discovered in the course of examination.

4020. I do not quite understand the classification into conditions which are easily recognised when looked for, and those which are not so easily recognised and require special training to recognise them. Is it not rather a question of degree than of the nature of the conditions. Take a case of acute tonsillitis, for instance; that is easily recognised?—You recognise that it is tonsillitis, but you cannot recognise whether it is tonsillitis or diphtheria.

4021. Ulcers, ringworm, or inflamed eyelids, if they are severe, would be easily recognised, would they not, without special training?—It is rather the nature of the disease which I am speaking of. The fact would be easily recognised.

4022. The examination was of the whole of the children in these schools, and not merely of selected ones?—On the whole of the children in those schools. Some of the children were not present and escaped examination, although second visits were made to catch them.

4023. How many children could be examined in one day; can you give me any idea?—I could not give any definite idea. It depends entirely on whether a man has had much experience or not. If a man had had experience, say, of examining recruits for the Army, he would probably be able to examine three or four times the number that a man would be able to who had just started. It is a matter of method and experience.

4024. That would be a reason for appointing one man rather than a number of medical practitioners?—Yes.

4025. One man would gain the power of examining quickly and would get through much more in the time?—Yes, quite.

4026. Have you employed nurses at all?—No, we have not.

4027. Do you know anything of the Queen's Nurses?—I have worked with them at various places.

4028. We heard that there are certain places in Gloucestershire where they are employed for the examination of school children?—I was not aware of that.

4029. (Chairman.) Two places are mentioned in a return sent in—Gotherington and Quedgley?—I know both those places, and I know the nurses; but I did not know that they took any part in the work of examination at schools.

4030. At Gotherington the nurse visited only one school in the district, and no record was kept of the work done. It was voluntary and outside her regular duties?—Where is this information from, may I ask?

4031. It is information from the headquarters of the Queen's Nurses' Association in a return of their work. With regard to Quedgley, it is stated that the nurses only visited one school last year, but they might have been called in to any of the four. "About twenty cases of school children were treated by the nurse in our district at their own homes." The reason for the visits was the request of the teachers?—I am very much interested to hear that fact. There are many other parts of the county in which there are Queen's Nurses, besides those two.

4032. But they have not worked under your direction or under the direction of the authority?—No, they have not.

4033. (Dr. Parsons.) I see that you are of opinion that the services of nurses might be employed to a considerable extent in this inspection of school children?—I think they might be very usefully employed.

4034. Supplemented by medical supervision in doubtful cases?—Yes. Those are the views which I hold.

4035. Have you done anything with regard to anthropometric measurements?—A number of children have been weighed and measured. I have not been able to get the information that was obtained.

4036. (Chairman.) There is no systematic work of that kind yet started in the county?—At the first examination, 93 per cent. of the children were weighed and their heights were taken; but I have not been able to get the information.

4037. (Dr. Parsons.) Your opinion is that the results of the two examinations that were made in the autumn of 1904, and the spring of 1905, so far as they go, show that a very considerable amelioration in the condition of the children was effected as regards freedom from skin disease and so on?—Yes, as far as I can make out from the figures, roughly, to the extent of 50 per cent.

4038. You are unable to say that any improvement in the attendance at school was effected?—Unfortunately we had a serious outbreak of measles which affected the attendance, and it was impossible to gauge anything with regard to general attendance.

4039. The experience you gained was sufficiently encouraging to make you think it worth while to continue the system?—I think it most important that it should be.

4040. (Miss Lawrence.) We have been told that in the appointment of a medical officer for this particular work

it is advisable not to have a general practitioner, but that there would be no objection to the medical officer appointed being able to do consulting work. Would you agree on that point; or do you think he ought to give his whole time absolutely to the work?—I think that his one interest should be the schools.

4041. You would be inclined to limit him entirely to them?—I think so.

4042. (Dr. Parsons.) There might be cases perhaps where it was desirable to get the whole time services of a man, but where the authority could not pay sufficient to wholly retain a man in one capacity and his appointment might be joined with some other appointment, that of Medical Officer of Health, for instance?—Yes; I rather indicated that in my earlier remarks, when I said that as his whole time should be devoted to school interests. I should rather have said public health interests.

4043. (Miss Lawrence.) He should not be a consulting doctor?—I think he should not.

4044. In the examination you were telling us about, was any particular outlook kept in regard to mentally defective or physically defective children?—It was intended that notes should be made on any condition affecting any of the children, including that. That was my idea.

4045. Could you tell us whether any abnormal children were found?—With regard to the mentally defective epileptic, and physically defective, I could send you some figures. Some time ago there was a suggestion that Gloucester and Somerset (I forget whether Wiltshire came in or not) should establish a school for epileptic children. At that time the Secretary for Education obtained information by means of the school attendance officers and the teachers as to such children in the counties. He found that there were eleven mentally defective children, one epileptic child, one blind child, and one deaf child.

4046. Therefore that might be an important part of the medical officer's duty in the future?—I think so.

4047. In the examination, was any particular notice taken of any cases of malnutrition, so far as you are aware?—No.

4048. That particular thing did not come in?—No, it did not. When I started the scheme my intention was that any condition should be noted with regard to the children, whether we were able to take action upon it or not.

4049. It did not come under a special heading?—No, it did not come under a special heading.

4050. (Dr. Parsons.) Did you meet with the existence of a class of children who, though not defective, are from malnutrition below the normal standard?—You would get that rather from the anthropometric measurements which we did get to a certain extent.

4051. (Miss Lawrence.) Am I right in supposing that this medical officer acted under you?—He was appointed to act under me.

4052. Did you direct the scope of his work?—Yes, that was intended.

4053. And you did?—Yes.

4054. Would it be possible for teachers to send for him at any time that they thought it necessary, or were his visits regularly arranged?—His visits were not regularly arranged. He was given a free hand to go anywhere. In the case of special schools or where special conditions exist, it was the intention that he should pay special attention.

4055. If the teachers suspected any case of infectious disease, would they send for him or for you?—As medical officer of health they would send for me.

4056. Was the inspection done in school hours?—The inspection was done in school hours.

4057. Would you tell us the average length of any inspection and how many children could be examined in an hour, roughly; or is that not possible?—I could not answer that question.

4058. What would your suggestion be with regard to the employment of nurses; would you make them peripatetic?—Do you mean going to different parts of the country?

4059. Yes?—I think not. I think that the medical officer should be peripatetic. I am taking in the possibilities of my own county. It would probably be the district nurse who would be appointed. A County Nursing Association has been started, and the idea is to have a district nurse for every part of the county, who would be responsible for the work of the district.

4060. The number would depend on the district?—Yes, that is the general idea.

4061. I quite understand that that is only a broad outline. At the end of your Report you say that there are many other points which might be usefully considered if such scheme was adopted. Could you indicate any others?—I have already indicated those in answer to questions put to me.

4062. (Dr. Parsons.) Was any work done to ascertain the infectious diseases which the children had?—Yes. This is information from the parents: of the 7,294 children examined, the following proportions have had the following diseases: 9.7 per cent. scarlet fever; 58.4 per cent. measles, 21.3 chicken pox; 2 per cent. diphtheria; 17.6 mumps; 33.3 whooping cough; 2.9 croup; 4.2 quinsy; .9 rheumatic fever; and .5 chorea.

4063. Were any examinations made as to vaccination?—Yes.

4064. Was that objected to?—It would have been objected to if any prominence had been given to it in our part of the world; but it was taken as part of the general examination. So far as I can see, the figures agree a good deal with what I should have expected from the percentage of successful vaccinations according to the figures of the Local Government Board.

4065. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) If you were employing nurses would it be merely for inspection, or for treatment of bad heads and ulcers and so on?—I think myself that it is inadvisable for the public authority to undertake treatment.

4066. You would not let the nurses undertake it at all?—Not as acting for the school authority. As district nurses they might do it, but I do not think it would be advisable as acting for the school authority.

4067. You would not, as in Birmingham, have a nurse in to treat the children in the schools?—I would not be inclined to recommend that.

4068. Can the parents treat those things satisfactorily if they are told how?—They should be able to do so. The majority of cases are those of dirty heads; and I think undoubtedly the parents would be able to see to that.

4069. In your return there is a large proportion of cases of verminous condition, ringworm, and so on; but a very small proportion of the children were excluded?—A very small proportion.

4070. How were the numbers diminished? Were the parents given instructions?—This was given to them by the teachers (handing a document to the Committee).

4071. The parents were found able to do it?—The improvement was marked, anyhow, between the two examinations.

4072. With regard to inflamed eyelids, could they deal with those cases as well?—I think not; that requires more careful treatment.

4073. There were sixteen cases of inflamed eyelids and they were reduced to seven. Was that by treatment through the parents or through the school?—Not by the school certainly; but how it was I am unable to say.

4074. It was by advice. Was anything done about the teeth or nasal breathing?—No.

4075. (Mr. Walrond.) When these 252 children out of 1,131 were found to have defective vision, were any steps taken to advise the parents about glasses?—The question was raised as to whether the local School Committee should provide glasses.

4076. When was the question raised?—It was raised at the meetings of the Committee; but for various reasons we decided not to go on with it.

4077. Not to go on with the question of loaning glasses, or of advising?—Not to take the subject up at all for the time being. There were special reasons.

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4078. If any scheme of general medical inspection was adopted such as you have suggested, would there be a systematic inspection of eye-sight, or do you think that would be dropped?—I should certainly wish that adopted.

4079. In that case, you would undertake to recommend to the parents that children should have glasses if necessary?—I should be prepared to do that.

4080. Would you advise a system of loaning spectacles?—No, I think not. I would sooner provide the spectacles at cost price.

4081. Do you mean that the local authority should supply them at cost price; or would you arrange with an optician to supply them at a low figure?—Your suggestion I think would meet the case. I think it would probably be the better method to adopt.

4082. Would the cost of an elaborate inspection into defective vision be included in your estimate of £2,000 a year?—The examination of the eyes as given here was not an elaborate one; it was simply with test types.

4083. What you are suggesting now would be a more elaborate examination, I imagine, with an astigmometer, and so on?—In certain cases. In very many you would not have to apply those methods I think.

4084. They might be required?—They might be required in certain cases. A few sets of apparatus would go a long way.

4085. I want to find out how much your estimate of £2,000 a year would cover in the way of inspection. In the first place, would it only be the annual inspection that you contemplated in the future; or would it cover the cost of completing the primary inspection all over the country?—It is rather difficult to answer that question. My estimate is only a very rough one.

4086. Quite so; I follow that?—If I were given a free hand and £2,000, I think I could have a complete examination made of all the children, including eyesight.

4087. Afterwards the cost would not be anything like £2,000 a year, would it?—You would want the same staff, I think. I would work the county gradually. I should not attempt to make such a complete inspection of the whole of the county all at once. The first complete inspection might take twelve months. My idea would be to start with a staff that I should keep going all the time.

4088. What rate would £2,000 a year be?—A 1d. rate produces £5,400, £2,000 is therefore equivalent to a rate of .37d.

4089. (Chairman.) Did the medical examination which has been described, result in the withdrawal of any of the children from physical exercises at the schools?—Not as far as I am aware.

4090. Or did it lead to any modification in the curriculum?—No, not as far as I am aware.

4091. May I ask you to return to your report. You say on Page 6, "The form the medical supervision should take depends greatly on the distribution and accessibility of the schools, but the present experiment has demonstrated the importance of central control." Would you explain your meaning?—I think that it should be in the hands of the county authority.

4092. As opposed to those of the medical officer of the district?—Yes, as opposed to the district councils.

4093. Did you find any difficulty in this particular investigation with regard to the relations of the medical officer of health and the district medical officer?—I happen to be the medical officer of health for the district, and one of the points I intended to convey in that report with regard to central control and close communication with the sanitary authority was, that there was difficulty between the medical inspector and myself acting as district medical officer of health.

4094. Between him acting as your deputy as medical officer for the council and yourself in your other capacity of medical officer of health?—Yes.

4095. You think there might be difficulties between any officer employed by the county authority and the district medical officer of health in such a matter as that of school inspection?—There certainly is the possibility.

4096. You would not propose to use the district medical officers for this purpose?—If the district medical officers

of health were whole time district medical officers of health and not part time in private practice, I think they could do the work perfectly well in Gloucestershire. There are only three men who are whole time Medical Officers of Health in Gloucestershire—one at Cheltenham and one for the Combined District of Gloucestershire and myself. I hold the opinion that a man's private practice is the most important factor to him and his interest would be in that direction.

4097. Your answer covers the second point, "the necessity of keeping in touch with the local sanitary authority"?—Yes. The things are mixed up.

4098. With regard to "the need for all possible tact in making the examinations," have you anything to say?—It is obvious.

4099. You have reason, from what occurred at this examination which you described, to lay stress on that?—Yes.

4100. The fact would be both as regards other authorities and as regards parents and teachers, I presume?—Undoubtedly.

4101. You specially mention that what was done in Gloucestershire was done before the report of the Physical Deterioration Committee was brought out?—Yes. I thought that possibly it would appeal to the county council if they knew that the work which they had undertaken was being investigated by a Government Committee, although the county council had started before.

4102. I see in 10 (1) of your supplemental *precis*, you say "From the Annual Reports of the Medical Officers of Health, it would appear that they often visit the schools for the purpose of detecting mild unrecognised cases of notifiable infectious diseases." Is that a matter for the Medical Officer of Health to decide for himself; or has he any instructions on the point?—He decides entirely for himself.

4103. Any action which he takes in that direction is purely voluntary?—Yes, purely voluntary; and it has been at times resented by school authorities.

4104. You say that the head teacher is empowered to call in a doctor by the Education Committee, who offer to pay one shilling for the medical certificate. In what cases would that power be used?—When the teachers are doubtful. It is done entirely at the discretion of the teacher.

4105. Could you show us the instruction which is given on the point?—"If, therefore, a teacher has any reason to suspect that a child is suffering from any infectious condition, the child should be sent home at once with a written note to the parent, explaining the reason and requesting that the child shall be seen by a doctor and that a report as to his opinion shall be sent to the teacher by the parent." I might add that the footnote with regard to the payment of a fee of one shilling was added after this had left my hands, and I wrote to say that it was a part of the notice of which I did not approve.

4106. Is it suggested that the parent should call the doctor in and that the authority should pay the shilling?—It would read so from this, undoubtedly; but that is not what was intended. The intention was that the teacher should give the child such a note as could be taken to the doctor.

4107. Are any steps taken for visiting children who are kept away from school, to see if their absence is from a genuine cause?—Yes, but so far as I am aware it is left entirely to the local Committees. In Stroud a number of schools are grouped (I forget the exact number) and the Committee have power from the education authority to make arrangements to that end. Shortly before this scheme was started they were paying one shilling for the certificates, but this sum was not considered sufficient by the doctors who suggested a fee of half-a-crown. So that practically this is in abeyance as far as my own districts are concerned; but I believe that in other parts of the county the doctors have been practically giving the certificates.

4108. Is any arrangement made by the local education authority with individual doctors in districts, to examine children for that purpose for a limited fee?—No, not as far as I am aware.

4109. (Dr. Parsons.) Is the Stroud group of schools coterminous with the area for which you act as medical officer of health?—No, it is not. The group includes some schools in the urban district and some in the rural district.

4110. You are the medical officer of health for the urban districts as well as for the rural?—Yes; they are all in the districts in which I am medical officer of health.

Mr. A. WILLIAMSON, called; and Examined.

4115. (Chairman.) You have come to give us evidence on behalf of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses?—Yes.

4116. Would you tell us what your position in the Institute is?—I have for a number of years been a member of the Council of the Institute, and I am also Chairman and Treasurer of the Liverpool Queen Victoria District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Queen Victoria Institute; I am also on the Committee of the Royal Infirmary and of the Home for Nurses there; so that I have a good deal to do with nurses.

4117. Your main local experience is Liverpool experience?—Except that derived through the Institute; which is all over the country, at our meetings.

4118. We should propose to take as the basis of your evidence the first part of the *precis* which you have kindly sent to us. The second part is very interesting, but is outside the terms of our reference; so that if we put on the evidence the first three pages down to "the choice of methods," I think that that will meet the case?—Certainly.

Precis.

School nursing was originally begun at the Bloomsbury Home in London (the Metropolitan Nursing Association) some 12 years ago. In 1898, following on this experiment, the London School Nurses' Society was formed to provide nurses to visit the poorer Board Schools in London. Where possible, this society worked in connection with the Queen's Nurses' Homes, paying a certain sum annually to the local associations, who, on their part, undertook to provide nurses to visit certain schools in their areas. In districts where this was not possible, nurses were specially engaged by the London School Nurses' Society. When the new Education Act came into force the London County Council decided to provide and engage its own nurses for its schools; the society was dissolved and the arrangements which had existed with certain local nursing associations in London consequently ceased. In Liverpool and Birmingham and other places the work has also been done by the Queen's nurses.

CHARACTER OF THE WORK.

To those who are unfamiliar with this branch of nursing, it may be explained that a nurse's work in a school entails periodical visits to the school, when the children who are found by the teachers to require special attention as regards cleanliness or minor ailments are referred to her. In any serious cases the nurse at once takes steps to see that medical advice is sought, but by far the greater number of cases are found to be minor matters that should, in the ordinary course of things, in comfortable homes be treated by the child's mother. The nurse at once attends to these herself, but, where practicable, the cases should be followed up to the homes, with the object of teaching the mothers how to carry out the necessary daily attention. An important branch of the nurse's work is the observation of the children's eyes, both as regards cases of ophthalmia and symptoms of defective vision, which are easily detected by a trained observer, and early attention to which may be of great importance for the child's future. The minor ailments include, among others, broken chilblains, grazed knees, cut fingers, neglected heads, bruises, gatherings, discharging ears, etc., the majority of which, if taken in time, do not require actual medical treatment, but which cause much discomfort and inconvenience, and often non-attendance at school, and which, if neglected, may lead to serious results.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NURSE.

The work of the nurse is, as a rule, arranged as follows:—She has a room, either a class-room or a dressing-room,

4111. It does not include anything outside?—No.

4112. Then the areas of the forty-four schools are the same as the areas for which you act as medical officer of health?—Yes.

4113. (Chairman.) Have you anything to add on any point within our reference?—No, I think not.

4114. We are much obliged to you for your evidence.

where she can have a couple of basins, hot and cold water, pail, etc. The children are sent up to her in turn by the teachers. They can be sent during school hours, as no case occupies more than a few minutes, and the child need not be long out of the class-room. Each child's ailment is entered in the nurse's note-book, and afterwards transferred to the general register of cases.

ADVANTAGES OF SCHOOL NURSING.

The advantages of school nursing may be summed up as follows:—

1. It saves much suffering to the children.
2. It improves school attendance by treating in time the small ailments, which might otherwise have increased and kept the children at home; also dressings can be done at school, for which attendance at the hospital would otherwise be necessary.
3. It prevents the spread of infection, as the nurses are always on the look out for the first symptoms of an infectious illness. This is specially important in the cases of ophthalmia, the highly infectious disease of the eyes, which is so prevalent in elementary schools.
4. It thus leads to a higher standard in the education of the children. The small ailments from which so many suffer prevent proper attention being given to the lessons.

4119. What we desire to know is exactly what is now being done by the Institute in relation to the medical inspection of children in public elementary schools. Can you tell us exactly in what places your nurses have up to the present date been working in this matter?—The Queen's nurses, of course, are all over the country. I have a list of the places here where they are.

4120. Is it a list of the places in which they are actually working in public elementary schools?—They are not all working in public elementary schools. I cannot give you a complete list of where they are now working, but they are working in Liverpool, they are working in Birmingham, they are working in Widnes, and they are working in Wimbledon, they are working in London or the neighbourhood and a number of other places. Many places are waiting for the outcome of this Committee's report.

4121. You have proposals before you for the employment of nurses in schools where they are not at present employed?—Yes, there has been a reply from every affiliated branch, to inquiries sent out by the Queen's. The headings of the inquiries were placed before you. Many places are in a waiting attitude. The thing is now to them, and they are waiting to know chiefly what the financial result of the matter will be before they undertake it.

4122. In which of the places you have mentioned do you think there has been the most successful experiment?—Speaking from personal knowledge, in Liverpool we nurse about twenty-one schools, and we have done so for a number of years. It practically takes the whole time of three or four nurses to work these schools. Some of the nurses devote their whole time to the work; others take a school which is in their district. Our experience has been that it is very useful that the nurse should not be confined to school nursing but should also do nursing in the district, because she can follow up cases at their homes. If it happens that a case from the school which she is nursing is out of her own district, she refers it to the nurse in the district; so the case is followed up. We have nursed a very large number of cases in Liverpool, over 50,000 attendances or dressings per annum in the schools, and we have discovered a considerable number of serious cases and prevented a number of epidemics. The work has been so much appreciated there that the

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Mr. A. Williamson. education authorities are very anxious for us to extend it; but as we had a debit balance of £2,000 last year it was impossible to extend it without some sort of assistance from the education authorities. Hitherto they have contributed nothing. They have expressed themselves willing. They would like us to send six more nurses. We have asked for a grant towards the cost, and they are waiting authority from the auditors of the Local Government Board before they can see their way to making a grant, in case they should be surcharged.

4123. We have had some account of the work done by the Queen's Institute in Liverpool, from Mr. Frank Leslie, who gave evidence here on behalf of the Liverpool Education Committee. Are there any cases in which your nurses have been partly employed and paid by the education authorities?—Yes. It is in the knowledge, I suppose, of the committee that the education authorities could engage their own nurses in Liverpool, but they do not wish to do it if the District Nursing Association can undertake the work. They do not wish to increase the number of their permanent staff. There are cases, however, in which a single nurse can be employed, where the difficulty does not arise, as in the cases of Widnes, and one of the districts near London. Widnes I can speak of in particular. The nurse is employed by the education authority and is upon their list of employees, and she does nothing but attend to the schools. She is able to overtake eight schools. It happened to see her yesterday. It takes up the whole of her time. Widnes is a small place and fairly concentrated. There she is employed direct by the Education Committee at the cost of £80 odd, and £5 for uniform, rising to £100. She is the servant of the education authorities. The contention in Liverpool is that there is a considerable waste under that system, owing to Saturdays, when there is nothing for her to do, and Sundays when there is nothing for her to do, and the holidays which are pretty long, when she is also idle; whereas if there was a Queen's nurse connected with the district she would be employed during that time, and so much time would not be wasted.

4124. What would be her relation to your institute when she is employed by a local authority as their employee?—Our offer to the Liverpool education authorities was to supply them with six nurses for £360, those nurses costing us over £100 each; that is over £500, not including the expense of the matron which we give. Those nurses would live in the homes under our matrons. They would be at the disposal of the education authorities. They would go to any schools to which they were sent, and they would take the cases which were sent to them by the teachers. With regard to the schools they went to and the children they attended to, they would be under the direction of the education authorities. On leaving the school they would return under the direction of the matron; and indeed you might say when they are in the schools they are under her direction in a sense, because they are never quite away from her authority. They are also subject to the inspection of inspectors who go from London periodically to inspect the work of the Queen's nurses all over the country, and to keep up the standard.

4125. Has any difficulty been found in practice from the fact of one nurse being under two authorities?—None whatever. The testimony is that the work is very much appreciated. The whole cry is, Send us more. It is no doubt within your knowledge that the Board of Education itself has issued a circular commending the work and desiring managers where possible to encourage it. The sole difficulty has been a financial one.

4126. Have there been any cases in which the work of the Queen's names in schools has been discontinued?—In London there was a nursing society, it may be within the knowledge of the Committee; it is referred to in one of the appendices. The London County Council now employs its own nurses. Where possible formerly arrangements were made with district nursing associations to carry out the work in London. That was the commencement. There was a London schools nurses association. Then when the county council took over the matter of education they employed their own nurses as London County Council nurses and pay them £80 a year, rising by £2 10s. a year to £90. A former Queen's nurse happened to be employed by the county council in the Southwark and

Deptford district, and I have a note from her before me in which, in answer to inquiry, she says: "I have forty-nine schools on my list. I have no special days to attend any school except when I have instructions from the medical officer (education). At other times I go to those schools where I think I am most needed, or the teacher sends for me, and report to the medical officer. My work at present is to examine the children and advise the teachers and parents, either by messages or cards, or through the teachers, or by visits to the homes, to get the children's friends to give them the attention they need, or to get medical advice, or by other assistance available. As my district covers the whole of Southwark and Deptford, including Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, besides some schools in Greenwich and New Cross, I am unable to attend to everything required; but I have reason to believe that the council contemplate doing very much more as soon as they are able to make the necessary arrangements." That is entirely different work from what we are doing. I would call attention to that fact. That nurse has forty-nine schools, an absolutely impossible number for one nurse to attend to if they are anything like large schools; but you see she does not attend to them; she only examines and reports to the parents: I read that between the lines.

4127. The London County Council hold that a nurse should not treat children in the school; her duty is confined to pointing out ailments and calling the attention of the parents to them. We have had that evidence from Dr. Kerr?—I have, on that point also, the case of Wimbledon, where a Queen's nurse is employed and where the rules are drawn up by a medical officer, John A. Hayward, M.D., medical officer to the Education Committee. It is obvious that the rules are drawn up by a medical man, because so much of the reference is to the effect that the nurse has to report everything and has herself to do comparatively little in attending to ailments. In Liverpool, we do not interfere in any way with the doctors. Our nurses are only allowed to nurse under doctor's orders. All that they attend to in the schools without doctor's orders are the smaller ailments, which are very, very numerous, such as broken chilblains, dirty heads, and all sorts of things which require dressing and attention. Whenever a serious case is met with, and numerous serious cases are met with, including dislocated shoulders, small-pox, scarlet fever, and so on, the child is at once referred to a doctor. The nurse does not attempt to deal alone with anything of that sort, but only with matters which the mother in her own home ought to attend to, but through ignorance or otherwise, does not.

4128. The treatment of those small ailments is carried out by the nurse herself at the school or at home?—At the school. In Wimbledon, I gather, it is different, and also in the case of the London County Council; but I do not know.

4129. Has the attention of your institute been called to the question of the legality of payments by the authorities for the services of the nurses?—Yes. We made representations, after receiving inquiries for more nurses, as to what could be done, and all the Education Committee in Liverpool and the officials too, I believe, are in favour of giving a grant for the work, if it can be made; but the Local Government Board auditor for the North of England would not express his opinion as to the legality of the payment, and I believe took up the attitude that if the payment was made he would then advise upon it or decide about it. The authorities did not like that, and they have written to the Local Government Board asking whether the payment would be authorised. To that letter I believe so far they have received no reply.

4130. Do you know any other cases besides those you have mentioned, in which the nurses are employed and paid by the local education authority?—I only know of the cases of Widnes and Wimbledon, and the Queen's nurse employed by the County Council in London.

4131. She happens to be one?—Yes, she happens to be one. It is more accidental than anything.

4132. (Dr. Parsons.) Has there been any objection at Widnes to the payment of the nurse, by the local education authority?—No. She is their servant. The difficulty in Liverpool is that our nurses could not be the servants of the education authority.

4133. Because they could not give their whole time?—They give their whole time during the time the schools

are at work; but when the schools were not at work they would have their work varied. Our feeling, and it is not only feeling but is proved, is that the nurses find school nursing very monotonous, and unless they have the chance of doing some district nursing, either at the same time, or for portions of the year, they dislike the work and you will not get the highest class of nurse to undertake it. You will, generally speaking, get widows, and more or less old broken down nurses who perhaps are not strong enough for anything else, but you will not get the young first-class nurses direct from hospitals to take school nursing and nothing else.

4134. Are they paid at the same rate as ordinary nurses. Is there any difference in the rate of pay?—No material difference, but that the school authorities could very likely get nurses at less than they cost us, because Queen's nurses are of a very high standard.

4135. The difficulty is not that the local authority have not power to appoint nurses, but that they have not the legal power to contract with the Institute to supply nurses?—Exactly.

4136. (Chairman.) Would there not be some question as to whether the local authority has power to pay any of the nurses for carrying out the actual treatment of the children?—I do not know under what branch of any particular Act the local education authority are entitled to engage a nurse. She is presumably one of the officials.

4137. (Dr. Parsons.) With regard to the nurse attending to the children's ailments, you say that it is work which the mother, if she were a mother who looked after her children properly, would do. Are any efforts made to induce the mother to do the mother's work?—Yes. I will give you a sample of nurse's work. This is the Wimbledon nurse. She finds a case of inflamed eyes she visits the home and instructs the mother how to bathe the eyes. Where she finds a case of ringworm she gives ointment and advises the mother what to do. Here is a case which I presume will interest the Committee—"malnutrition; child has always been delicate, I advised the mother how to feed the child."

4138. (Mr. Walrond.) Those are visits paid to the home?—These are cases followed up at home. In Liverpool, where we have nurses over the whole area, the school nurse reports to the district nurse (she does not necessarily go to the home herself), and the district nurse visits the home and follows the cases up where needed. That is one of the arguments in favour of amalgamating the two interests.

4139. (Dr. Parsons.) Can you give any facts or figures to show the advantage of the practice of inspection of children in schools by nurses?—I am told that the attendance of the children is very considerably improved where there is a nurse. The Widnes authorities have gone the length of stating that they will get a so much larger grant owing to the better attendance that they will not be out of pocket by the payment of the nurse. Whether that will bear investigation I should not like to say, but at any rate the attendance is reported as having improved 2 per cent. in Widnes owing to the attendance of a nurse. There is no doubt that all the testimony of the schoolmasters in Liverpool is that it improves the attendance of the children. There are many children who are ailing a little, and there is hesitation whether they can go to school or not; if the nurse is known to be attending to the school the child is sent, whereas otherwise the child would not be sent. There is no doubt on that point.

4140. Does the nurse attend each school every day?—Our experience is that one nurse cannot do more than seven or eight schools. Some of the schools are visited once a week, some twice a week, and some three times. I think that very much depends on the class of school and the number of children attending. If the schools are near together a nurse can overtake more than if they are situated at considerable distances apart. There is a good deal of expense in tram fares, and so on, in a large city in moving from school to school. A good deal depends on the locality.

4141. (Miss Lawrence.) Do your nurses report to any doctor or not?—They have all case books and everything is reported to doctors in case of anything serious. They do not report broken chilblains to a doctor.

4142. They do not report on the condition of the children in a school to any particular doctor, taking the children they examine?—In Wimbledon they do, but in Liverpool they do not.

4143. It varies then?—In Wimbledon the whole thing has been drawn up by a doctor. Here are the regulations if you would like to have them.

4144. We have them, thank you?—There you will find that the nurse has to report. She seems to have very little to do personally with attending to the ailments. It seems to be almost exactly what is done in the London County Council schools; that is to say, she has to report and assist by advice, etc., pending the decision of the medical officer.

4145. (Dr. Parsons.) It would depend on whether there was a school medical officer appointed or not?—Possibly so, but in Liverpool it is not the case. Wherever there is a serious case, it is at once reported; but in cases of small ailments, 5,000 in a month, it is impracticable to report every instance.

4146. (Miss Lawrence.) Suppose she had reason to suspect the presence of infectious or contagious disease, would she report that?—She would report that at once; that has been the case several times.

4147. With regard to the authorities asking you to supply a nurse, do you undertake to supply the same nurse for any given time, or do you keep quite a free hand?—We do not do that. We have fifty-two Queen's nurses at work in Liverpool.

4148. Are they employed by the education authority?—No.

4149. Are they independent of them?—The fifty-two are under the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses. The authority have none, unless it be in the case of the Cripple School. The whole time of three nurses is taken up, we estimate. As a matter of fact six are working, one or two their whole time, and others a portion of their time, taking a school along with their district.

4150. They go into the schools and examine the children?—They go into the schools and examine the children.

4151. You have to get permission?—We have generally been asked to go.

4152. It is generally by invitation?—Yes, by the managers in some cases.

4153. In the event of their asking you to supply nurses, could you supply them at a cheaper rate than they could get their own nurses at?—Widnes pays its nurse up to £100 a year, and she finds her own uniform, board and lodging, and everything else. Our Queen's nurses live together in houses, and cost us on the average, including the matrons, which is a very important part, of course, because each home has to have a matron to supervise the work and look after it properly—about £110. Taking inspection, and so on, it costs us about £110 per nurse. We offered to supply nurses to the Liverpool education authority at the rate of £60 per nurse, because we felt sure that we could get the balance from the public in view of the importance of the work, and the favour in which it stands in the public estimation. We were willing to supply the nurses for something less than three-fourths of the cost. Sunderland also has offered to supply nurses to the Sunderland Schools at three fourths of the cost, and is now waiting for the reply, trusting, I presume, to the generosity of the public.

4154. You said just now that it was not advisable to keep nurses almost entirely at this work. How would you regard, for instance, the employment of a nurse on Saturday and Sunday. She would be at school five days, and you put it as one of the points why Queen's nurses should be employed rather than independent nurses, that on Saturday and Sunday you would be able to use them?—With a large body of nurses such as we have in Liverpool, there are always some ill, and some away. They get a day off a month or a week-end off, and so forth. When one is away we supply her place by the nurse who is at the school during the five days of the week. She is available. Each of the nurses gets a month's holiday. The school holidays are of two months duration. There is a saving of a month in time there. We have fifty-two nurses, and when one is away the school nurse will take

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her place for a month or a fortnight. We have no nurse left on school work alone for more than six or eight months at a time. Then she is removed and given district work; it is much more interesting, and a nurse will work so much better if she has work that is congenial. It has been found from experience that school nursing alone is very monotonous, and does not, in its usual operations, call for the highest training and highest requirements.

4155. Have you had any experience of friction between teachers and nurses?—None whatever, not the slightest.

4156. Are your nurses employed for any other kind of work except this sort of inspection. Are they employed, for instance, in cripple schools?—Yes, they are. There are two physically defective schools in Liverpool. In one we have a nurse. With regard to the other, the managers wrote to us asking us to send a nurse every day. The most we have done so far is to send a nurse three times a week to one school. They wanted a nurse every day. The managers out of their own pockets, sent a contribution of £20 to £25 to the fund of the Association in recognition of the service rendered.

4157. She does not take the children to and from their homes?—No; I think there is somebody employed in that capacity.

4158. But you do not know?—No.

4159. In the days of the London School Nurses Society, which came to an end, how many of the nurses were employed?—It was not a very large number. It was certainly perfectly inadequate to cover the whole of London; but I cannot give the number.

4160. (Mr. Walrond.) Are any of your nurses engaged in rural districts in work in schools?—I cannot say that any are engaged in purely rural districts in school work. There is not the same necessity, you will understand. What they do is really what a good mother ought to do. In country districts, owing to the more healthy conditions and better class, the people not being so miserable and poor as in the cities, there is not the same requirement. The nurses are all over the country, and could attend in schools; and now that so much interest has been aroused it is quite likely that where it is at all necessary it will be done. So far the question has not been brought much before the associations in the purely rural districts.

4161. (Chairman.) On your list here you have mentioned several cases of rural districts. There are two in Gloucestershire. Gotherington and Quedgley are mentioned on the list. We have this morning had the medical officer for Gloucestershire, Dr. Martin, and he has told us that from investigations made there, it would appear that there are really more of these ailments in rural districts than there are in urban districts?—Not being a medical man I could not speak to that.

4162. So that the need for nurses in rural districts appears to be quite as great as in urban districts. It is generalising of course from one district which was taken as a typical case. Have you any personal knowledge of those two places?—No.

4163. (Mr. Walrond.) If the nurses are employed in the country for an hour or so a week, I suppose that would be typical?—In view of the sparse population in some parts of the country, I should imagine that if a nurse attended at the school for an hour twice a week she could probably overtake all that was required. It is very different in town, because there the schools are so much larger. I do not know what size our Liverpool schools are, but I suppose 600 or 800 children; and it takes a long time to go through a school of that sort.

4164. (Chairman.) Could you tell us anything about the work in Birmingham. We have a return from the Birmingham Education Authority in which they do not mention any work being done there by nurses. I see it is stated on your paper that 20,769 attendances were made with regard to school children during the year. That looks like a considerable work. I take it that the nurses in Birmingham are not in the employ of the local Education Authority?—No, they are not; they are just in the same position as in Liverpool.

4165. With regard to the Liverpool authority, they tell us very much what you have told us this afternoon, whereas with regard to Birmingham it is not mentioned

in the return to us?—In Liverpool our education authority have had the matter very much before them lately, because they are endeavouring to arrange for a grant, so that they are very well informed as to the position. I dare say that in Birmingham they have not asked for a grant and the question has not been looked into.

4166. Are there any other cases mentioned on this paper which you would like to call special attention to besides those you have already mentioned?—I think that Liverpool is so typical of the position generally, and Wimbledon is exceptional, that Liverpool is really perhaps the most useful case to consider in detail. Wimbledon is exceptional because apparently the nurse is under the orders of the medical officer there, and seems to do nothing except report. Liverpool is more a typical case of the whole country. (There is in most large places an association with a large body of nurses who go all over the town and cover the whole area already existing, and can follow up cases in the homes and can undertake this work in schools.) I do not know whether the nurses can undertake new duties which may be suggested. That is a matter which I do not know that you wish me to give any opinion upon. I understand that you are desirous of inquiring as to the condition of children in the home in connection with feeding.

4167. We have a reference on the question of feeding, but our duty is to ascertain what is actually being done in both cases rather than to make recommendations?—Quite so.

4168. Then there is the case of Windsor, which I see mentioned here. I see that in Windsor the schools were visited once or twice weekly until they passed under the new education authority?—Yes.

4169. Have you any evidence as to what the meaning of that statement is. Did the education authority forbid the entrance of the nurses?—I think that the meaning of it is that when there were Church schools it was worked through the vicar or parish minister, and he had more control, I presume, in those days. In many cases the nurses are very closely attached to the Church—not at all under the Church, but the vicar, being the man who has most time to look after the thing, really has a great say, and no doubt when the schools were Church schools the nursing was done, and when the authority changed the nursing ceased. I only offer that as a probable suggestion.

4170. The return from Windsor does not mention any work done by nurses. Have you had any cases brought to you in which parents have objected to the examination of their children by the nurses?—No, on the contrary; they are welcomed.

4171. We quite understand that they are very often welcomed, but have you had any cases of objection?—No, I do not know of any. We have had no friction of any kind, and no objection of any kind in Liverpool. There may be isolated cases throughout the country, but not in Liverpool.

4172. Or have you had objection by doctors?—Doctors are very jealous about nurses prescribing, and we have to be very strict to see that nurses do not prescribe or undertake the treatment of any cases, but in Liverpool the doctors do not consider attending to a head which is infested with vermin or a chilblain, or a small thing of that sort, is infringing on their province. We have had no difficulty in that regard. Of course, we are particular not to touch at all on the province of the doctor.

4173. (Mr. Walrond.) You said that in Widnes the nurse was the servant of the education authority at the time being?—Yes.

4174. How is the difficulty got over of the non-employment on Saturdays and Sundays, and during these long holidays that you spoke of?—She is in clover, because she has nothing to do.

4175. Does she not find that that compensates for the monotony of the work?—The case is peculiar at Widnes. The nurse is a youngish woman, a widow with a child. She could not keep the child in a home with other nurses, because we would not allow that. One large employer, knowing of this, suggested to the education authority at Widnes that they should engage her and that she

should live in lodgings, and she lives in lodgings and has her child with her. No doubt she would be willing to go on where another nurse might not, because of her peculiar circumstances.

4176. (Chairman.) Is there anything which you would like to add to what you have said to us?—Just in general, I would like to say that we look upon our Queen's Nurses as a high standard of nurse. We take no nurse in Liverpool who has had less than three years' hospital training. A great many have had four. We get them direct from the wards of the Royal Infirmary in the fourth year. Some of them remain with us and some of them after a few years pass on to something else. On the whole, we have the very best type of active nurses in their best years. And I venture to state with confidence that no nurses that the education authorities in Liverpool could engage would be better, and I do not think they are likely to be able to secure as good nurses as those at present supplied by the Queen's Jubilee Association. The nurses that they can and do engage elsewhere, as I have said, are those who will take this work, monotonous though it is, because they are perhaps unable to undertake other work. I do not say that this work demands a very high class of nurse, necessarily, except when they come across such serious cases as our nurses have from time to time come across in Liverpool. They are very much appreciated by the medical officer of health and the education authorities. In one year we discovered several very serious cases and prevented epidemics. I have the figures here. "Small-pox.—Child sent to nurse feeling ill, nurse detected rash as small-pox, reported to teacher, parent at once sent for and child removed to hospital. School closed for a week. No other cases occurred." If the nurse had not been very well trained and had been unable to see that this was something serious, the thing might have spread to a much greater extent than it did. Then in the same year a child was found to be suffering from scarlet fever. It was sent to hospital. Other children were examined but there was no other case. "Chicken-pox.—Three cases discovered during the year; the children at once sent home and the parents told to send for a doctor. In one school a department was closed for a time. Measles.—Four cases reported throughout the year; children sent home at once with instructions to see a doctor. Mumps.—Twelve cases throughout the year. Lupus.—Child found to be suffering from lupus; sent to Royal Infirmary for treatment with X rays. Whooping Cough.—In one school three cases." Nurse arranged with teachers for disinfecting the school room. "Scurvy.—One bad case sent to hospital. Dislocated shoulder.—Boy sent to school with dislocated shoulder sent to hospital as in-patient. Defective sight.—Cases

almost weekly, children sent to have eyes tested for glasses." When it says "sent to hospital" you will understand that it has not been sent direct to hospital by the nurses. The medical man has been called in, but it was the nurse who first of all saw that there was something serious. Therefore, it is important to have nurses thoroughly well trained and likely to be able to detect what is serious and what is not.

4177. You are aware of a great many cases in which the authorities are now moving in the matter?—There is a very general feeling throughout the country. I think that the question of feeding has had something to do with it. The circular sent by the Queen's Institute to their branches all over the country has had responses which show that there is awakening interest, and people are very ready to have the work done if they can see their way to overtake it. As you know, nearly all these places are more or less in difficulty with regard to funds. We should be ready to deal with it in Liverpool for half of what it costs if they would continue with the Queen's Nurses rather than employ their own, because we feel that the children would get so much better attention from the Queen's Nurses than from any that the authorities are likely to engage.

4178. Have definite applications reached you for nurses to be employed from any other authorities than those that you have mentioned in the course of the afternoon?—I mentioned Sunderland. In Liverpool six more nurses would be engaged if it were possible to have the grant. Carnarvonshire you have some knowledge of?

4179. Yes?—Mr. Greaves the Lord-Lieutenant wrote about that. They are waiting to know whether they can give a grant with the idea of doing the work wherever it is called for. I do not suppose it is called for all over the country.

4180. Is there any point that we have missed upon which you would like to say anything?—No. Our strongest point is that we are very anxious, ill-equipped financially as we the Queen's Jubilee Institute are (I am asked to say this to the Committee) to rise to the occasion and to undertake this work because we feel convinced from our experience that the Queen's Nurses can do the work better than any other class of nurse that could be possibly used for the work. We are willing, therefore, in many parts of the country, to bear a considerable burden, that is to say, to supply the nurses at less than cost if any grant can be made towards helping the work at all. I will hand you a list of where the Queen's Nurses are all over the country. There are about 1,100.

4181. (Chairman.) We thank you for coming here to-day.

Mrs. M. E. PILLOW, called; and Examined.

4182. (Chairman.) You are kind enough to attend to give us some evidence as to the organisation for feeding children in public elementary schools in Norwich?—Yes, as far as the public subscription is concerned.

4183. You are Chairman of a Committee appointed by the Education Authority?—Yes.

4184. Consisting of outside members as well as of members of the authority itself?—Yes.

4185. The return we have from Norwich shows that the public subscription list realised £123, which sum was spent in providing free dinners for necessitous children in the poorest schools. Was that money raised specially last winter?—Yes—that particular sum. We have had similar sums on previous occasions.

4186. Is it a permanent organisation existing in Norwich, or is it one which is only called into existence to meet special need?—To meet special need.

4187. Was there special need last winter?—It was thought so. There were so many people out of work, Miss Lucy Bignold, a lady who lives in the town, has from time to time got up a fund.

4188. How was the appeal issued?—A letter was inserted in the papers.

4189. Was the work endorsed by the local education authority?—Not formally. They knew about it and they were sympathetic, but as an authority they

took no action formally. They made no difficulty about allowing their cookery kitchens to be utilised for the preparation of the dinners.

4190. In whose hands was the administration of the fund when collected?—Miss Lucy Bignold's, with one or two people to help her. Mr. Holme helped. He is the organiser of elementary education. He was formerly the inspector under the school board.

4191. He is an officer of the education authority?—Yes.

4192. The extent of the assistance given by the local authority was the use of their kitchens?—Yes. I am Chairman of what was the old School Board's and is now the Education Authority's cookery and laundry Committee. But the Committee as such had nothing to do with the dinners. The use of the kitchens was perhaps obtained by working in the dinners as far as we could with the children's work. We did not arrange it, but the Organiser of Elementary Education made it his business to see that the work was carried on as far as possible in accordance with what the Board of Education would require for the school children in their courses of instruction.

4193. Would you tell us what your personal position in Norwich is. Are you a member of the authority?—No; we have two ladies on the authority. We have a com-

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Mrs. M. E. Pillow. Committee which deals with the cookery and laundry work, and I am the chairman of that committee.

11 July, 1905. 4194. But you are not a member of the authority?—No not a member of the authority.

4195. The meals were given free I understand?—Yes.

4196. By whom are the children selected?—By the teachers, assisted by the attendance officers. The head teachers and the attendance officers were in consultation and in sympathy in this matter.

4197. How often were the meals given?—Three times a week.

4198. On which days?—I think they were on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

4199. The speciality of the work in Norwich was the utilisation of the cookery centres for the purpose?—Yes.

4200. Were the meals given entirely in connection with the cookery centres?—The master of the Great Hospital, which is a large charity, and his daughters arranged for a centre in connection with their kitchens. Those dinners were provided by Mr. Cox and his two daughters.

4201. What number of children were provided for at the cookery centres?—I think you will find that it was from sixty to eighty in a centre, and there were three or four centres going on three days a week. These figures are rough. Mr. Holme could give you the exact figures.

4202. How many different cookery centres were used?—Three.

4203. Was a group of schools attached to each?—Yes. When I went in to see the children having their dinner, as many as between sixty and eighty were having dinner at the time.

4204. Are there dining-rooms in connection with the centres?—No. They are the cookery kitchens where the children have their lessons. The long desks were there and the children sat at the desks. The children brought their own plates, forks and spoons, no knives are allowed, and all meals are so arranged that no knives are required. Newspapers are laid along the desks and they act as table cloths. The head teachers of the adjoining schools bring the children in and come into the kitchen and assist the cookery teacher to give the dinner out.

4205. Is there any voluntary help apart from the help given by the teachers in superintending the meals?—If any members of the Committee like to go in and help, they can. That has not been the case so much this winter as in some previous winters.

4206. The responsibility for superintending the meal as a matter of fact fell on the teachers?—Yes, entirely.

4207. The teachers both of the cookery centre and of the schools from which the children were brought?—Yes.

4208. Did you feel that this encroached unduly on the teachers' time?—They were so willing and so anxious and were such thorough missionaries in the work that you could not but admire them. The cookery teachers themselves at the end of the dinners were tired out and looked as if they wanted a rest. They never complained. They appeared glad to do it. I am only giving my own opinion.

4209. At what o'clock were the meals served?—At 12.30 exactly.

4210. Did the schools close at 12.0?—Yes.

4211. How long did the meals occupy?—I believe not more than half an hour, but at any rate about that time. That is a question which I have not asked.

4212. There was not more than one set of children each day. They were not served in relays?—No; I believe there was one set of children each day.

4213. It was not found necessary to have two meals served following in any case?—I daresay if they had got as many children as they would have liked to have they would have had several sets, but it was arranged for only so many.

4214. You, in fact, limited the number of admissions to the number of children who could be seated at one time?—I think so.

4215. How were the children grouped for the purposes of attending meals. Was one centre allotted to a certain number of schools?—Yes, that was so.

4216. Did the head teacher from each of the schools bring the children from that school?—Yes; the head teachers made themselves responsible for the children coming, and with regard to the two centres that I know most of the teachers came themselves.

4217. Would children from each of those schools come on each of the three days. Supposing children from A, B, and C schools are grouped to go to one centre, would each of those three schools send children on each of the days of the week?—I do not know. There would be a boys' school, a girls' school, and an infant school, with a cookery kitchen attached.

4218. About how many numerically?—1,200 in the group of schools, and they would draw the children from that group for that kitchen.

4219. With regard to the 1,200 children, would a group of schools in Norwich mean more than three or four schools. How many schools would compose a group?—The boys, girls, and infants. We call that a group.

4220. You use the word in a different sense to its usual one?—Are they separate buildings?—Yes.

4221. Would there be more than one group of schools attached to each of these centres for the purpose of feeding?—There might have been some from outside, but I cannot tell.

4222. Did the same children, as a rule, come each day?—No; that is one of the weak spots; that is a point to be noticed. You will find that I deal with that in my *précis*.

4223. They are chosen by the teachers, but on what grounds?—On the ground of poverty and real need—children whose fathers or mothers are ill or out of work, whose parents have large families, no incomes or small incomes.

4224. If so, should not a child chosen on those grounds have received a meal on each of the three days?—Yes, but there were a great many to be brought in. Where a teacher had a bad case and knew that there were several in the family, she would (to take, for instance, the mistress of the girls' school) apply to the mistress of the infants' school and group the children of that particular family, so that they all had a good meal on a particular day, and in that way save the parents from having to provide a meal. If one was given a meal, and others went home it would not save the parents much.

4225. How long beforehand would the parents know that the child was going to be fed?—Sufficiently long—a couple of days before.

4226. Care was taken on that point?—Yes.

4227. Were breakfasts given?—No; it was always dinner, and a splendid dinner.

4228. (Miss Lawrence.) How often a week did each child get fed out of the three days?—Not more than once. That is the weak spot. There was no system of feeding the same children regularly. The dinner was given to those who seemed to want it the most. They had to take it in turns. It was a question of funds.

4229. You did not think it better to feed half the number twice as often?—It sounds a good thing, but favouritism and all sorts of things would come in, when there were very limited funds.

4230. Did you have any other form of inquiry than that by the teachers?—The teachers are mostly conversant with the circumstances of the children in our town.

4231. You had no other form of inquiry?—Yes, by the school attendance officers.

4232. Those two alone did it?—I believe so—mostly.

4233. There was not a committee?—There was not a committee for that. They could apply to various people if they had any cases of doubt. Anybody might send the name of any child in the neighbourhood. It was mostly confined to the children attending those groups of schools. I think it was felt that the teachers would know best.

4234. You mentioned about the dinners being arranged as far as possible to fit in with the syllabus. Who did that?—The teachers did that.

4235. The cookery teachers?—Yes, we took no official cognisance of it. The teachers are bound to

carry out the regulations of the education authority there and of the Board of Education here. We did not take notice if they broke the rule. We left them to do the best they could. I can tell you what they provided.

4236. If you please?—One day beef roly-poly and potatoes, the meat cut so finely that the children did not require knives, another day lentil soup and suet dumplings, another day large Yorkshire puddings made in big tins containing small pieces of meat, nicely cut up, and baked potatoes. Irish stew was given on another day with plenty of potatoes and bread and light dumplings; another day good bone soup made with plenty of vegetables and bread, and large raisin puddings. I thought the meals very nice.

4237. Could the children have as much as they liked?—Yes. It was cut for them and given to them, and they always seemed to have enough, I do not know if they asked for more. There were capable women managing. One of them in one centre was the mother of a family who knew what the children wanted. They were thoroughly fed and satisfied.

4238. Who applied to you as chairman of the sub-committee for leave to use the kitchens?—We did not give leave; we were not asked; it was informal. It was sympathetic action. Everyone fell in with it. We were informed that it was being done.

4239. There was no definite permission or refusal?—No. We as a committee had no right to give permission. It was the education authority who would say whether it might be done.

4240. No authority was given?—I did not hear that any formal matter was made of it. It was done ten or a dozen years ago.

4241. Did the same children cook each day?—The children who were there who came for their lesson.

4242. About how long did it take?—Nearly all the morning. It was not a small matter.

4243. Did it interfere with the syllabus?—The children were learning to deal with large quantities of food which was much better than learning to deal with quarters of a pound of flour and two ounces of meat, and so on.

4244. Did the same children make the same dinner?—Probably not. There would be five different sets of girls going in on different days of the week.

4245. Where the cookery teachers were employed all the morning, did they take classes again in the afternoon?—Yes. Then there was the clearing up of the kitchen, and the getting ready, and the teachers had not a minute to spare, and they were very tired sometimes.

4246. Would they be more worn out than the ordinary teacher coming with the children?—One teacher had been standing at the blackboard teaching, and the other had been helping with this manual work.

4247. It was not open every day. You said it was open on three days?—In the afternoon beforehand they were getting ready.

4248. Every afternoon, then, there was preparation?—Nearly. I think it was splendid practice for the children from both a practical and an educational point of view with regard to food. There were other dinners: baked pig's fry, liver, light dumplings, gravy and potatoes, savoury dinners with plenty of bread. They thus learned to cook many things often purchased in their own homes.

4249. What number of children were employed in cooking?—Eighteen.

4250. That was the full number?—Yes.

4251. For what length of time did it last altogether?—From two to three months.

4252. Beginning when?—After Christmas.

4253. Not till then?—It was thought that the greater poverty was after Christmas. People get along until after Christmas somehow, then comes the lack of work.

4254. Will this charity probably be exhausted, or does it flow from time to time?—From time to time.

4255. You would not make up your minds now whether it should be done next winter?—No. It will require

someone to step forward and collect the money again. It only shows that something can be done in a small way if the funds are there.

4256. Did you hear of any objection from the parents of the children who were cooking the food?—I have never heard of any. With regard to large or small units, I take it that you consider that sixty or eighty are small units. I think that these are very much better than large ones where you have 400 or 500 feeding together. You can keep your eye on the children, and you know those who seem to want the most attention.

4257. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You said that big puddings were better for them to make. I want to know why?—At home, where there is a family, the mother makes a pudding for all the family—six children, herself, and her husband. In the school they would make a pudding to cut into ten, say.

4258. They would not all be fed on Yorkshire pudding one day?—They probably would. They had all the same kind of dinner. There would be ten girls making the mixture in ten different basins, whereas in the ordinary lesson they only have about four ounces of flour, and although the principles are the same they are rather at a loss when they get older, and have to make larger dishes.

4259. I suppose that there was some arrangement to prevent the same girls only learning to cook the same kind of dinner?—That would be a matter of arrangement—a domestic matter for the teacher herself to deal with who knows the girls, and what practice they have had.

4260. Would not the school course include a lot of things that you would want for dinner?—Yes, it would, but you do not want cakes, for instance, and they must learn to make cakes. They learn to make rissoles, and use up cold meat. That would not be possible in these dinners because such a quantity would be wanted.

4261. Then this would interfere to some extent with the ordinary syllabus. Were the dinners given on the same days?—I think so, but I cannot remember now.

4262. Out of the five classes that were being taught to cook it would always be the same classes that were cooking the dinners and some of them would not cook dinners at all. Would the same classes come on the same days of the week?—Yes, I think so.

4263. So that some would not cook the dinners at all and some would always be doing it?—Just so, but I did not go into this question. The organizer and the teachers planned this.

4264. Do you know how the teachers selected?—Yes. They told me they selected from what they knew of the families. Some have been a great many years in the schools and they know a great deal about the ins and outs of the homes—more than could possibly be known in London.

4265. Of course that would be the case?—There the people live in little houses and not in flats or rooms.

4266. Had you a scale of wages. What did you consider a ground for selection?—Those who needed help most were helped—if the father or mother were ill or the father out of work, as I said.

4267. It was left to the teachers to decide their own standard?—Yes, and the attendance officers.

4268. There was no standard for the town as to what constituted poverty?—No; it was not a town thing and there was no poverty test.

4269. Had you any evidence as to the wages that were being got?—They were people who had had no wages for eight or ten weeks. There are a great many boots and shoes made in Norwich. Before Christmas they are pretty busy, but after that people are out of work. There is not much work going on then until the spring. Some winters are not so bad for us as others. One year we had a dreadful winter with about three months' snow. I was a member of the board then, and that winter we were feeding children practically out of the pockets of a few. There were so many charities organised in the town that we could not get money as we would have been glad to have got it. At that time we had not as many kitchens, but we utilised those that we had. We had only two, I think, ten years ago. Three days a week we gave the children dinners, and some of the members of the Committee helped with cooking.

Mrs. M. E. Pillow.

11 July, 1905.

Mrs. M. E. Pillor. 4270. (Dr. Parsons.) Norwich depends on many trades, does it not?—There are many shoe factories. There is an immense mustard and a brush factory, and there are some yarn factories. Originally they had the silk trade, but it is gone now.

4271. A town that depends on many trades is in a better position than a town that only has one?—Yes, that is generally accepted.

4272. Can you say what proportion of the children in the schools were relieved?—It was a very small proportion. It was roughly speaking 600 to 800 weekly, for seven or eight weeks. We have in our elementary schools altogether 18,000 or 20,000 or more.

4273. Do you think that the proportion you relieved was sufficient?—No, I do not.

4274. If there had been more money, more would have been done?—Yes—if we had had a larger organisation or more organisations of the same kind.

4275. It was a question of money and not of centres?—A question of money, I believe.

4276. What was the cost per meal?—It varied from 1d. to 1½d. For 1½d. a splendid meal could be given.

4277. There was no payment by the parents?—None. It came entirely out of the funds.

4278. Do you think it would have been useful if you could have got contributions from the parents?—Yes. The meal was mostly given to the children of people who could not make any contribution.

4279. (Mr. Walron.) You said it was the money that was lacking which prevented you from supplying more meals?—I did not say that exactly. I meant that all the money was used. It lasted whilst the worst time was on. I do not think that the dinners suffered through lack of funds.

4280. If you had more money, with your present centres, could you extend the feeding?—Not with the present centres. We are going to have two more centres presently.

4281. Do you think that any centre could provide meals for five days a week?—Monday is a very awkward day for providing meals in any centre.

4282. Could you manage four days a week?—I think so.

4283. Sixty to eighty in each centre is the number that you can accommodate in the room?—Yes.

4284. Supposing that you had another room of larger size do you think that the centre could cook for more than sixty or eighty?—I think that they would require outside help. The teacher and the children could not do it by themselves.

4285. Is sixty to eighty the outside number?—Yes, in my opinion.

4286. The cookery centre is inelastic really?—I think that any place would be inelastic. We have a cooking range, and a gas stove. With such large quantities being cooked they cannot do any more.

4287. Any complete system of feeding children would have to supplement what is done in the centres very largely?—Yes very largely.

4288. Both by providing meals elsewhere and giving them elsewhere?—Yes. I do not think you can stretch what we have done in those centres. Several of us have

thought it out and we have come to the conclusion that they were doing their utmost.

4289. (Chairman.) In what way was payment made for the food?—The money was handed over to the teacher and she worked it out. We have a capable set of cookery teachers. I asked how they managed it and they told me the prices, and I thought they were very economical. It was 1d., 1½d., and 1½d. a head.

4290. Did the fund pay for all the food that was used?—Yes.

4291. The cost price of the food?—Yes. The Education Authority did not deal with this.

4292. How is the food obtained when the cookery centres are not being used for children's meals?—For the lessons?

4293. Yes?—That comes out of the Education Authority's funds. The teachers sell as much as they can. Any loss, if it is not unreasonable, is passed over. If there is an unreasonable loss we, as a committee, ask how it is. They say they could not sell the things. We do not say much. They pull up next time, or if they do not pull up, we know that there is some cause for it. The loss is not extreme.

4294. Is the food bought by the children?—Yes; it is bought by the children. We do not care to pauperise odd children by giving food. We give what is over to the Soldiers' Missionary, who has a very good opportunity of getting rid of it among the poor. I asked my committee a little while ago if there was anything to spare to let it be given to the maternity society. The maternity society often has very bad cases.

4295. The people who rely on buying food from the cookery centres are unable to do so while these dinners are going on?—They are unable to do so then. I do not know that they are much obliged to us for selling food to them. They seem to think that they are conferring a favour in buying it. The teachers in the adjoining schools are very glad to get sixpenny or fivepenny dinners. That is a very good way of getting rid of the food.

4296. Are you aware of any other cases in England in which cookery centres are freely utilised?—No. It has not come to my notice.

4297. You probably would have heard of it in going about the country?—Yes. We were making a collection among ourselves as a cookery committee ten or twelve years ago, and the utilisation of the kitchen started at a time when we were not bound down hand and foot by the Board of Education to keep to the syllabus. We did not ask if we might break the syllabus. We got up the dinners and said nothing about it. Mr. George Green was the Chairman at that time.

4298. Your opinion is that the children have learned considerably from providing the meals?—I think they have had an experience which they could not have got otherwise. I think they have learnt considerably. It was delightful to see them making these large roly-poly instead of the tiny things that are sometimes made.

4299. Have you anything else that you wish to add to what you have said?—If you think of utilising the centres it has to be done very carefully because people are all so afraid of being required to undertake heavy extra work. They will do a little thing for you when they think that they are doing it of their own free will, but once you say that it is to be done then comes the trouble. That is my experience.

4300. That matter has been very much brought before us already?—I did not know.

NINTH DAY.

Tuesday, 18th July, 1905.

PRESENT.

Mr. H. W. SIMPSON, C.B. (in the Chair).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.Mr. R. WALRON.
The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (Secretary).

Mr. H. B. PRIESTMAN, called; and Examined.

4301. (Chairman.) You are a member of the Bradford County Borough Council?—Yes, that is so. I am a councillor representing one of the wards of the city.

4302. You have taken part in administering the system of free meals for school children in Bradford?—Yes.

4303. In what capacity?—As chairman of the joint committee. We have had a committee consisting, not merely of the members of the education committee, but also of the Cinderella Club which has done a good deal in the way of feeding children in past winters and has been working with us in the matter of providing meals. We have also associated with us, by granting them two seats on the committee, the city Guild of Help, which is an organisation on the lines of the Elberfeld system of visiting the poor. The Guild have a small army of about 600 voluntary visitors of the poor. They have been helping us during the last couple of months by investigating the conditions of the homes.

4304. The committee of which you are chairman is made up of representatives of three bodies?—Yes.

4305. The Town Council, the Cinderella Club, and the Guild of Help?—Yes. We have kept the majority of the seats for the education committee.

4306. How many seats does each of the three bodies hold?—In the winter, when the Cinderella Club were taking an active part in the feeding, we gave them seven seats on the committee to our thirteen. The committee was primarily a subcommittee of the education Committee, the education committee having to do with the children. We gave the Cinderella Club seven seats on the committee. Later we modified the arrangement and gave them three, and to the Guild of Help, which helped us with the visiting and reinforced us, we gave two. So that we have aimed at getting the majority in the hands of the body which really is primarily responsible both to the public and the education department.

4307. The money that you have been administering I think has come from two sources?—Yes.

4308. From the Mayor's fund and from the Cinderella Club?—It was at first to a certain extent joint. The Cinderella Club were doing a good deal of work and had got a fund and were first in the field. Then at about the middle or end of December the Mayor intervened and issued an appeal at our request to the public of Bradford and raised £3,300. The Cinderella Club joined with us and did not charge us the full amount of the work they had done for us up to that point, so you may say that the fund was a joint one, but much the greater portion of it was collected by the Mayor by public subscription.

4309. During the past autumn and winter some of the actual money was contributed by the Cinderella Club, was it not?—It was not so much money as the giving of meals and clogs. The two funds became virtually amalgamated, not perhaps entirely, but they made a charge which we honoured from the Mayor's fund for meals which they had supplied and also for some clogs. It is a little difficult to separate the two. Broadly speaking you may take it that perhaps three-fourths of the money that has been expended has been from the Mayor's fund. The Cinderella Club's own funds came practically from the same source—the charitable public of Bradford.

4310. It would be convenient if we put on the evidence the short *precis* which you have sent in?—Yes. The *precis* is as follows.

Mr. H. B. Priestman.
18 July, 1905.

PRECIS OF EVIDENCE.
COUNCILLOR H. B. PRIESTMAN, BRADFORD.

A.—METHODS EMPLOYED.

1. Yes.
 2. (a.) Yes.
(b.) (i) Free.
(c.) (i) Yes.
(ii) Yes. Clerks and Attendance Officers, with paid assistance.
 3. (a.) —
(b.) —
(c.) Given free.
 4. Meals are given to all children (pending enquiry), recommended by
 5. (a.) Teacher.
(b.) School Attendance Officers.
(c.) District Visitors.
(d.) Charity Organisation Committees.
(e.) Special Relief Committees.
- Enquiries made and cases determined upon afterwards.
6. (a.) At the schools in some instances. At centres where six or seven schools are grouped together, where practicable.
 7. The cost of distribution is considerably less where there are centres. (This is I think doubtful.)
 8. Cinderella Club for some years past for portion of year, i.e., during the winter months. The present fund raised to meet special circumstances, but at present used for the general feeding of poor children.

B.—SUMS EXPENDED.

1. From January 1st to June 3rd, 1905, £1,378.
2. Cannot give separate particulars.
3. 1½d. in winter—now 2d. per head.
4. (a.) Private subscriptions.
5. No, but cannot say for the future.

C.—RELIEF GIVEN.

1. (a.) Dinner.
(b.) In winter. Soup or hash and bread and rice pudding. Now. Corned beef sandwiches, currant bun and cocoa or tea.
(c.) Do not think there is enough variety, although the children always relish the food.
- (d.) (1) Five school days per week now (six days in winter, i.e., school days and Saturday.)
(2) Every day.
(3) No provision is made for Saturdays (except in winter) Sundays or holidays.
(4) No limit yet. Exhaustion of funds the limit.

2. Yes.
3. January 1st to June 3rd, 222,851 meals.
4. 2,400.
5. Yes.

D.—"RETARDED" AND AFFLICTED CHILDREN.

1. Not specially.
2. Yes.
4311. Do you consider that the present organisation prevents overlapping?—I think that we have now got to a point where we do prevent overlapping with the Cinderella Club. I think that we have got past the

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point of overlapping, but during the winter I am bound to say I think there has been a little overlapping, but not very material.

4312. Are there many parochial and congregational agencies in Bradford which feed children and adults?—No, not to any extent. Various religious organisations have their funds for helping the poor and so on, but they do nothing in the way of regularly feeding the children. They give a treat at Christmas time or doles of money and so on to poor cases coming under their purview, but there is no regular system for the provision of meals by any charitable organisation.

4313. Not by the Salvation Army, for instance?—There is the Salvation Army, but they get more amongst the specifically tramp class, I think.

4314. Have they a system of farthing breakfasts in Bradford for children?—No, none that I know of.

4315. In what ways do the local education authority assist in the matter besides sending representatives to the joint committee?—Of course, we have used the teachers to a very considerable extent. The teachers in the schools have been extremely good in the matter and have done a large amount of work in helping first of all to pick out suitable children and then to some extent also with the administration of the meals. The Education Office has lent its Board Room for committees to meet in. The Clerk of the Board has always been with us and there has been a good deal of clerical work done by the education department. I should say that from the Mayor's Fund we have taken a weekly wage of £2 for a man who has done the bulk of the clerical work and generally looked after the administration of the fund.

4316. Then the school attendance officers have been at your disposal?—Yes. The school attendance officers during November, December, and January made a house to house visitation of the homes from which the children who had been fed came and made reports to us, so that we got some independent idea of the circumstances of the families. We found that that was a very arduous business for them. They had already their ordinary work to do. Towards the end of the winter we relieved them from visiting the homes and the Guild of Help took over the work.

4317. As regards the use of buildings were rooms placed by the education committee at the disposal of the fund?—No. The Cinderella Club took certain rooms. I think that perhaps there were two schools that had been under the education committee in Bradford, but were not used. One of them had not been used for some time and the other was a room which one of the Catholic churches placed at our disposal.

4318. Was it found necessary to use any actual school rooms in schools now at work?—Now, during the summer, we are feeding the children in the schools; sending the food to the schools. During the winter we had five centres to which the children came in different parts of the town, a group of schools being attached to each centre. The children in those schools came and were fed there.

4319. The whole work of the winter was done by those five centres?—No, not the whole of it. Food was sent to some of the outlying schools, but the great bulk of the poverty was in the centre of the city and our experience was that the further you got from the centre of the city the less need there was for feeding.

4320. It was not found necessary to supply coals and gas by the school authority?—No. The school authority, except in the case of St. Patrick's, the Roman Catholic School, did not do that, I think. As the meals were in the middle of the day there would not be much gas necessary.

4321. I was thinking of gas for cooking? There has been a little found for gas stoves, but I do not think very much.

4322. The meals were entirely free?—I think that about twenty parents sent small contributions, but practically speaking they were free. 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 a 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.

4323. Is it your opinion that if such a cheap meal were available it would be largely taken advantage of by parents?—Certainly it is, and it would be an immense boon.

4324. Have you anything more than an impression to go upon in the matter?—No, I cannot say that I have. Not having offered it we cannot say at all what proportion would avail themselves of it, but you see the difficulty that we should be in if we did begin without proper accommodation.

4325. It is a matter which might, I suppose, be tried as an experiment in one centre?—Yes. I should extremely like to see it tried.

4326. Do you anticipate that parents would refuse to pay a penny if any children were admitted free at the same centre?—I think some of them would. I think many of them would prefer to pay the penny.

4327. I mean rather supposing you had a meal for which some children paid the penny and to which other children were admitted free, according to your present system, would parents refrain from sending the children because the free children were there?—I think it would make a very undesirable distinction. I do not know whether the parents would go so far as to refuse to send their children.

4328. Would you propose that the penny meal should be a separate one altogether from the other?—We have not quite thought it out. I think our idea was, if we could have done it, that it would be better to let the children come without distinction, so that the children themselves should not know.

4329. Do you think, as a matter of fact, that that would be found practicable?—I think it would be rather difficult to do it. I do not quite know how we could manage it.

4330. With regard to the selection of children I understand, from the return of the Cinderella Club, that, until this year, the children were selected by the members of the Cinderella Committee?—Yes.

4331. By house to house visitation and inquiry?—Yes.

4332. They go on to say "During the past winter the children were mainly selected by the teachers at each school and then inquiries were made by the school attendance officers, the Joint Committee deciding each case on the results of these inquiries?—Yes.

4333. "This obtained up to March 31st. Since then the work of inquiry only has been undertaken by the City Guild of Help with our assistance" (that is to say the assistance of the Cinderella Club) "which has some 600 visitors divided into forty districts"?—The Guild of Help has the 600 visitors.

4334. That I understand. Does that represent the system that was adopted during the past winter?—It is quite correct.

4335. Have you any remarks to make on the question of selection?—Yes, I felt that it was a little unsatisfactory, because the Cinderella people were recommending and sending some children that had not been passed by our Committee. They were really our own children that the Committee had agreed should be fed, and a certain number of children whom, in the opinion of the Cinderella Club, it was necessary to feed. At one of the schools whenever there was any surplus of food children were brought in who had not been recommended by the Education Committee. I do not know that there was very much to be said against it, but still it was, to a certain extent, overlapping, and we felt that it was not quite satisfactory.

4336. That, I take it, was only a survival of the old system?—A survival of the old system.

4337. It would pass away under your new system?—Yes, that would be so.

4338. You propose that, in future, the selection should be entirely in the hands of these visitors. The first selection would be by the teacher, I understand?—I think that the teacher will have to be the first selector in every case, because the teacher comes in actual contact with the children. I feel that probably the head teacher of each department should be the one who should select the children in the first instance, because he or she has the best opportunity of seeing what condition they are in. When a child faints, for instance, in school in the morning naturally it is the teacher who sees it and who would at once report the matter to the head teacher. He would send the information on.

4339. Are the teachers' lists handed to the visitors connected with the Guild of Help?—Yes. The Guild took over the names already on the list. There have been a few fresh applications made since, but the great majority of cases have been getting food during the winter.

4340. Does the organisation of the Guild of Help provide a visitor in every district of the City?—I am Chairman of the Executive of the Guild of Help. We are a little bit overburdened with the work. It is very difficult for our helpers to do it at all adequately and I am afraid that we have not succeeded in really getting all the information which we ought to have. You see it is the same thing there as it is with the schools—all the poverty comes in great patches in the middle of the City, and whereas our helpers can manage the easier districts quite comfortably, where there is not a great deal of poverty, when you come to a slum area, where there are some hundreds of children perhaps to be dealt with, it is very difficult for a visitor to do the work adequately. I was talking to our Secretary about it only yesterday, and he said that he fears that it is more than we can undertake.

4341. I suppose in such districts you multiply the number of visitors?—Yes, we do, as far as we can. The Cinderella people have helped our visitors to a limited extent: not to a very great extent.

4342. Are the visitors all unpaid persons?—Yes, quite. I do not want, of course, to depreciate at all the capacity of these helpers, but they are, to a certain extent, raw to the work. Naturally when you have to get volunteers for such purposes you cannot expect trained investigators. They may become so in time, but at first many of them are sure to be led away very largely by their feelings, and to fail to get at the real root facts of the case.

4343. Presumably you find considerable differences in the opinions of one and another visitor?—Yes. I may say that the Guild of Help system makes the district head responsible for his helpers and help would not be given unless the district head had approved of the case. In doubtful cases the papers are handed in to a joint committee of the Cinderella Club, the Guild of Help and the Education Committee for them to decide upon the case.

4344. Did you get many such cases last winter for decision?—Yes, there were many. I could not say off-hand the number, but perhaps 300 or 400 were met with weekly.

4345. What proportion of the visitors are ladies?—I should say about half, speaking without the book; I cannot say positively.

4346. Have you any special relief committees attached to the different schools?—No, we have not. At the beginning of the winter I very much wanted to see a relief committee attached to each school who would really take the scholars in each school in hand and look after them, but it has been a very busy winter for all concerned, and we have not been able to form such committees. I think that that is the ideal, certainly.

4347. The present organisation is by districts and not by schools?—Yes, that is so. We group five or six schools to a centre.

4348. The visitors of the district would not be in connection with the schools but in connection with a set of streets, presumably?—Yes, that is so.

4349. You made a very large advance in the number of meals given during this last winter beyond anything previously done, I understand?—Yes.

4350. What was the reason for that?—Partly, I think, because things were bad in Bradford. Trade has been bad. It was partly because the subject has received more attention than it has ever had before. The teachers in our schools have said, over and over again, that they do not think the distress has been much greater than normally, and they hold the theory, and apparently, it is a correct one, that there are always a considerable number of children who need food. We have now, at the present time, the most favourable part of the year, when presumably everybody who can work gets work, got down to about 1,200 children. My last return shows that, during the week ending 30th June, there were 6,037 meals provided. Those are given on five days a week, so, dividing that number by five, it means 1,200 children per day. I have an analysis of causes of need here which I thought might be interesting to you, and which I shall be glad to hand over to you (*handing the same to the Committee*). That really is the result of the visitation by the Guild of Help in about 5,000 cases.

4351. Is this for any particular period of the year, or is it general?—This is the result of the work since the Guild of Help took it up during April, May and June.

4352. We will put it on the evidence?—It is not quite complete. We have not visited all but it gives the percentages, which I think might be useful. It includes children not going to school. We could not separate them.

4353. Does it include children under three?—It includes children under three.

4354. (*Miss Lawrence.*) Do they come to school?—No. We take the households as the basis, and the inquiry has been based on the number of children in the household. I put it in merely as an indication of the percentages of the causes. For instance, fathers out of work represent twenty-one per cent. of the total investigated here, which may not cover quite the whole, but which is presumably a fair sample of the whole. I think it quite sufficiently gives an indication. (*The following is the Analysis.*)

A.
FEEDING OF POOR CHILDREN.
REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS BY CITY GUILD OF HELP.

Cases passed by Committee.	Households.	Children under working age.	
		No.	p.c.
1. Widows - - - -	122	291	19.2
2. Fathers deserted, in asylum, gaol, or incapacitated.	60	153	10.1
3. Fathers working on test -	9	37	2.4
4. Fathers out of work -	109	327	21.5
5. Fathers working short time.	81	277	18.2
6. Hawkers, &c., with small and precarious incomes.	20	71	4.7
7. Got work, but in temporary poor circumstances.	4	17	1.1
8. Fathers in full work, insufficient income, large families:			
Railway men - -	8	37	22.8
Corporation men -	3	17	
Woolcombers, &c. -	33	165	
Out-door labourers -	14	66	
Cart drivers - -	10	39	
Soldiers, away from home.	2	7	
Various - - -	3	16	
Free Meals discontinued, circumstances improved, and cases refused by Committee.	478 185	1,520 488	100.0
	663	2,008*	

* This number includes children too young to attend school.

Mr. H. B. Priestman. 4355. (Chairman.) It would not mean that the full number of 2,008 children were fed under your organization?—No, not at all. Allowance must be made for young children who do not go to school, but still it gives an idea of what the causes are for children needing food.

4356. How much money has been actually spent since the beginning of the year up to the present date?—The figures are from January 1st to June 30th 235,222 meals at a cost of £1,569 11s. 9d. The July expenditure is not given here, as July is not complete.

4357. You cannot give a return beyond the 30th of June?—No. I think we had better stop at the 30th of June.

4358. That would be for six months?—Yes, a half year.

4359. I suppose that it will be quite fair to double that to give a year's expenditure?—You mean supposing we did the same thing up to the end of the year?

4360. Yes?—The question is whether they would want quite the same amount of clothing and clogs. The clothes given last spring would be worn out.

4361. I am on food only?—On food only it would mean double certainly, unless we are going to have so much better trade in Bradford that fewer children will need help. Broadly £3,100 for the year would be necessary for feeding.

4362. The meals are given as dinners?—Yes.

4363. Was that done after consideration?—I think that we began with breakfasts. We began by sending food for breakfasts to some of the schools but when we came to feed at the centres we gave dinners.

4364. I find from the returns that the old system in Bradford was to give a meal at six in the afternoon under the Cinderella Club?—Yes. They gave a great many teas to children during the severe weather. My feeling would be that the mid-day meals is much more satisfactory.

4365. Rather than a meal at the end of the day?—Yes.

4366. And you feel equally that it should be given then rather than at the beginning of the day?—Yes, I think so. One of our teachers said that he considered that the children were much more in need of a mid-day meal than of breakfast. He says that those who have slept in ill-ventilated stuffy rooms very often hardly seem to have any appetite for breakfast at all, and that by noon they have a very healthy appetite.

4367. The meals were varied a good deal in the winter?—Yes, fairly varied. We had good nourishing soup and rice pudding on several days; I could not say quite on how many days of the week. Then that was varied by a kind of hash or stew on other days.

4368. The return given by the Cinderella Club is "Monday and Wednesday—Soup, bread, and rice pudding; Tuesday and Thursday—hash, bread, and rice pudding; and Friday, soup, bread, and rice pudding?"—Yes, that would be correct.

4369. On Saturdays at 4.30, tea?—Yes. The children are not at school on Saturdays, so during the winter months a tea was given at 4.30 at the same centres.

4370. Consisting of corned beef sandwiches and currant buns?—Yes.

4371. That I understand is the substance of the meal which now continues in the summer?—Yes.

4372. You say so on your *precis*?—What is being sent to the schools is corned beef sandwiches, currant buns and cocoa or tea. We have tried to get more cocoa and less tea, but I believe that, as a matter of fact, the public taste is hardly educated up to cocoa and they prefer tea.

4373. Have you anything to say about variety?—I do not know that I have except that individual members of our committee have their own ideas about food, and one or two of the ladies who have worked with us think that more milk might be given, especially to the younger children. I think that where it speaks of variety that applies rather to the corned beef sandwiches, currant buns and cocoa.

4374. Precisely the same meal is sent out every day?—Yes. It is now handy to deal with. When you have to send great tins of soup about it is rather difficult to

get it conveyed, and these drier things are more easily handled. I feel sure that the remark about variety applies to that rather than to the winter meal.

4375. The parents I suppose always know when the children are going to get a meal?—I do not think they do.

4376. If a child is put on the list for feeding does his name remain there until you say it is taken off?—Yes, until we report that the case is one that might be taken off.

4377. The parent would necessarily know?—The parent in some cases I think has come and said voluntarily that the family were in better circumstances, but I think it would be a matter of possibility for a child to get a ticket without the parent knowing. 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 of it, but they certainly were not in need.

4378. Precautions would be taken to prevent parents speculating on a meal by sending their children unfed to school?—It would be very difficult indeed to prevent that; I think that probably, in some cases, the fact that we were providing meals has been taken advantage of by lazy and indifferent parents for ceasing effort of their own. For instance one boy got his breakfast at the school and then said to the teacher "Now I must go home and wake my mother." So that obviously things were not quite right there.

4379. You felt the importance of continuing the meals after the spring came?—Yes we did. That of course is an innovation. In previous years the Cinderella Club have always stopped their operations at the end of March, with the termination of winter. We hesitated a good deal about doing it. We should have liked, of course, to have kept the Mayor's Fund for next winter. We feel that it would be rather a difficult thing to appeal to the charitable public for another £3,000 next autumn. If we go on feeding as we are doing during the summer months I calculate that by next November, or December at latest, the Mayor's Fund will be exhausted and we shall have to appeal again, or do something.

4380. Has there been very much difference of opinion on your committee as to continuing through the summer?—No. We called some of the teachers together and they pretty well convinced us that there were a number of children who really must be fed. The parents were out of work, or there was sickness in the house, or the fathers were away from home, having deserted the home, or the mothers were widows. In some cases, unfortunately, we feel that children need food because of the low wages of the father. The lowest paid class of operatives in our city are the wool combers and when the wool combers are on short time the wage is very poor. A man who has, say five children, none of them of the age to go to work half time, finds it a very difficult thing indeed. It is a very great struggle to provide properly for the children. I think you will see that in that paper I put in, that class is mentioned. Twenty-two per cent. of the cases, where investigation has been made of the households, represent parents in full work but with insufficient income. Perhaps you would like to know the line upon which we have gone in determining whether a case should be helped or not.

4381. By all means?—We have taken the total earnings of a family, deducted the rent, and then divided by the number of heads. When the income of the household was under 3s. per head we granted the meals.

4382. Do you apply that irrespective of the numbers in the family?—Yes, we do, and I felt that that was rather a weakness of the method because obviously with a small family that is a harder condition than with a large family. The amount per head in the case of a large family, I suppose, would go a little further than it would in the case of a small family.

4383. Is there any system in Bradford of giving meals to defective and cripple children?—No, nothing separate has been done. They have come in with the others.

4384. Have you made any use of medical opinion, or medical inspection, in the selection of the children?—I cannot say that we have. We have medical superintendence at the schools but we have not made much use of it.

4385. Do you utilise the cookery classes in any way for the purpose?—No I think not at all, or I will not say not at all. In the case of one school the head teacher did a very good work in providing meals himself apart from our Committee. He got butchers, and so on, to let him have very cheaply, or for nothing, pieces of meat, and he made soup himself. I daresay he would use his school kitchen. I do not know for certain. Generally speaking we have been told that the cookery classes must not be interfered with.

4386. (Miss Lawrence.) In the serving of the dinners do the teachers help at all, or who serves the dinner?—Yes, they do. We have had a little bit of friction with the teachers. They have been a little afraid, and quite justifiably so, I think, of having certain duties in connection with the feeding of children put upon them in addition to their already fairly onerous duties. They have always said "We will help you all we can but it must be understood that it is done voluntarily and we cannot recognise it as being part of our duty." I think it is a very fair contention because we are not able to pay them any more for doing it.

4387. Do the teachers assist in all cases. Where the dinners are given at the schools they would certainly help, would they not?—Yes. We try to use the caretaker of the school buildings as much as possible, so as to relieve the teachers.

4388. When you have the dinners in centres would the teachers still go and help?—To some extent. That is varied a good deal. In some cases probably more help is given than in others.

4389. The teacher will help to serve and look after the meal?—The Cinderella Club have a certain number of their own members, and volunteers, who volunteer for the work. They have done splendid work, and a tremendous amount of it. Young ladies have come from the neighbourhood and the members of the Cinderella Club themselves have left their own dinners, got a snatched dinner and come for weeks and months. Their work has been beyond all praise.

4390. In your opinion which do you think the most satisfactory—the dinners in the schools or in the centres?—In the centres.

4391. Because of the larger number, the economy, or what?—Because you can get a better dinner and also because we deprecate the giving of food in the school-rooms.

4392. Have you found it disagreeable?—Yes. In some cases there has been trouble even where the dinners have been given in centres. The children have over-eaten themselves and been ill in the afternoon, and so on.

4393. What sort of centres are they?—Usually a discarded schoolroom or a schoolroom that perhaps may be used on Sundays only as a Sunday school.

4394. In those cases the cooking is not done on the premises, I gather?—No; the cooking has generally been done at one centre and the soup sent in carts from that centre. That is the great trouble. We ought to have a good dining room and a good kitchen attached to it so that the soup can be taken straight from the coppers where it is made to the children.

4395. What is the greatest number that is fed at one time at a centre, do you suppose?—I think we have got up to 500. That is far too many. It becomes a rabble and it is very difficult to preserve order.

4396. You prefer a small number?—Yes; 200 is quite enough, I think. It depends on your staff and the size of your room.

4397. Do you think there is greater economy in having larger numbers?—I think when you get over 200 it does not make much difference, but I can hardly give an opinion that is worth much on that because it has come more within the work of the Cinderella Club than my own.

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4398. Who cooks these dinners. Do you employ different people?—Yes. The cooking was paid for to some extent. They paid the cooks at the centre where the soup was made, I think.

4399. You do not have the food sent from any sort of restaurant?—No.

4400. I gather from the way in which you arrange the selection of children that all the children in one family would be fed if you put that family on the list?—Yes; we should feed all the children.

4401. All attending school?—Yes.

4402. Have you any particular forms upon which application is made?—Yes, we have.

4403. That form is signed by the parent?—Yes. In many cases the parent cannot write and makes a mark.

4404. The report of the helper would be by one of your helpers?—Yes, that is the later form. In the earlier form you would have the attendance officer. The helper has power to ask questions and get as much information as he, or she, can out of the parents, but the helper has no means of ascertaining what the actual wage is. If a parent were dishonest and said he was getting 12s. a week, whereas he was getting 24s. the helper would have no right to send to the employer to say "Is he getting 12s. only or are you paying him more?"

4405. Do you think it was more satisfactory when the school attendance officer filled it in?—I think it was. Now that the investigation looks like becoming permanent I think it will have to be made by the Guardians.

4406. With regard to the other form what does the badge number refer to?—It is the number of the ticket which the child brings. We have had metal badges, and we have had coupons. In some respects we prefer coupons. That means a little more trouble because the coupon has to be issued each day to the child, whereas a check can be given to the child and the child keeps it. If the child keeps a check you are a little in doubt as to whether it changes it with somebody else.

4407. I was going to ask about that?—It is very difficult. I believe that the Cinderella Club prefer the check system. They adopted it first.

4408. "Attendance Return for week ending"—does that mean at school or at the dinners?—It would be the attendance of the child at school.

4409. Not necessarily the attendance at dinner?—No, I think not. Probably that is put in for this reason, that we have had cases of children stopped from going to school because there are measles in the house, but the child with a check could come to dinner among the other children. We have tried to prevent it but it is very difficult to avoid. Where a child is in possession of a check, and the baby in the house has measles, it will go on coming to have dinner and may infect other children. There is that difficulty.

4410. Do you find that your numbers have decreased during the summer?—Yes, they have gone down. We were feeding at first something like 2,500, and we have gone down now to about 1,200.

4411. Is that because the need is less, or because they do not like the food so much?—I think it is because the need is less. The outdoor labourers have a very much better chance in summer than they have in winter.

4412. I see that you never vary the corned beef sandwiches, apparently?—No; that is the regular thing since we dropped the soup.

4413. Is the extra cost owing to the extra cost of material, or to the decrease of numbers?—I think it is owing to the difference in the food. The corned-beef sandwiches, currant buns and cocoa cannot be supplied as cheaply as soup and rice pudding.

4414. I understood that in no case did the children pay anything?—I think that about twenty to thirty parents sent some contribution. I suppose we took it but it was a very trifling matter.

4415. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Is this return practically for the summer months, may we say?—Yes; that is April, May and June.

4416. The number of those out of work, I suppose, would have been much larger in the winter months?—

Mr. H. B. I should think that a great many of those who are returned as out of work may have got into work now.

18 July, 1905. 4417. You think they are in work now?—Yes.

4418. There are still 1,200 being fed?—There are still 1,200 being fed.

4419. The form seems to be simply an inquiry into the wages. There is no inquiry into the character of the people or anything of the kind?—No. We have asked the attendance officer first of all, and then the Guild of Help, to give us information and we have in many cases got it. 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.

4420. You have in fact fed these children?—We have fed them. 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.

4421. The charitable public are really paying for the gambling and drinking?—Yes, that is so.

4422. When this form of inquiry has once been filled as to the wages, do your visitors go round at intervals to see whether the circumstances alter?—Yes. Our instructions were that they should visit them once a fortnight, but as I explained earlier, there is a great deal of work to be done and they probably have not yet quite got through their work on the first visit, and in districts where there is a great deal of poverty it would be a very arduous thing indeed for the helper to visit once a fortnight. We feel that a visit ought to be paid because at any moment a family may get into better circumstances, when feeding ought to cease.

4423. Have you any large proportion of cases in which you have been able to pay more than one or two visits? In many cases during the winter we got in a second visit by the attendance officers, but I should think there has been not much second visiting by the Guild of Help during the last three months. There may have been in some districts but in the worst districts it cannot have been so.

4424. Are the forms filed as a record for another year?—Yes, we keep the forms.

4425. So there would be much more evidence next year than you had before you this year?—Yes. The evidence certainly should accumulate.

4426. You do not check the information as to rate of wages by reference to the rate of wages paid in the works?—No. We feel that that check ought to be kept but we have not done it.

4427. Without actually applying to the employer you could easily find out the rate of wages for different groups of men?—Yes. We have an idea. We know, from our own experience, what the wage in certain trades is. We know that a man working under the corporation, for

instance, gets about 6d. an hour, unless he is an old street sweeper, or something of the sort.

4428. On your return of people in full work with insufficient income there are three corporation men and the total of their families is seventeen children?—Yes.

4429. That is an insufficient wage, is it not. It is big a family for each. What is the wage of a corporation man?—It depends on what his work is, of course. A corporation workman in full time, and one that is not an old street sweeper, would get, as I say, about 6d. an hour, and he should be able to provide for five children. Some put down as corporation workmen would be unemployed. We have had a number of men working upon some special work cleaning out an old reservoir, removing the refuse from it on to an adjoining field. There they have been paid 6d. an hour, but they have only worked on alternate days so that a man would get 12s. a week.

4430. This is in the section that says "Fathers in full work," so it would not include those particular cases?—No, it would not cover those.

4431. There is a section here "Fathers working on test work." Is that what you refer to?—No; that is work found by the guardians.

4432. There are 19 per cent. of widows?—Yes.

4433. I suppose their children are the children who are now being fed throughout the summer, probably?—Yes, probably.

4434. You said, I think, that you fed all the children in a family if you could. Suppose that the teacher of the boys' school sends in the boy's name and the teacher of the girls' school does not send in the girl's name?—You might have a case where one or two in the family were getting it and others were not.

4435. Teachers vary very much in their view as to who should be fed?—Yes, and some teachers have a great deal more sympathy, and disposition to put the children on, than others. That has been one of the difficulties of the past winter. 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 would like to keep the teachers free from that. It is not fair that they should have that additional difficulty in their work.

4436. (Dr. Parsons.) What proportion of the school children in Bradford are receiving these meals. 2,500 during the past winter were fed at one time and another. What percentage is that of the total numbers in the schools?—We have 55,000 in the schools. 2,500 would be somewhere about 5 per cent.

4437. Is that sufficient to cover all that are in need?—I should think there were many cases of parents of an independent spirit who objected to having their children fed and who struggled on.

4438. Does your experience lead you to think that the class of children who, though not defective, are, from want of nutrition, below the normal standard, is a numerous one?—I should not like to give an answer to that, really I could not say. I have not sufficient experience. A case came before me the other day in which it was reported that the children had been so much neglected that their intellects seemed to be impaired, but I could not found any estimate upon that.

4439. Are any special steps taken to find out and relieve those children who, though not defective, are according to the terms of our reference, from malnutrition below the normal standard?—No, we have dealt with them amongst others. There is no division made.

4440. In these cases, which are rather numerous, where the parents would be able to feed their children properly but, through intemperance or gambling, and so on, have neglected to do so, are any steps taken to make the parents behave better to their children?—No; that is just the point which I feel has been extremely unsatisfactory during the winter. As an education authority we have not power to deal with such parents as we should like.

4441. Have the guardians taken action?—I think that the guardians have taken action, and that is a point I want to come to at the end.

4442. No action has been taken under the Local Government Board's recent order to compel the feeding of such children and to recover the cost from the parents?—No, not as yet.

4443. Do you think that public opinion in Bradford would not support your taking action under that order?—That is just the point that we are going to test. It is an extremely interesting point, and I am responsible for a resolution in the city council, which resolution comes on next Tuesday, and after the vote I can tell you a great deal better whether public opinion will support it or not. I think we shall carry it. It refers to asking the guardians to investigate all these cases and to deal with the class that you speak of. I feel that the guardians have powers which we have not, and we must invoke their aid in the matter.

4444. You have more than one board of guardians in Bradford?—North Bierley covers the new part of the city. There is a board of guardians for the great bulk of the city—what is called the old portion of the city. I think that North Bierley takes in one or two wards of the new portion.

4445. Have any cases been brought before the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children?—We have sent cases to them, and there again we are baffled. We have not got the society to take them up and deal with them. I do not wish to say anything to discredit the society, but they are extremely careful only to bring such cases into court as they can prove up to the hilt. I suppose it is a necessary part of their existence, having regard to the subscribing public. They dare not risk a case on uncertain evidence. Where you have a child who you may say is underfed because the parents are dissolute and neglectful, if the case is brought into court you may get one doctor to swear that the child is underfed and you may get another to come and swear that it is not. The society will not run risks, and therefore they have not been of any use to us.

4446. Some of these occupations seem to be ones that one would think should be fairly well paid. Take railway men for instance?—Yes. I am rather surprised to see those.

4447. Cart drivers are fairly well paid?—Yes, car drivers' wages will run to about 22s., 23s. and 24s. a week.

4448. The number of children in those cases is not four per household, I see?—No. I daresay that many authorities on the subject would say that we were too liberal in our allowance of 3s. a head after the rent has been paid, and that where there was 3s. a head coming in or 2s. 9d. we ought to have made the parents keep their own children.

4449. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) In some of these cases the investigators may not have had the full wages told them?—That is so. They may have been deceived to any extent. We have no means of checking those because we cannot go to the employer and say "Give us the wage of so and so." You cannot send an amateur helper to an employer with no credential to show when he demands the wage. The guardians can, of course, investigate.

4450. (Dr. Parsons.) Has it occurred to the committee, in cases like that, that by relieving the children they are rather subsidising, or paying out of charitable contributions, a portion of what should be paid to the men as wages by the employer?—Quite so. 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.

4451. (Mr. Walrod.) Do you remember what action was taken in that very bad case of neglect that you mentioned just now?—No action has been taken.

4452. You have fed the children?—We have fed the children, and clothed the children.

4453. Did you report the matter to the police?—Yes. I went to the Chief Constable about one case, I remember

distinctly. I do not know whether it was that case. Mr. H. B. He said: "If my officers can catch the children begging I can deal with them." Whether it is done on purpose or not I do not know, but the parent just sails inside the law. The child is not absolutely left without food. The children get some food, but they do not get enough. They have some clothing and they are probably not allowed to beg. The parents just keep inside the law, but all the same they are treating the children abominably.

4454. Are the children on your feeding list at present?—I should think that they are still on, but I cannot say.

4455. When would you strike them off in a case like that? That is just the point. I feel that we are powerless in the matter and that we need the help of the guardians.

4456. Are all the children who are fed, fed every day?—Five days at present. It was six during the winter.

4457. Whenever there is a meal the child on the list gets it?—Yes.

4458. You have no casual meals once a week?—Not during the summer. There are some during the winter.

4459. Do you feed some children twice a week? They would be fed in the winter six times a week.

4460. You have no children who are fed once a week or twice a week according to special needs?—No, I think not. There might be some children who, when the Cinderella Club gives the evening meal and entertainment afterwards for the children, might get that who were not getting the regular school meal, but not many. Most would be getting the regular school meal as well.

4461. You attach great importance, I suppose, to feeding each child every day?—Yes, I do. If it is done at all it ought to be done regularly.

4462. It is better to feed fifty children every day, you think, than 100 children every other day?—Yes, I think so. It has not occurred to us to do that. We have not tried it, at any rate.

4463. (Chairman.) We shall be very glad to hear anything you would like to add?—We are face to face with this difficulty: We have to feed a minimum of some 1,200 children which may rise, during the winter up to a maximum of 2,500 or 3,000. As an education committee we have no power to feed those children from the rates. We have not even power to keep an officer for carrying on the work. His expenses have been paid out of the Mayor's fund. The Mayor's fund will very soon be exhausted, as I have said already. If the mayor cannot see his way to make an appeal (the last one was made as lately as last December) to the charitable public of Bradford again for another £3,000, what is to become of the children next winter? Under the circular of the Board of Education, in conjunction with the action of the Local Government Board, two-thirds presumably of these children may be fed by the guardians. The guardians may feed the children of parents who are permanently impoverished and they may feed and deal with the children of parents who though capable of making provision have neglected to do so. That would leave to our education committee and voluntary agency the children of parents who are temporarily impoverished either through illness or want of work. That would very much reduce our difficulty and those might presumably be satisfactorily coped with by the education committee in conjunction with charitable agencies in The City Guild of Help, and so on. To continue to feed all these children of these three classes seems to us to be beyond our power. Then, of course, there is the question of classification. By whom can this classification be made? My personal view, and I know that it is held by a good many others, is that we cannot make this classification satisfactorily. It is an extremely difficult thing to say which parents are in permanent poverty and which are only in temporary poverty, and, as I have explained, the Guild of Help cannot demand from the employer information as to the wages that any particular man is receiving. Then there is the considerable class of children of the licentious and indifferent. As I have explained we have no powers to deal with them. If the children do not attend school we can get them committed to an Industrial Home for non-attendance at school, but simply because a child is underfed we have

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Mr. H. B. Priestman. 18 July, 1905. no locus standi in the matter. Now the guardians have, and therefore I feel very strongly that the work of classifying these children should be undertaken by the guardians. I have been in communication with the chairman of the board of guardians. He said they would not send the relieving officers, but would appoint officers specially to visit the children and report. They would make the classification. They would feed Classes I and III themselves, and they would propose to feed for us the children of Class II, so that there should be no distinction between Classes I, II, and III as far as the children themselves were concerned. We should pay the guardians from any voluntary fund, for feeding the children under Class II, and they would feed children under heads I and

Dr. Rhys Davies, called; and Examined.

Dr. Rhys Davies. 18 July, 1905. 4466. (Chairman.) You are one of two medical officers who work under the Swansea Local Education Authority? That is so.

4467. You and your colleague were both appointed by the late Swansea School Board?—That is so.

4468. How long ago?—Eight years ago.

4469. You have both been working in the same capacity ever since?—Yes, ever since.

4470. You are not the Medical Officer of Health for Swansea?—No.

4471. Do you find that there is a difficulty in settling the province of the education authority doctor and the Medical Officer of Health?—Not at all. We work together admirably.

4472. You have not found any difficulties arise in consequence of the duties not being concentrated in one person?—Not the slightest. The public health duties are, to some extent, done by the medical officer. For example, in a case of an epidemic he gives orders that the school should be closed, and in any cases of emergency we generally have a conference.

4473. You are in private practice?—Yes.

4474. Do you find that that in any way affects the facilities for carrying out your school duties?—Of course, it takes up my time. The private practice must be attended to.

4475. But you do not find any conflict of duty?—There is a slight conflict of duty which I am going to mention later on.

4476. About how much time are you able to give to the school duties?—Two or three hours a week, say.

4477. We will now take your *précis* and treat that as your evidence-in-chief and put it on the shorthand notes?—Very well.

(The following *précis* was handed in.) A.—STAFF.

(1) There are two medical officers acting under the Swansea Borough Education Authority:—Dr. Rice Morgan acts in the upper or out-lying district, having under his charge seven schools with an average attendance of 5,095 children; Dr. Rhys Davies acts in the lower or town division, having under his charge twelve schools with an average attendance of 11,098 children.

(a) Dr. Rice Morgan acts also as Medical Officer of Health for part of the Swansea rural district. Dr. Rhys Davies has no other duties.

(b) Both engage in private practice.

(c) About two or three hours a week are devoted to the work.

(2) No nurses are employed.

(3) No, except indirectly.

There is a drill instructor who gives all his time to the schools.

There is a science teacher who also gives all his time to the teaching of elementary science. His syllabuses are appended.

There are also six cookery teachers.

B.—ORGANISATION.

(1) Yes; the medical officers pay quarterly visits to all the schools. Their duties are defined—"To visit each department, not less than once every three months, and report in writing on the sanitary condition of the premises and the general health of the scholars."

III. They would be fed together at the same centres, we paying for the feeding of No. II. That seems to be the most practical way out of the difficulty. It will be hotly contested by a section of our council, but I think we shall probably carry it by a majority. Otherwise I do not see how we are to find any way out of it, because the law does not allow us to feed from the rates.

4464. Is there anything that we have missed asking you that you would like to deal with?—No, I do not know that there is anything. I think that I have gone into the whole matter.

4465. (Chairman.) We have heard your evidence with very great interest.

"At such periodical visits to confer with the head teachers as to whether certain children mentioned by the head teacher are physically capable of proceeding to a higher standard or class."

"At such periodical visits, examine and test the eyesight, hearing, or other physical condition of any scholar, to whom attention may be called by the head teacher."

The Medical Officers exceed the above duties considerably; as the physical defect was not known to the Head Teachers.

All the sub-divisions under this heading have received a certain amount of attention and evidence will be put in as to the eyesight of 1,000 children; acuteness of hearing of 1,651; colour vision of 1,600; condition of teeth of 300; and the cleanliness of heads of 600.

(2)—

(a) No weights and measurements have been taken.

(b) No records of infectious diseases are kept.

(3) The organisation does not extend over the whole area. It is limited to the schools formerly controlled by the School Board. There are eight non-provided schools, with an average attendance of 3,150, which are not visited.

(4)—

(a) Each school is visited quarterly by the medical officer.

(b) There are no nurses employed.

(5) I generally inspect the children individually taking certain groups or standards.

(6) The teachers are always encouraged to assist the inspection and are instructed to recognise the symptoms of disease. For example, cards have been printed, and hung up in every class-room, giving the signs of defects of sight and hearing. A copy is printed in the report on Colour Vision, November 12th, 1901.

(7) The teachers are instructed to notify the parents of any defects in their children. A list containing the names of the defective children in their classes is always left with the teachers.

(8) There are no voluntary organisations for providing spectacles, etc.

(9) I have never known a parent object to the examination of a child. The object of the examination is always carefully explained to the children.

(10)—(a) Teachers generally notify cases either to the Medical Inspector or to the Medical Officer of Health.

(b) Instructions have been issued to teachers. The circular on diphtheria is enclosed. It was drawn up by Dr. Ebenezer Davies, Medical Officer of Health for the Borough, after a conference with the Medical Officers of the School Board.

(c) I am not aware that teachers are so informed.

C.—COSTS.

(1) When the appointment was made eight years ago, the salary was fixed at £25 per annum for each of the Medical Officers. Some of the schools have since been transferred to the County Education Authority and a corresponding reduction has been made in the salaries.

(a) Dr. Rice Morgan now receives £15 18s. 2d. for inspecting seven schools with an average attendance of 5,095. Dr. Rhys Davies receives £23 1s. 6d. for inspecting twelve schools with an average attendance of 11,098.

(b) There are no nurses employed.

(c) No other persons are employed.

(2) There are no incidental expenses.

(3) Total. See above 1 (a).

(4) A rate of 1d. in the £ means £1,500 a year in Swansea.

D.—RESULTS.

(1) The appointment was made in July, 1897, for two principal reasons:—Parents of clean children often complained that a large number of dirty ones attended the schools. Many pupil teachers were frequently on the sick list; the Board was not satisfied that they were all genuine cases of illness.

After the appointment was made there was a marked and immediate improvement in the attendance of pupil teachers, and a steady and gradual improvement in the cleanliness of the scholars.

(2) The present system works smoothly and, as far as it goes, quite satisfactorily. Its advantages, as compared with the time before the appointment was made, are marked, and will be explained under the next sub-division.

Its difficulties arise chiefly from its limited scope. It is simply a beginning of a great educational work.

At first there was some opposition to the movement. Some of the members of the School Board did not think that such an appointment was needed, and some teachers thought it would interfere with their prerogative rights in the schools.

The teachers now assist the Medical Officers in every possible way.

The parents approved of the appointment from the start.

(3) There are many evidences of its beneficial results. The parents pay far more attention to their children, especially in matters of general cleanliness, and the condition of eyes and ears.

The teachers take a wider and more intelligent view of their school duties, e.g., years ago, children with defective sight and hearing generally sat in the back seats and in the dark corners of the classrooms, as far away as possible from their teachers; these poor children were conscious of some defect and felt sensitive and shy. Now the observant teacher discovers them, he understands them, sympathises with their defects, treats them more kindly and places them in the front desks—in the most advantageous places for seeing and hearing. Teachers appreciate more fully the moral aspects of physical defects. They have discovered new problems in educational work—new, interesting and grave.

The children take a most lively and keen interest in the visits of the Medical Officers, and are beginning to discuss the value of such visits. (See report on Colour Vision, July 1904. The Children of St. Helen's School).

The Local Education Authority read the quarterly reports, and, I think, follow them with interest. I should also like to add that Mr. Halden, the Clerk to the Education Authority, has always taken the greatest possible interest in the work and has rendered every assistance in his power to the two Medical Officers.

4478. At present you have nothing at all to do with the voluntary schools?—No.

4479. Is it proposed to extend the operations of the medical system to the voluntary schools also?—I have only my own opinion on it; I think so.

4480. It must very greatly interfere with the value of the inspection that a great class of schools is excluded?—Yes, decidedly it does.

4481. When you find defects in children what steps are taken for dealing with them with regard to the parents?—First of all I always give a list to the teacher and I ask the teacher to communicate with the parents. As a rule we watch the children to see whether they are attended to. We have taken no further steps so far.

4482. Do you generally find that, as a matter of fact, the defects are treated?—A good percentage of them are. Some parents are very grateful and attend to them at once. It depends a good deal on the character of the parents.

4483. But there is no action brought to bear upon them beyond informing the parent of the existence of some disease or defect?—That is so. The Teachers always pay special attention to them in their classes and put them in the best position for them.

4484. You mention that neither parents nor children ever object to the medical examination?—No. They really appreciate it.

4485. You have done nothing in the way of anthropometric measurements?—No.

4486. Do you anticipate that there would be objection to that?—I do not think so. It will depend a good deal on the power behind the medical officer of the school.

4487. Do you find that since you began the inspection there has been a distinct diminution in the cases of preventable disease, dirt and such like things?—Yes, there has been a great improvement in the matter of cleanliness.

4488. How has the approval of the parents been shown which you mention on page 4 as shown at the start?—I have been repeatedly told by teachers that the parents approve, and I have been told so by the parents.

4489. You say that the teachers appreciate more fully the moral aspect of physical defects. Would you explain that, please?—I refer to it in paper 12a, which I will read if you do not mind. "The children are easily disheartened and tend to become irregular in their attendance. There is also a serious moral aspect to these physical defects. The habits of copying and depending on others tends to weaken their self-reliance and self-respect and thus accustom them when young to take a secondary place in the battle of life." Of course it tends to make them deceitful too. They try to get information without the teacher knowing anything about it. They always try to copy "on the sly" as we say. They do not know that their defects are curable, and they try to hide them. I consider this moral aspect a most important subject for attention.

4490. These are the children who are unable to see or hear sufficiently?—Yes, I make that remark in my report on deafness, and it refers to the eyes as well. Indeed it applies, I think, to all defects, mental and physical.

4491. It refers especially to sight and hearing?—Yes.

4492. (Dr. Parsons.) I take it that the evidence which you give represents the views of your colleague, Dr. Rice Morgan, as well as your own views?—I think it does.

4493. How often do you visit each individual school?—We have to visit them every quarter.

4494. When you visit them do you examine all the children in the school or only selected ones?—Only the selected ones.

4495. Are they brought forward by the teachers?—Sometimes they are brought forward by the teachers, but I generally choose them myself. The teachers may know a few of them. I tell the teacher, for example, "I want your Standard 3 boys" or "I want your Standard 3 girls." The average attendance of these schools is about a thousand, and it would be impossible to examine more than one class. I find it better to take one class and do it fairly thoroughly than just to run through the different standards.

4496. These reports which you have here represent particular selected classes in a school?—Yes.

4497. Not the whole of the school?—No—particular classes. I mention that in the reports.

4498. The results which you have obtained in that way are perhaps rather of scientific than of practical interest. They are valuable as showing the percentage of abnormal conditions which appear among a selected sample of children, but they do not show that there may not be a number of other children in the school who are suffering in the same ways whom you have not detected?—I take these averages that I find of defective children as a sample of the other children in the school. For example, I examine a thousand children with regard to their eyesight and I draw the inference from those thousand children that there are other children under the Swansea School Authority suffering to the same degree. I take it that the same percentage of children suffer.

4499. But because you have examined that thousand children and discovered so many with defective eyesight among them it does not follow that anything is being done to remedy, or to point out defects in the eyesight of other children who are not included?—No. With regard to

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paying attention to other children with defective vision I have under my care 11,000 children and I get £23 a year for those 11,000 children, so I must draw the line. If I attended properly to these children it would take all my time.

4500. Do you think that the plan which you adopt is conducive of more benefit than if just the worst cases were selected by the teachers and brought to your notice on your visit?—Yes, I do. It was the best in the past. The teachers now know the methods to adopt. The plan you mention will be an excellent one to adopt occasionally. The teachers cannot detect the slight defects. They ought to be spotted. I think the future of the child ought to be studied during school life. Unless my method be used we have no guarantee that even all the very defective are discovered. But I intend to make use of your method freely in future.

4501. The results might not be of so much statistical value because the healthy and the abnormal would not be comparable. You would not be able to get the percentage of abnormal, but you would be more sure of getting hold of the worst cases needing attention, which is the practical point of view? That is so. I shall ask the teachers to produce them. They begin already to find them out in their classes; when I began the work I found that practically the teachers knew nothing about the conditions. Not more than 5 per cent. of the very defective children are known to the parents and teachers.

4502. Have you any figures which will show the benefit of the work which you have done in the way of improved attendance or the remedying of defective conditions?—No, I have no figures, but I can refer to the benefits in this way: I seldom now go to a class where the teacher does not say: "Doctor, there are children here who cannot hear" or "There are children here who cannot see. We have got them into the front row." When we began the work, I found the defective children almost invariably the furthest away from the teachers.

4503. (*Mr. Cyril Jackson.*) Is the list of schools in the 5th Report your half of Swansea?—All these Reports are my own.

4504. Does it mean half the schools in Swansea, or selected schools?—It means all the schools in Swansea Town except the non-provided. It means all the children in Swansea proper except 3,500.

4505. Is the list of schools a complete list of the councils' schools?—Not quite; the higher grade are not included.

4506. Are these all the schools except that?—Yes.

4507. That is the only one left out?—Yes.

4508. In your Return I see that you speak of the evil effect of the methods of teaching in some of the schools?—Yes.

4509. Especially prolonged simultaneous reading and spelling?—Yes, and lip reading.

4510. Did this report have any effect on the teachers?—Not much I am afraid. They have got into a rut. The teaching they have received was not always in harmony with physiological laws.

4511. Inspectors, as a rule, endeavour to discountenance simultaneous reading and spelling?—I am very glad to hear it.

4512. Do the teachers at Swansea discountenance it?—Not at all I am afraid. The evil is that it gives too much work to the throat.

4513. Is the throat generally the source of deafness?—Chiefly—especially with young children who have to read or spell for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour. The work is hard for the little children and their throats get inflamed. The next minute they may probably be allowed to run out into the cold play-ground and they generally catch cold in their throats. It is most injurious.

4514. (*Miss Lawrence.*) How does the advice to parents which you mention reach the parents? Do they have circulars sent to them?—Yes. We printed about 30,000 or 40,000 copies and they were distributed in the schools. They have been re-published.

4515. Do the children take them home to the parents? The children take them home to the parents.

4516. Do the parents act on the advice, often?—A good many of them do.

4517. As to the question of nurses I see that you state that no nurses are employed, and further that you also say that you think they would be valuable if they were employed?—I think so.

4518. Would that be to undertake the work to a certain extent, that you have been undertaking?—Yes—doing some preliminary work, but attending chiefly to slight ailments.

4519. Would the nurses treat those slight cases, or merely inspect?—That is a question to consider. I think it would pay the Education Authority well to send the nurses to the homes, in some instances, to treat the children there. I know of cases now where the parents willfully keep the children at home. They have sores on their heads and the parents take that as an excuse and keep them at home. They will not take them to a doctor or to the hospital.

4520. You think that in that sort of case a nurse would be helpful?—A great help.

4521. In the examination for what you call the defective children, the deaf or blind, do you also examine the mentally defective?—We have done nothing on the mental side. I have thought of it several times but there are difficulties in the way.

4522. All the children of that kind are taught with the other children?—Yes, so far.

4523. Does that apply to cripples, too?—Yes.

4524. I see you say that the list containing the names of defective children is always left with the teachers. Is that for the purpose of the teachers taking any particular action?—Yes. There are two objects. We leave it with the teachers so that the teachers may remember the cases and pay attention to them in school in the future, and also that the teachers may send to the parents of the children.

4525. How do the children get spectacles, as a rule? Do the parents provide them?—They do as a rule—a good percentage.

4526. You do not think that a good deal of the work is lost for the want of them?—Amongst the poor it is so, I am afraid. Sufficient attention has not been called to it. In Swansea as in most other towns, it is only beginning. We have not enough authority behind us to compel attention.

4527. Supposing it was possible to appoint yourself, or any other medical man, would you suggest that it was a mistake to have a private practice as well, supposing you could act as you liked?—Certainly. I have a note on that point. I am very strong on it.

4528. It has been suggested that a medical man might well be employed for consulting but not for private practice?—I think that the best results can be obtained certainly by a man giving up all his time to the work.

4529. You also say that you would suggest giving lectures to pupil teachers. Would you confine those lectures to the pupil teachers and not include the other teachers?—We have power over the pupil teachers. The difficulty would be to compel the other teachers to attend. I think that all teachers should attend.

4530. (*Mr. Walrod.*) Do you know if the education committee have considered the question of a general anthropometric survey?—They have not.

4531. Do you think, from your experience in examining the children for eyesight or hearing, there would be any objection on the part of parents or children to such a survey?—I do not think so, provided that the matter is explained to them. It is very essential that the parents should know the object of it—that it is not the hobby of an individual but is done for the sake of the children and the sake of the country.

4532. But the question has not been raised?—No.

4533. (*Chairman.*) You report here the result of an examination in four schools in regard to the children's cleanliness?—Yes.

4534. That I suppose would be the most delicate kind of examination possible?—Yes.

4535. If that was not resented they would hardly resent weighing and measuring?—No, this was only done for the purpose of my evidence. I have always been afraid of

it. When the question about cleanliness of the head was asked in the circular, I went round. I objected very much so far as my own feelings are concerned. I had to explain to the girls in those schools what was the meaning of it all—that I had to come here to give evidence and was very sorry to look at their hair and look at their heads.

4536. Did this examination take place quite recently?—Yes, within the last fortnight. It was really done for the purpose of this inquiry. Previously, in several of the schools, I have given little addresses to the children on the duty of keeping their heads clean, but I have never gone round the children with a book in my hand and taken notes.

4537. Do you find that the writing down of anything is resented by parents and children?—I have to be very careful in drawing up these reports.

4538. I meant rather the taking of notes in a book in the presence of the children?—I made my notes after I had finished. For example in examining for cleanliness of heads I simply took a mental note, as I passed each child in a row.

4539. That was because you thought it might be resented?—Yes, and it would be very inconsiderate to these poor unfortunate children I think.

4540. There would be suspicion as to the purpose for which it would be used?—Yes. For the very same reason I have not mentioned the names of the schools. I call them A, B, C, and D. Neither the teacher nor the parents would like the names to be given.

4541. (*Dr. Parsons.*) Have you made any inquiries about vaccination?—No, we have made no inquiries about vaccination.

4542. If it was necessary to do so in the case of a smallpox scare would it be done by you, or by the medical officer of health?—We had a scare of smallpox about three years ago. There is a medical officer attached to the union; he does all the vaccination. The medical officer of health does not vaccinate.

4543. The public vaccinator?—The public vaccinator. The epidemic of smallpox was so severe that most of the children in the schools were vaccinated. The work was divided amongst a dozen or so of the doctors in the town.

4544. (*Chairman.*) You mention in the report in your notes on cleanliness of the head that the teachers of a certain school hesitate to speak individually to the children on the subject, fearing that they will leave the school and be admitted to a neighbouring school?—Yes.

4545. It would set them against the school which they were attending?—Yes. The apology which the head mistress in one of the schools made was that if she spoke to the children the parents would send the children to a neighbouring school at once, and therefore she dare not speak.

Dr. Price, called; and Examined.

4553. (*Chairman.*) You are the medical officer under the Education Committee of the Reading Borough Council?—Yes, I am.

4554. You were previously the medical officer under the Reading School Board?—Yes.

4555. How long ago were you appointed?—I was appointed in July 1900.

4556. You are not medical officer of health for the borough?—I am not.

4557. Do you find that any difficulty arises in framing the outline of the province of the two officers—yourself and the medical officer of health?—Personally I have found none whatever, the medical officer of health is a great personal friend and is only too ready to help in any way, or to hear any suggestion which I have to make.

4558. Do you find that the fact that you are in private practice hampers your movements in any way?—It has not done so hitherto. In order to carry on my school work thoroughly after I had done it for about two years and found out what the extent of it was, I took a partner, so that my private patients should not suffer.

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4546. You say there has been of late years a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the children attending the Swansea schools. How do you observe that?—When I go round the schools I notice at once the general cleanliness of the hands, the face, the hair and the clothes.

4547. The general personal appearance?—Yes, the general personal appearance. I have no statistics.

4548. I suppose you would admit that so far only the fringe of the subject has been touched in Swansea?—Hardly that.

4549. Has anything been done in the way of examining as to the nutrition of children in Swansea?—No, nothing definite has been done in that way. We are beginning to pay attention to the question now of under-feeding.

4550. But no active steps have yet been taken to find out what children are underfed?—No.

4551. Or improperly fed?—No.

4552. Is there anything which you would like to add?—I made a note this morning before coming here which I should like to read: "Home and school in relation to medical inspection. (1) No part of school work so entirely dependent on co-operation of the home. (2) Greater need than ever to link the home and school interests. How can this be done? (1) By printed forms sent from school to the parents, calling attention to the physical defects of their children (this is now done in Swansea) and asking the parents to send replies to the teachers. (2) This not sufficiently general, nor will it create enough of public interest. Parents must feel more intensely than they do that the school and all its machinery exists for the interest of their children. (3) Would suggest as one important step that school entertainments be made more or less compulsory, and that use be made of them say two or three times a year. (4) At these entertainments the medical officer (of the education authority or education department) should give short bright earnest educative addresses, for example, the eye in relation to school and after life; also similar addresses on the ear, food, general cleanliness, teeth, etc. (5) Personal experiences. I have given addresses (not in schools) in Public Library, Swansea, on: (1) The growth of the body of child; (2) the growth of the mind of child; and they were, I think, of some practical use, but such addresses, unless given by a man who devotes all his time to school work, are easily misunderstood."

A question was asked just now as to the relation of private practice to this class of work. It would be very easy for some people to say: "This man is only advertising himself." We have to be extremely careful. Lastly I think that the greatest work of all is to make the parents and the education authority realize the serious physical condition of the school children. All then would come right, and soon, too, I think.

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4559. About how much time per week does your work under the school authority take?—That is a very difficult question to answer. With regard to what my duties are those duties have not been laid down by rules given to me by the committee. I have really worked them out for myself. I have to spend on Thursday, for instance, one hour at least, or more, at the Education Office for about thirty-nine or forty weeks in the year. Then we have twenty-seven schools altogether, and each of those schools would require somewhere between two or three hours' work. They are inspected at least three times a year. In addition to that, many other visits are paid. The class for the defective-minded is visited at least once a fortnight. We have only about eighteen children. They take about half an hour to an hour. Then when the pupil teachers have to be examined they take up a very considerable time. I can examine about sixteen in a morning with the help of my partner. There have to be two of us at it at a time in order thoroughly to examine these. We do that somewhere about seven mornings a year.

Dr. Price. 4560. (Mr. Walrond.) Do you examine the pupil teachers in order to give the certificate to the Board of Education?—Yes, I do.

4561. (Dr. Parsons.) Before they are engaged?—Before they are engaged and also after they have served for a certain time. There are in addition to these, pupil teachers who have gained scholarships, and so on, and have to be medically examined.

4562. (Chairman.) You do not happen to be Post Office Medical Officer?—No, I am not.

4563. You do not, therefore, act under the Teacher's Superannuation Act?—No, I have nothing to do with that at all.

4564. About how many children are there in the Reading Schools?—We have 14,000 odd in the elementary schools. Then in the other schools at Reading there are about 2,000 in the private schools, but only a few of those come under my notice. I mean such private schools as give elementary education. I am not now speaking of the Grammar School, or of the Kendrick School, or one or two higher grade schools. There are a large number of small private schools. Children who do not attend the schools regularly may be sent down to me at the Education Office to be examined.

4565. With a view to prosecution for non-attendance?—Yes.

4566. Do your duties extend to the voluntary schools as well as to council schools?—Yes, they embrace all the elementary schools, except the Roman Catholic School which does not come under the education committee.

4567. It is not under Government?—No.

4568. Does the medical staff consist solely of yourself and the nurse?—Solely of myself. The woman can hardly be called a nurse; she has had no proper training. Her sole duty is to go round the schools and see to verminous heads and do the best she can to clean them.

4569. We shall take the *precis* which you have given to us as the basis of your present examination and put it on the shorthand notes?—Certainly.

The *precis* is as follows:—

Reading—population 78,000.
Children in elementary schools—14,000.
Number of schools—27.

STAFF.

I am appointed solely for purposes connected with public elementary education, but have no other duties under this or any other local authority. I am engaged in private practice. It is difficult to say how much of my time is devoted to educational duties but they are briefly—

(1) To visit at least three times yearly all the public elementary schools in Reading. These visits are made as a rule in Spring (February and March), Summer (May, June, and July), and Autumn (October, November, and December). Special visits are paid to the schools at the request of the Education Committee or of the head teachers of the schools. During these visits inspection is made of the general sanitary condition of the school buildings including w.c.'s and urinals; the presence of infectious diseases and uncleanness; the existence of any impairment of health such as would interfere with education; and when necessary to fill in forms which are sent to the parents or guardians of the suffering children. Attention is also given to backward children to ascertain the cause of backwardness and if necessary recommend for examination with a view to their fitness for admission into the class for defective-minded children.

Method of Inspection.—The head teachers are instructed how to apply the test of distant vision. Each class is visited with the head teacher and any child selected for examination is sent to the teacher's private room where the examination is carried out. Notes are entered in a book kept for the purpose and a copy of these notes is forwarded by the head teacher to the Education Committee.

(2) To visit the special school for the defective-minded, frequently. This is done at least once a fortnight.

(3) To attend at the office of the Education Committee every Thursday morning at 10 o'clock to medically examine cases sent by the teachers or by the attendance

officers in order to ascertain their fitness or unfitness for school, and write out certificates; about 600 such certificates are given annually.

(4) To examine defective-minded, blind, and deaf children and see whether they are suitable cases for special schools.

(5) To examine and report on the health of pupil teachers.

(6) At the request of the Committee to examine medically any teacher or servant, and report.

NURSE.

A nurse is employed to attend to the heads of verminous children. There are no other persons who undertake the supervision of the health of the children. An arrangement might be made with the Queen Victoria nurses to visit schools for the purpose of attending to heads, examining for ringworms, blepharitis, conjunctivitis, keratitis, impetigo, scabies, etc.

ORGANISATION.

The system of medical inspection is stated above:—attention is also paid to all classes under this head. Only those children who, while unable to attend school are yet able to attend at the office of the Committee on Thursday at 10 a.m. are inspected. There is no inspection of children in their own homes. The children with defective eyesight are advised to obtain medical advice and this in Reading is mainly provided at the Ophthalmic department of the Royal Berkshire Hospital and the Royal Dispensary. (Difficulties.)

There is no regular inspection of teeth. At present the weights and measures of children are not taken, but it is intended in the immediate future to select one school and weigh and measure all the children in attendance at certain fixed periods. No records are kept in the schools of any infectious diseases the children may have had. It is advisable that this should be done especially with regard to measles (age and mortality). The existence of baby rooms tends to spread measles. Organisation extends over the whole area. The schools are scattered over the whole borough. The distance from the extreme western school to the extreme eastern school is three miles, the extreme northern school to the extreme southern school three miles and a half. The visits of the medical officer and the inspection of children have been already stated. Teachers are engaged to assist in the inspection by being instructed in methods of recognising symptoms of disease, and steps are taken to notify the parents of any defects or diseases discovered. There is no voluntary organisation for providing spectacles or surgical appliances. With regard to spectacles I think power should be given to the Education Committee to purchase these for children whose parents cannot afford to buy them and such glasses should be retained at the school for use of the child when there.

Parents never object to the examination of their children. Teachers are directed to notify infectious disease—if notifiable—to the Medical Officer of Health and teachers are informed as to an outbreak of any epidemic in their neighbourhood. The schools are occasionally visited by the Medical Officer of Health.

COST.

I am paid £125 per annum. Penny Rate—£1,500. Present School Rate—1s. 10d. I have been Medical Officer, first under the Reading School Board, now under the Education Committee, since July 25th, 1900. I think the importance of due attention being paid to the eyesight of the children in the elementary schools led to my appointment. The present system works smoothly and satisfactorily. Hundreds of children receive medical treatment of various kinds who would otherwise have passed through school life unnoticed. I refer to sight, hearing, speech, presence of adenoid growths, etc. There are difficulties and defects. These arise from the extent of the work, the indifference of parents, the existence of schools unfit for the purposes for which they are used, non-provided schools, no head teacher's rooms, the tendency of parents to consult sellers of spectacles rather than a medical man properly qualified to advise in cases of defects of eyesight.

4570. You have forms filled in which are sent home to the parents when you find children with defects; would you tell us what action is taken upon those forms?—

As a rule, with regard to sight or hearing, first of all the parent, if in very poor circumstances, can obtain an out-patient ticket at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and attend the ophthalmic department there. That is done very largely, I know, because I was myself, until the end of last year the ophthalmic surgeon to the hospital. Then there is a provident dispensary in Reading, the Reading dispensary, and parents who belong to that can take their children to the ophthalmic department of that dispensary. There is an ophthalmic department there. A large number of children go to their own private medical man who either himself advises, or sends them to some other medical man who is capable of doing so. I may say with regard to the Reading Dispensary that they are beginning to kick a little, because of the number of children who have gone there to have their eyes examined. The hospital has never offered the least objection and has welcomed every patient that has come with a letter. The dispensary stands on a totally different footing from the hospital because it is a provident dispensary, the parents paying so much and therefore are to a certain extent entitled to receive the benefits which the dispensary promises to give. Unfortunately, in Reading, as elsewhere, a very large number of children drift into the hands of the sellers of spectacles, and I am constantly coming across children, and I used to do so more frequently when I was ophthalmic surgeon to the hospital, who are provided with glasses which are quite unsuitable. It is a more expensive way really of doing it, because the man who examines the eyes and sells the spectacles generally takes care to charge so much for the spectacles that he recoups himself for whatever trouble he may have gone to in the way of examination.

4571. So far you are dealing solely with cases of defective sight?—Yes. With regard to hearing, the same would apply. They would receive treatment either at the hospital, or dispensary, or from private doctors. With regard also to the general health the same applies; in fact, I may say that in 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.

4572. But in spite of these facilities is it found that the parents of certain children pay no attention to the directions which are sent from the school?—Yes, it is. I am constantly finding on my visits to the schools children to whom I have had my attention called and whose parents or guardians have received that notice (*producing the same*) and have done nothing. In each school there is a note book kept which is inspected by myself. The name of each child examined is entered. If it is a case of eyesight its distant vision is recorded, or if it is a case of squint the error is recorded. If it is a matter of general health, of throat, speech, or so on it is recorded. Notice is sent to the parents of the child. On my next visit the book is looked at and all the children previously visited, if present at the school are again seen. I enquire if anything has been done. If something has been done a note is made that the child has received due attention, so I am able to tell whether the parents have paid any attention or not. A great number of parents say that they have not had time to go to the hospital or the dispensary. In some cases there is something in it, in others the parents are perfectly indifferent, but I am finding less and less of that year by year as the parents find that they are not under compulsion. Parents are gradually beginning to find that there is a good deal in it, and that the child is the better. Many a child has been saved headache, and many a backward child has got on. Frequently parents send a note down to the head master or mistress of the school and ask that my attention should be called on my next visit to the child or children.

4573. Do you have cases in which children have to be excluded from the school for uncleanly conditions—ring-worm, or such like things?—Very largely in the matter of ring-worm. Ringworm is a very considerable difficulty. My rule hitherto has been this: Teachers are requested to warn the parents where they have any suspicion of ringworm, or in fact any infectious disease other than those which we call the acute specific diseases, such as scarlet fever and measles which, from the disturbance of general health keep the child at home. I

refer to such things as ringworm, sore eyes, and so on. *Dr. Price.* If no notice is taken the teachers advise the parents to bring the child to see me at the Education Office on such a day in the week. I see the child and satisfy myself as to the existence or non-existence of the trouble. If it is ringworm the parent is advised to put the children under medical care and to report to me in two or three months. I refuse to allow any child to return to school unless I am satisfied that it is cured. Every now and again a child manages to slip through. In my visits to the school I sometimes come across a child I recognise. It has not been to see me. I examine it there and then. If I think the child ought not to be there it is at once sent home and the teacher is told that that child must not be admitted without a medical certificate from me, or some other medical man in the town, to the effect that it is safe for the child to return to school.

4574. Supposing a child is excluded and kept away from school for one of the reasons which you have mentioned, and the parent takes no steps to adopt the proper remedy, is recourse had to prosecution by the school authority?—I have not known that done in regard to ringworm. It has been mainly done with regard to verminous heads. There, if nothing is done, we turn on the woman who looks after verminous heads and she is directed to clean such heads whenever she comes across them.

4575. You have recourse to the nurse mentioned in your *precis*?—Yes, that is the woman who looks after verminous heads.

4576. You call her a nurse?—Yes.

4577. Is she in the employ of the Committee?—Yes.

4578. In full time employment?—I believe so; I will not be positive. With regard to verminous heads, on one or two occasions where there has been obvious neglect on the part of the parents and they will do nothing whatever and the child is obviously filthy, the help of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has been invoked and they have prosecuted.—I cannot say with any very great amount of success because, as a rule, the parents of such children are absolutely and utterly indifferent. You may prosecute them; you may fine them; you may do what you like, and you are no better off at the end of it. One reason why this woman was retained was that we should do our own cleaning and not leave it to the parents.

4579. As regards the backward children whom you mention in the first paragraph of your *precis*, you have in Reading, I suppose, a class for the mentally defective?—We have.

4580. Your work there would be in connection with the admission to that class?—In connection with admission, and also generally looking after the children when they are in it.

4581. Do you also recognise that there is a class of children "who, though not defective, are from malnutrition below the normal standard" in the words of our reference on feeding?—Undoubtedly there are many children who are backward from other reasons than actual disease of the nervous system, or defect due to disease or maldevelopment.

4582. Do you recognise malnutrition as one of the main causes?—I cannot say that that is so largely with us. Reading is a prosperous town, and although we, like others, last winter suffered more from want of employment, and there was a greater number of unemployed, Reading as a rule has not suffered very much and the people are able to earn wages sufficient, at any rate, to prevent their sending the children half starved to school.

4583. Your help has not been specially invoked to deal with that class of children?—It has not. I am sorry to say that I did not get the information I wished to as to the number of dinners that were provided last winter. It slipped my memory.

4584. No doubt we have that from other sources. I wish to know whether your duties as medical officer have brought you into special contact with that side of the life of the town?—There are very few cases.

4585. With regard to children absent from school on grounds of alleged ill-health, I understand that some of these are sent to visit you by appointment when you

Dr. Price. attend at the offices?—All those children who are able to leave their homes without detriment to themselves, and who are not attending school, are sent down to me on the Thursday morning to be examined.

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4586. By the school attendance officer?—By the school attendance officer. Sometimes the parents themselves will bring the child down without the attendance officer calling because they are afraid that the attendance officer might get them into trouble.

4587. They know that the right way to regularise themselves is to call upon you?—Yes.

4588. As regards an anthropometrical survey I understand that nothing up to the present has actually been done?—Nothing whatever has been done in the direction either of taking the height, or measurement, or weight of children, but we hope to begin at one of the schools.

4589. Has any resolution been passed, or have any actual directions been given to begin?—No direction whatever has been given.

4590. Have you found any objections taken by parents to your examining the children medically?—We have never had any objection whatever. No parent has objected to a child being examined.

4591. Do you anticipate that there might be such difficulties if a child is measured and weighed, and a record made in a book in front of the child?—I do not think so. I think that if the parents are approached properly and quietly, and if you can show them that it is really for the good of the child we shall be able to carry it out thoroughly.

4592. There would be some stripping, I suppose, in the anthropometrical survey?—Of course there would have to be some undoubtedly. They would have to be stripped to the waist.

4593. Such a matter would involve no doubt an increase of your staff?—There is no doubt that I should require considerable assistance. It would be impossible for me to carry it out by myself.

4594. (Dr. Parsons.) Could that be done by the teachers?—One would of course instruct the teachers how to do it. The reason why one school has been selected is that it is our latest new school, and the head master there has carried it out elsewhere. I think that he came from Wolverhampton, but I will not be quite certain. I think that there they have done something of the kind and he knows how to carry out the work of weighing and measuring, and interests himself in it.

4595. Would the boys only be measured, or the girls also?—I should try to measure both.

4596. In your visits to the schools do you examine all the children in a school, or only particular classes or standards?—It would not be right to say that I examine all the children in the school. My method is this: going to the school I see the head master or head mistress, and he or she comes round with me to each class room. There I glance over each child, roughly. Passing along all the benches I look at each child. The teacher in that class room is asked whether she has any child to bring to my notice either on account of eyesight, deafness, backwardness, or anything in the matter of health that interferes with the child's education. It is really the roughest examination of the children generally. The children selected from the class rooms are sent in to the head master or head mistress's room where they are further examined. That examination is carefully carried out. With regard to sight the distant vision is taken. Any such thing as squint, or inflamed eyes, or headache, or anything of the kind, is noted and a notice is then sent to the parent on the form which you have before you, calling particular attention to the matter.

4597. Are there facilities for such examinations at the schools?—In all the council schools that can be done easily, but in the non-provided—the old voluntary schools—there is difficulty because frequently there is no head master's room and one has to avail oneself of any spare corner.

4598. Is the hearing examined?—Any deaf child I examine either by tuning fork, watch, or whisper.

4599. Can you give any figures to show the advantage which has resulted from your examination, either as

regards improved attendance at the schools, or as regards diminution of the proportion of children who are found to be suffering from defects?—I am afraid I cannot give you any figures; I have not collected them in any way.

4600. Did you ever examine for vaccination?—I have not examined for vaccination except in the case of pupil teachers brought before me.

4601. If there were need to do that, for instance, in the case of an outbreak of smallpox, would it be done by you, or the medical officer of health, or the public vaccinator?—It would be done by the medical officer of health in all probability, and not by me.

4602. Generally speaking, questions of infectious diseases, such as involve danger to others, are left to the medical officer of health to deal with, are they not?—Are you alluding now to acute specific diseases?—

4603. Yes?—Those would be notified to the medical officer of health, and not to me.

4604. Not all of them, such as measles and whooping cough?—Measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, small pox, chicken pox, if during an epidemic of smallpox, and diarrhoea, are all notified to the medical officer of health?

4605. By the school teacher?—By the school teacher, or by the parent, or by the medical officer who is in attendance on the child. I have no power there at all.

4606. Diarrhoea is not necessarily notifiable, measles and whooping cough are not unless they are specially made so?—Measles is notifiable with us, and I think I am right in saying that summer diarrhoea is notifiable. I judge so from the medical officer's report where he alludes to the number of cases, and therefore I take it that he must have got information from notification.

4607. But such cases would be dealt with by him, and not by you?—By him, and not by me.

4608. (Miss Lawrence.) How are the parents notified? Do you send them any circular, or only just that little form?—This is the only notification which they receive with regard to all troubles, except the notifiable diseases.

4609. You do not issue any circular giving the parents simple directions as to what to do?—No; nothing at all.

4610. We have had cases of that?—The medical officer of health does that.

4611. It is done in that way?—Yes, with regard to disinfecting, and so on.

4612. With regard to cleaning of heads, etc., you do not issue any directions?—No, there is no general direction except that given by me verbally to the parent if the child is brought down to me at the office.

4613. If the parent accompanies the child?—Yes.

4614. In your opinion would it be valuable to have a thoroughly trained nurse to attend at these schools?—It would be extremely valuable. I think that an arrangement might be made with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses. They are in Reading doing very good and useful work. They have added very considerably to their staff, and I believe they would be able to carry out that work better than the ordinary nurse because they are already in and out amongst the people in all the poorer districts.

4615. Would you suggest that they should treat slight cases themselves, or only inspect and report?—I should suggest that there are certain troubles which they undoubtedly could treat. There is no reason why they should not act under my directions. For instance, in my visits to a school if I saw a child with inflamed eyes, crusts on the lids, for instance, it would be very easy to give directions to the nurse as to what to do.

4616. Then you would let her carry the treatment out?—I would let her carry the treatment out unless the parents were willing to do it themselves and take the child to a medical man. I find, more particularly with regard to inflamed eyelids, the parents do not think it is a serious enough trouble to concern themselves about. There, I think, the nurse would be extremely useful.

4617. Are you consulted at all on children leaving one standard and going to a higher one as to whether they are physically fitted for it?—No.

4618. Have you had any difficulty with regard to parents providing spectacles?—Difficulty in the matter of poverty. Every now and again we find the child has not got spectacles because the parents cannot afford them. On enquiry I find that that is so, but the difficulty from poverty does not bring about as many cases as the difficulty from indifference.

4619. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) If you went round the schools and saw a child once, would you look for that child again the next time you went in to see how it was getting on, or anything of that sort?—Yes. If I thought it necessary I should pay another visit to that school for the purpose of seeing that child only.

4620. If that was a special case?—Yes.

4621. As a rule in the ordinary cases that you see in which you give advice, do you keep a list and look for the child each time you go?—I always keep a list at the school. I take up the book and look at the children I saw during my last visit.

4622. You do not only rely on the teachers?—I do not rely on the teachers entirely.

4623. You yourself see if a child appears to be suffering from bad sight or deafness?—Yes, I endeavour to do so.

4624. Do you get many of the parents to come to the office with their children?—I think that I granted something like 600 certificates from Easter last year to Easter this year. That would not mean 600 parents. Sometimes two or three children are brought by one parent.

4625. Do you think it would be desirable to have a nurse entirely devoted to the schools, or should she do some general work as well?—I am quite sure that there is work for, at least, two nurses occupied during the greater part of their time because our schools are scattered over a pretty large area. From one end of Reading, west, to the other end, east, the extreme distance is three miles, and from north to south three miles and a half between the schools, so that the mere matter of getting about would take a long time.

4626. Do you attach any importance to a nurse having ordinary work as well so that she is not always confined to the children's work?—No, I do not at all. I think that the work is sufficiently varied.

4627. You do not think it better to employ part-time district nurses, rather than to have a nurse attached to the schools altogether?—If you could get the Queen Victoria Nurses it would not be necessary to detail one nurse in particular because, during their movement about the town, it would be convenient for them to take a school in the immediate neighbourhood of the patients they were already seeing.

4628. It would be better, I suppose, that the nurse should see the child in the home and instruct the mother how to dress it, if possible?—There would be very great advantage in seeing the mother or the father personally.

4629. In a case of granular eyelids the mother ought to see to that?—That is a thing which can only be dealt with by a doctor. You can issue general directions as to avoidance of the spread of the trouble, but the treatment would have to be under a medical man.

4630. Could the nurse, having got the treatment arranged by you, not carry it out?—She might do a little under direction.

4631. It is a difficulty in some schools?—Happily, granular eyelids is an exceptional disease in Reading.

4632. It may get into a school and with children using the same towels, and so on, it spreads and gets difficult?—It spreads very quickly.

4633. (Mr. Walrod.) I see that the teachers apply the test of distant vision. Do they apply the hearing tests that you spoke of?—No, they do not. Their experience of the children is such that they can very soon tell me whether they have any child in their class who is the least deaf.

4634. Practically you do not test any child that the teachers have not brought to your notice?—Not for deafness. If they say that a child does not hear well the child is called out and is examined by me.

4635. You say that notes are entered in a book kept for the purpose. Are those only notes of the defective

cases, or do the teachers keep a record of normal cases as well as the abnormal?—They keep no record of normal cases. They are simply notes of children whose health in any particular is subnormal.

4636. You have no figures showing the proportion of short sight, say, to normal vision amongst school children?—No, I have none. Some years ago I examined two schools in Reading and two in the country for the purpose of finding out what percentage of children had subnormal vision, and I think the figures worked out at something like 40 per cent.

4637. Was that done for the Board of Education?—For the Board of Education, and I think that the Board of Education is in possession of that Report.

4638. It was about ten years ago, was it not?—No; it is, perhaps, seven years ago. It was before I was appointed Medical Officer of the School Board.

4639. You examine medically any teacher or servant of the Committee at the request of the Committee, I see. Do you have much of that to do?—Very little indeed. It is only in the case of prolonged illness, or where there is just a suspicion that the employé may not be acting fairly to the Committee.

4640. You say that the existence of baby rooms tends to spread measles. Have your Education Committee taken any steps towards the exclusion of children under five?—They have not taken any steps.

4641. They continue admitting children under five?—They continue to admit children under five.

4642. And to provide accommodation for them?—Yes.

4643. (Chairman.) You mention in your *precis* difficulties and defects, and you state what they are. Perhaps it might be convenient just to go through them: "These arise from the extent of the work." Would you take each point?—I mean by that, the enormous number of children—14,000 children. I am almost alone in dealing with them.

4644. The indifference of parents you have already referred to?—Yes.

4645. "The existence of schools unfit for the purposes for which they are used."—I mean schools that are badly ventilated and badly lit—where you feel that the children who are attending are actually suffering. You find, for instance, short sighted children in a room with, perhaps, two small windows at fourteen or fifteen feet above the level of the floor. I was in such a school the other day.

4646. I think I am right in saying that in the worst cases steps are already being taken to remedy the evil?—They are doing their best. They are the old voluntary schools, but they are under the Committee now.

4647. In referring to these schools you allude to the voluntary schools?—I refer to the voluntary schools. There is only one provided school which is old-fashioned, and some of the class-rooms in which are badly lit.

4648. The worst cases of the voluntary schools are already under consideration?—Yes.

4649. The difficulty of getting a proper place in which to see the children in some schools, you have dealt with?—Yes.

4650. Could you tell us quite shortly what in your opinion have been the benefits which have arisen so far from the system of medical inspection?—A very large number of children are now provided with spectacles who would not have been seen to otherwise, I am sure. Then such cases as ring-worm, impetigo of the face or any part of the body or head, and scabies are brought under medical notice. In a large percentage of those cases nothing whatever would have been done. The parents would have been absolutely ignorant of the necessity. Many and many a child has received medical attention who otherwise would not have had it. That, I think, has been a great benefit.

4651. Do you think there has been a definite improvement in the health of the rising generation, accordingly?—It is difficult to say to what extent.

4652. You feel that the system might wisely be extended a good deal?—I think it might with regard to

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Dr. Price. advice generally. Of course it is a very difficult thing to carry on medical treatment. You land yourself at once in a difficulty. If the Committee makes itself responsible for the medical treatment of children attending its schools, it has a herculean task in front of it.

4653. Have you anything further to add that we have failed to notice?—I think I may add that in our case in a new school, the plans for which have just been passed, I have persuaded the committee to build shower baths for the children. I was asked a question with regard to the baby rooms and measles. I have here the statistics of the number of cases of measles in Reading and the number of deaths from measles since 1900. The

Dr. C. H. TATTERSALL, called; and Examined.

Dr. C. H. Tattersall. 4656. (Chairman.) You are the Medical Officer under the Education Committee of the County Borough of Salford?—I am.

18 July, 1905. 4657. You are also Medical Officer of Health for the Borough?—Yes.

4658. Do you attach importance to a combination of the two offices in one person?—I do, although I realize that in very large towns it might be impracticable. The possibility of clashing between the two offices is certainly considerable, and the advantage of having a trained staff of sanitary inspectors to put on to the work in connection with the schools for temporary purposes is very great. We have found it very useful, and to keep such a staff for education purposes only would be a very costly matter.

4659. Were you Medical Officer to the Salford School Board?—No. There was a Medical Officer, Dr. Ray, but he resigned two or three months before the transfer took place and the School Board thought it advisable to keep the appointment open until the transfer actually occurred.

4660. You were appointed when they came into their new duties?—Yes.

4661. About how many schools are there in Salford with which you have to deal?—62 Schools with 135 Departments.

4662. And about how many children?—42,654.

4663. (Chairman.) We will take your *precis* as the basis of your evidence to-day?—Certainly. The *precis* is as follows:—

A. (1) (a) The medical officer of health has been appointed medical officer to the education committee. An assistant medical officer of health has been appointed to assist the medical officer of health generally.

(b) Neither is allowed to engage in private practice.

(c) The amount of time given to educational duties amounts practically to the whole time of one medical officer.

B. (d) The occurrence of cases or suspected cases of infectious or contagious disease in schools is notified by the head teachers to the medical officer of health. The general procedure is that where these notifications, together with those derived from public health sources, indicate that there is danger of the spread of infection in the schools, daily visits are made, and those children found suffering, or seeming to be in bad health are excluded.

In *Small-pox*, where school children are affected or have been in contact with persons affected, the school is regularly visited for a period of three weeks; the teachers and scholars are advised to be revaccinated where that appears to be necessary, and in several cases revaccination of a considerable number of children has been performed in the school.

In *Typhus Fever* children suffering or who have been in contact with persons so suffering are excluded and the school is visited daily for three weeks.

In *Scarlet Fever* the patient together with the other children in the house is excluded.

In *Diphtheria* the children suffering, together with other children from the same house, are excluded. The school is visited and the children examined and children suffering from sore throats are excluded. Where the infection has been limited to a single class, bacteriological

number of cases under the age of one and from one to five and also the deaths at those ages are given. They show a far greater percentage of deaths between one and five than at any other age, and that is why I think one should take into careful consideration the advisability of admitting children under five to the schools.

4654. (Dr. Parsons.) Even if children eventually contract measles they are not so likely to die from it if they do not get it until they are over five years of age?—It is better for the child that it should be over five certainly, because it is far less likely to get pneumonia or bronchitis afterwards.

4655. (Chairman.) Very many thanks.

examinations of swabs taken from the throats of the children have been made and followed by the exclusion of those children showing the presence of diphtheria bacilli, even if no symptoms of the disease are present.

Children with *Measles* or *Whooping Cough* are excluded from school for a minimum period of three weeks and contacts from the infant schools are excluded.

Contacts with smallpox and typhus fever are excluded from school for one month after disinfection of the house.

Contacts with diphtheria, scarlet fever and enteric fever are excluded from school for two weeks after disinfection of houses.

(e) At the present time an examination is being made of all the cripples of school age, within the area.

(f) Children suffering from minor epilepsy are allowed to attend school.

Children suffering from major epilepsy, where it is dangerous either to themselves or other children, are excluded.

No arrangements have been made for the special education of epileptics.

(g) The following taken from the first annual Report will show what is being done with regard to eye testing. (See p. 13.)

2 (a) Weights and measurements of selected children are made and records kept. The following abstracted from our first annual Report will show sufficiently the methods adopted. It is intended to continue these observations.

(b) There are no special records of the infectious diseases which children have had.

(3) The organisation extends over the whole area.

(5) In times of epidemics every child is inspected. This also applies to those schools in the poorer districts, where special attention is being paid to conditions such as ringworm, etc. While the testing of eyes is proceeding any child with obvious defects is subjected to examination. Children are also submitted for examination by the head teacher and by the drill instructor.

(6) Teachers are encouraged to assist in the inspection by oral instructions as to the earlier and easily recognised symptoms of disease, these being demonstrated on the children who may show these symptoms.

(7) Parents are notified of the defects or of infectious or contagious diseases by letter from the head teacher or by the school attendance officers.

(8) Spectacles are provided under special arrangement made by the committee for those children whose parents desire, at a uniform cost of 3s. 6d. The following printed slips sufficiently explain the method adopted.

SALFORD EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Education Office,
Salford,
8th March, 1905.

Testing of Eyesight.

Dear Sir or Madam,

With the approval of the Committee, the medical officer has arranged the details of an investigation into the condition of eyesight of the pupils in the Salford schools.

The medical officer invites the cordial co-operation of all teachers in carrying out the initial stages of the scheme and in doing all in their power to obtain accurate results, so that the objects in view may be fully attained. The purpose of the investigation, which will be limited

to children at or above the age of six years, is to obtain a record of the acuity of vision of our pupils for near and distant objects.

Special registers will be supplied for the record of results of the tests. All abnormal results, as shown in the registers, will be investigated by the medical officer, who will advise the parents as to the steps, if any, which should be taken.

Many defects of eyesight will be revealed by the test cards for distant vision. The common defects of short-sight and long-sight may be briefly described as follows:—

The condition of long-sightedness (or Hypermetropia) is more common at an early age than in adult life, and in fact the eyes of new-born children are almost always hypermetropic. During the period of growth these eyes improve and may reach a normal condition, or even give rise to a slight form of short sight. In hypermetropia the image of distant objects can usually be seen clearly by a slight action of the ciliary muscle (within the eye-ball), but this muscle has to act powerfully when near objects are looked at, and this condition often gives rise to fatigue and to a feeling of tiredness or pain in or around the eyes. Hypermetropia may readily interfere with such work as writing, reading, drawing, or sewing.

Many cases of Strabismus (squint) are due to hypermetropia.

It is most important that the attention of the medical officer should be drawn to children who squint. The condition is unsightly, and the squinting eye tends to become functionally useless and may ultimately become blind.

In short sight (or myopia) the child may be able to read, write, or sew with comparative ease, but is unable to see distant objects distinctly, and may be unable to read the blackboard from the back form of a class. Clear vision is only acute up to a certain short distance and objects are held nearer the eye than is normal. The cause of myopia is a matter of dispute, but statistics seem to show that myopia is at least aggravated when children are occupied too long, or too closely over fine work, or where lighting is bad. It is a more serious condition than hypermetropia, and should be corrected by the use of glasses. Close or fine work, or work in a poor light should be avoided.

The medical officer will visit each school, and demonstrate the methods to be used.

It is intended that the tests should be confined to distant and near vision, and the columns in the register in regard to colour vision are to be left blank. I am Yours faithfully,

OGILVIE DUTHIE,
Director of Education.

The Head Teachers,
Council Schools.

Circular E. E, No. 16C.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SALFORD.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Education Office,
Chapel Street, Salford,
January, 1905.

Eyesight of Children.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I beg to inform you that the Education Committee have made arrangements by which spectacles may be obtained for children requiring them. The procedure will be as follows:

When the medical officer certifies that spectacles are necessary, the parents of the child should be supplied with a copy of Form C. If the parents desire that spectacles should be obtained through the Committee, they should forward you the sum of 3s. 6d., which you may receive in instalments. When you have received this sum, it should be sent, together with Form D, to the Medical Officer, Health Department, Town Hall, Salford. The Medical Officer will then arrange for the child to be examined further, and will forward to you a copy of Form E. Where spectacles are recommended an order (Form F) will be forwarded to you, and this should be

taken by the scholar or his parents to the firm supplying the spectacles.

It is to be distinctly understood that it is quite open to parents to have their children treated by any other medical man.

A supply of the forms is enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully,

OGILVIE DUTHIE,
Director of Education.

The Head Teacher,

Department,
School.

Form C.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SALFORD.
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Education Office,
Chapel Street, Salford,
190
School.

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that your child has been examined, and that sight is defective. It is therefore desirable, in the interests of the child, that his case should be dealt with under medical advice, and you are recommended to see a medical man for this purpose.

The Education Committee instruct me to say that, if you so desire, their medical officer will examine your child further, and prescribe spectacles where necessary, which may be obtained through the Committee or from an optician.

If you wish to obtain the spectacles through the Committee you must pay the sum of 3s. 6d. to the head teacher, who will receive the same in instalments if desired. No spectacles will be provided until the above sum has been paid.

Yours faithfully,

OGILVIE DUTHIE,
Director of Education.
Head Teacher.

Countersigned,

(9) We have had no instance of the parents objecting to the examination of their children.

(10) (a) Teachers are directed to notify any case of infectious disease or contagious disease. The notification is sent by official postcards (copy enclosed) to the medical officer of health.

(b) No printed instructions are issued to teachers to enable them to detect symptoms of such illnesses, but demonstrations are given in the schools on cases which occur. This is in, my opinion, the most useful method.

(c) Teachers are informed of the outbreak of any epidemic in the neighbourhood by:—

(1) The school attendance officers.

(2) Sanitary inspectors.

(3) By circular from the medical officer of health in cases of statutory notifiable diseases.

C. The salaries paid to the medical officer and his assistant by the Education Committee amount to £325 per annum.

A certain amount of clerical assistance is necessary, but the incidental expenses are very small, and are paid by the Health Committee, no separate account being kept.

Apparatus required for the examination of children is purchased by the Education Committee.

The present expenditure is equivalent to a rate of one-tenth of a penny in the £.

D. The School Board took the important step of appointing a medical officer in 1898. It was found that it would be necessary, in connection with the examination of children reported to be defective or feeble minded, to obtain the assistance of a medical man, and this necessity led the board to consider whether it would be desirable to appoint a medical officer to perform the whole of the medical work required by the Board, with the exception of that at the day Industrial School, for which a medical officer had been already appointed. It was decided to make such an appointment, and the following statement of duties to be performed by the medical officer was adopted, viz.:—

Dr. C. H.
Tattersall.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SALFORD
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

18 July, 1905. LIST OF DUTIES TO BE PERFORMED BY THE MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1. To visit each department of the council schools once a year, and report in writing as to the sanitary condition of the premises, and to attend, when requested, any meetings of the Committee.
2. To examine any children in the borough reported to the Committee to be defective or feeble-minded, and to decide whether they shall be instructed at a special centre.
3. To advise the Committee as to the course of study, etc., of the children in attendance at the centres for defective children.
4. To examine blind and deaf children, to decide whether they are suitable cases to be dealt with under the Blind and Deaf Children Act, and to give the necessary certificates.
5. To make arrangements for the periodical examination of the eyesight and hearing (and, if thought desirable, of the teeth) of the children in the schools.
6. To supervise the taking of anthropometric records of the children in the schools.
7. To examine, if required, any plans for new buildings or alterations of existing buildings, and to report as to their sanitary arrangements, ventilation, lighting, etc.
8. To examine all candidates selected for appointment under the Committee, or employed, when required by the Committee, and to make out certificates.
9. To examine candidates for pupil teachership, and pupil teachers at the end of the second year, and to make out the certificates required in each case by the Board of Education.
10. To visit, when required by the Committee, any employé who is absent from duty on account of illness, and to report in writing.
11. To examine, when required by the Committee, any child who is stated to be physically unfit to attend school, and to make out a certificate.
12. To give the Committee the benefit of his advice on special occasions, when required.

The late medical officer to the Salford School Board (Dr. Ray) retired from office some months before the new Education Act came into operation. At the special request of the Board he continued his duties until the change took place, when the Education Committee decided to appoint the medical officer of health medical adviser to the Education Committee, and appoint him a general assistant.

The present system works satisfactorily. The advantages are:—

- (1) That there is no overlapping of medical departments.
 - (2) That the intimate knowledge of infectious disease obtained by the medical officer of health's department is easily accessible for the purpose of school inspection.
 - (3) That the staff of the health department may be used for special purposes.
4664. Do you attach importance to the school medical officer not being in private practice?—If there is any amount of work to be done it is impossible for him to be in private practice. In a district of considerable size he could not do his duty and have private practice.
4665. Simply for want of time?—Simply for want of time.
4666. Do you think there are other objections?—Professionally trouble might arise just as between the medical officer of health and other practitioners. The medical officer of health has to see the patients of all practitioners in the town at times and if he were in private practice it might lead to friction. It has in some cases led to friction.

4667. Of what does your staff consist in relation to the schools?—Of an assistant medical officer. That is the only special staff.

4668. Only yourself and the assistant?—Yes.

4669. Have you no nurses attached to the schools?—No, we have no nurses.

4670. Do the health visitors who I believe exist in Salford help in this matter?—No. We have a nursing institute in Salford, where we are able to get assistance, and we have in some cases obtained assistance. Where children have wanted special watching the nurses have taken these cases up, but we have no special staff and we do not pay anything.

4671. Is the assistant medical officer confined to school work or is he your general assistant in Public Health work?—He is my general assistant.

4672. Is there any system under which the schools are visited periodically at fixed intervals?—They are not visited at fixed intervals.

4673. Only as occasion requires or as opportunity occurs?—Yes. Some schools require and obtain a great deal more visiting than others, of course.

4674. You mention the subject of vaccination in your *præcis*. You say that in several cases re-vaccination has been performed in the school. Has that been by the medical officer or by the public vaccinator?—By the public vaccinator.

4675. At the instance of the medical officer of health?—Yes.

4676. Have there been parents' objections to that?—No. The parents' consent was obtained before the vaccination was done. Where the parents objected of course the vaccination did not take place.

4677. When children are absent from school at Salford on the ground of ill-health what is the action that is taken?—The school attendance officer visits the home and if the child is really ill a medical certificate is obtained from the private medical practitioner for which the authority pay one shilling.

4678. Are there any recognised medical practitioners who give that certificate?—No.

4679. Are you ever called in yourself as school medical officer to judge of such cases?—When a child is reported as being absent from school on account of ill health, the School Attendance Officer visits the house. If he deems it necessary to have a certificate and finds that the child is under medical treatment, he leaves a form of medical certificate to be filled in by the Medical Practitioner. If the child is not under medical treatment the parent is directed to bring it to my office, where it is examined and excluded or directed to return to school according to circumstances.

4680. Have you been called in in any way on the question of malnutrition or under-feeding of children?—Not specially. We have had some cases in the defective schools which were apparently due to malnutrition and which improved very much under the care we were able to give to them.

4681. You are at present considering the question of examining cripples?—We are examining every cripple in the town that we know of.

4682. Have you any class for physically defective children at present in Salford?—No, we have not.

4683. So that at present they either go to the ordinary school or not at all?—That is so. We have made special arrangements in schools for them in one or two cases to have a special desk and for such children to be allowed to leave early and come late so that they will not get knocked about by the other children.

4684. You have classes for the mentally defective?—Yes, we have.

4685. And no doubt you are engaged in determining which children should be admitted to those classes?—Yes.

4686. Do you recognise the existence of a class of children who, though not defective, are from mal-nutrition below the normal standard?—Yes.

4687. We have that in our feeding reference. We are specially asked to consider the case of these children who are called for short, "retarded children"?—I have certainly formed the opinion that we have such a class.

4688. But no special steps have been taken to deal with them?—No, no special steps. In the winter we have a free breakfast arrangement for them, which is supported by public philanthropy.

4689. That is for ill-fed children in general?—Yes.

4690. Not for this particular class?—No.

4691. (Dr. Parsons.) Any such children if they were recognised would probably get the food?—Yes, they would. They are mostly in the schools in the poorest parts of the borough.

4692. (Chairman.) You have done considerable work in Salford in the direction of an anthropometric survey?—We have taken certain observations which are detailed in the report which I have submitted.

4693. Over what period of time have those observations at present extended?—For one year. The observations have been made in a period of three months. We shall repeat them again this year and possibly continue to repeat them.

4694. The system began only a year ago?—There were some observations made by my predecessor some three years ago.

4695. Your predecessor in the position of medical officer of schools?—Yes.

4696. (Dr. Parsons.) There were some that were quoted before the Committee on Physical Deterioration?—Yes.

4697. (Chairman.) Have you used those in connection with your present observations?—No; they were not taken quite under the same conditions. For those observations the children were all stripped absolutely. We felt that we were running the risk of serious trouble if we stripped children without the special consent of their parents, and we have practically commenced on a new basis on the principles which are detailed. We made a number of experimental observations first as to the probable weight of clothes and boots and stockings. We have taken the observations with trousers and stockings on so that they do not actually correspond with the previous observations.

4698. Did you feel that there was likely to be objection on the part of parents if the children were absolutely stripped for the purpose?—We thought there might be. The town clerk advised us that we should probably lay ourselves open to an action if we stripped children without the consent of their parents.

4699. Have parents up to the present raised any objection to your action?—Never the slightest.

4700. In connection with this survey as far as it went was any objection raised?—Not any.

4701. Was it necessary to explain the object of it?—No. The children had no objection, the teachers had none and we never heard of any from any of the parents. It is work that takes a very considerable amount of time.

4702. Do you hold investigations to see whether children ought to be taught physical exercises in particular cases?—We have not done any special work in that direction. Physical exercises are taught in all schools.

4703. You say in your report that children are submitted for examination by the head teacher and by the drill instructor. Was that with a view to seeing whether they were properly included in the physical instruction classes?—If they have any doubt as to a child's physique not being fit for physical instruction they send the child and we examine it and decide whether it is to be included in the class or not.

4704. You say that your system of instructing teachers is rather by demonstration. Would you amplify that and tell us exactly what is done?—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.

4705. Would this examination of the children take place in the teacher's room or in the class room or where?—Usually in the class room. It is an examination of the mouth and throat.

4706. In the presence of the other children of the class?—Yes.

4707. As regards cases where you have to exclude children from school, what is the practice after the letter of exclusion has been sent to the parent?—With regard to any infectious disease?

4708. Yes?—In any of the notifiable diseases the child is excluded from school until the Health Department issue a certificate that the house has been disinfected and there is no further fear of infection. In cases of scarlet fever in particular we try to get them to remain out for a fortnight further. That certificate is given when the disinfection is completed.

4709. In cases such as ringworm, dirty heads, verminous condition and so on what is the practice?—The children with ringworm are excluded and children with pediculi in the heads are also excluded. As a rule my assistant attends to them. He sends for the parents of the child and explains to them what they are to do for it. In the case of ringworm he advises them to consult a medical practitioner. In the case of pediculi he details the steps to be taken to get rid of the trouble. If there is no improvement the school attendance officer, particularly in the case of pediculi, is sent after the child. The threat of proceedings is held over the parents if they do not make some effort to get the child right, and we find that there is very little further trouble.

4710. It does not often go to the length of a prosecution?—No.

4711. Do the parents attend willingly when they are sent for to have the nature of the ailment explained?—We have had no difficulty. I do not know whether they enjoy coming.

4712. But they do come?—Yes.

4713. Then you have a special arrangement which you explain here for the provision of spectacles?—Yes.

4714. (Mr. Walrod.) The spectacles do not belong to your committee?—No.

4715. (Dr. Parsons.) The examination which you make is not, I understand, necessarily of every child in a school or class, but of such children as are selected by the teachers?—For general purposes, apart from the question of outbreaks of infectious disease, we do not examine every child, and I do not personally think it is necessary. One does not in one's own family think of having each child examined by a medical man unless there is something to call attention to it. We examine any children to which our attention is specially called.

4716. In case of infectious disease if you have reason to suspect its presence in a school, you would examine every child in the school or class?—Yes.

4717. And if necessary take swabs?—Yes; we have repeatedly done that.

4718. Have you any figures or evidence to show the beneficial effects of the system of medical examination either in securing larger school attendance or a diminished proportion of defects among the children examined?—It has practically only been in operation for twelve months, and we have no figures that would help.

4719. Has any school been examined more than once in that period?—Yes; some of the schools have been visited every day for a month at a time in the case of outbreaks of infectious disease.

4720. I am not speaking so much of outbreaks of infectious disease as defects of eyesight, hearing, skin diseases and on so?—I do not think that any school has escaped being visited five or six times during the year and some of the schools have been visited practically continuously throughout the year.

4721. Do you see any evidence in the way of an improvement of conditions on your later visits as compared with the earlier ones?—There is a very marked improvement in the case of pediculi. Comparatively few children are affected now.

Dr. C. H. Tattersall.
18 July, 1905.

4722. Your experience of the system is sufficiently encouraging to make you think it worth while to continue it?—I think it is very valuable.

4723. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) For what purposes are the children brought to the offices by the parents?—A child has not been attending school as regularly as it should and the school attendance officer tells them to bring the child to the office if they plead that the child is ill but have no medical certificate.

4724. Would a parent bring a child up for any other purpose and ask you to look at it?—Yes, on two or three occasions a parent has brought a child up with the suggestion that it has been improperly thrashed by a master.

4725. Does a parent ever bring up a child and say that its eyes are getting bad by over-straining, or anything of the sort?—Parents have not done so. I am afraid that they do not take sufficient notice.

4726. (Dr. Parsons.) In your report which I have before me there are clinical histories of some defective children. Would these be instances of the cases which you spoke of in which amelioration had taken place when the children were supplied with nourishing food?—Yes, some of them. Two or three children who were so defective that there was no hesitation in sending them into the defective school, improved very much with the extra care and attention and better food which they obtained. The members of the committee who visit the defective school take a philanthropic interest, and some of the children improved so much that in the course of eight or nine months they were able to be drafted back, their intelligence had approached to such a standard that they could be taught in the ordinary school.

4727. (Miss Lawrence.) Do you examine for anything beyond the question of infectious disease. Do you examine whether the children are in a healthy or clean condition?—The children who are submitted to us; not every child.

4728. By the selection of the teacher?—Yes, or by the school attendance officer, or possibly occasionally by a visitor to the school.

4729. Are any steps taken in the case of verminous heads or a condition of neglect?—The step that is taken is that the child is sent home from school with an intimation that the parent must come to see the teacher the next morning. We are there when she comes. We tell her what she must do. The school attendance officer keeps the child under observation (and if it does not improve and come back to school in the course of a few days the school attendance officer threatens to take proceedings for the child being away from school, and we find that that is always sufficient. We have remarkably few cases now considering the number that we had. The difference is really striking.

4730. You say that no nurses are employed in any schools. Have you any opinion as to the value of having nurses attached to a school or working in a school?—I think it would be a great advantage if we had a skilled nurse attached to the department—I do not think it is necessary for each individual school unless it were very, very large. It is more particularly in connection with eye troubles that the need of nurses is greatest. A child begins with eye trouble; it is taken possibly to the eye hospital; it is prescribed for, and medicine or local applications are provided for it, and the mother takes it away. She has really no idea what to do for it and the child does not improve. I have an impression, I should not like to say it is more than that, that a skilled nurse attached to the department and looking after these cases when they first begin would save a great proportion of our blind children. The majority of the cases of blindness are due to preventable causes.

4731. (Dr. Parsons.) Does that apply to school age so much as immediately after birth?—It applies of course most markedly immediately after birth but it also applies during school age.

4732. (Miss Lawrence.) Has it ever been suggested that a nurse should be employed?—I do not think it has.

4733. Do you suggest that a nurse should treat these cases in school or should visit the children after school in the home?—At the home.

4734. You think that an important point?—Yes. The child in that case is not fit to be attending school at all.

4735. (Mr. Walrond.) Have you the list before you of the duties to be performed by the medical officer?—Yes.

4736. His duty is to visit each department of the council's schools. Does that mean all the schools under the council?—That list of duties was drawn up by the school board when they had no power to deal with the voluntary schools. As a matter of fact we visit all schools.

4737. Really both kinds of school are inspected?—Both. We recognise no difference in our duties.

4738. If these duties will apply to you one of your duties is to examine plans of schools. Is that duty often thrown upon you?—I examine the plans of all new schools and of all suggested alterations.

4739. As a matter of course?—The alterations to the old schools are mostly suggested by me. An architect is then generally employed and he submits the plans, but I always examine them before they are sent to the Board of Education.

4740. That is a very large and important part of your duties?—It is not a large one. It is very important. We are not building new schools every day.

4741. You do not go round and report on the condition of buildings unless plans are submitted?—Yes I do. In the past year, in company with the Director of Education, I visited most of the schools in Salford and reported on their condition from a sanitary point of view and the general conditions of the structure, particularly with regard to ventilation, provision of proper offices and matters of that kind. It is really from the outcome of these visits that the observations in the report are made. We have not detailed the condition of each particular school because they are in process of amelioration and improvement.

4742. When was this inquiry into the eyesight of children begun. I see that the circulars are dated this year?—That is about the time.

4743. Was there any such inquiry conducted about eight or ten years ago?—The late medical officer commenced these inquiries in 1900.

4744. Do you remember the Board of Education instituting inquiries in some places?—No. At that time I was not interested in this class of work particularly.

4745. Do they keep records of the normal cases as well as of the defective cases?—The eyesight of every child is recorded. In testing the eyesight we do the same as with the infectious diseases. We demonstrate to the teacher. We examine some children and then we watch the teacher examine others until we are quite satisfied that a teacher can make the observation. It is a perfectly simple thing to do and the teacher can do it as well as we can. From time to time afterwards, when the teacher is solely doing it, we take an odd case and check it to see if the results correspond.

4746. The teacher is supplied with test cards and record cards?—Yes. It is important that the teachers should do their own testing and in each class should know which children are defective.

4747. Is the same sort of thing done for hearing?—We have done nothing as yet except in the case of really deaf children. That is a part of the work which I hope to be able to take up. I may say all this is infinitely harder and more extensive the first year. We have to cover the whole of the children for the examination of their eyesight. Afterwards we shall not need to cover the whole, but only the new admissions and in certain cases re-examinations will be necessary.

4748. (Dr. Parsons.) Are these figures in your report based on examination by the teachers?—The eyesight table, Table I, is an examination in part by the teachers and partly by us. You may take it that it is an examination by the teachers. Table II is founded upon an examination of our own. That is a record of an examination thoroughly and properly done.

4749. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) In the schools when you are going round do you take any notice of the position the children sit in in their desks?—We should notice any children who appeared to be uncomfortable.

4750. Have you specially studied that?—We have not. I think that the teachers fairly well understand what is required.

4751. It has a very great bearing on the eyes if the children get too near what they are looking at?—Yes.

4752. They get much too near sometimes?—Yes.

4753. (Mr. Walrond.) Do you advise with regard to the desks when you go to a school?—Yes. The desks are now provided by the committee, and the committee have consulted us as to the form of desk which was most suitable.

4754. (Chairman.) Are you consulted as to the curriculum at all or the promotion of children from one class to another?—No.

4755. That is quite outside your scope?—Yes.

4756. You have told us of some of the advantages of the present arrangement. Have you anything to say as to the difficulties?—I have not found any difficulties except want of time; that is the greatest difficulty. There is more work to do than we can compass.

4757. With regard to the defects you would make the same reply, that you are unable to cover the ground that you would wish to cover?—Yes. We want more staff in order to do every thing that we would wish to do. I believe that we are dealing with the most important matters.

4758. Could you give us any further reply to our last question. What evidence is there of the beneficial results, temporary or permanent?—We have not been going long enough. I have no figures that would tell anything one way or the other. I have tried to find some. We have only been going for twelve months, and one scarcely expects much in that time. Where we used to close schools for outbreaks of measles or possibly outbreaks of diphtheria, we find it now quite unnecessary to close them. The careful exclusion

of suspected children and the disinfection of the premises are quite sufficient. I go to a school in the afternoon and find a number of children with sore throats and the school will be disinfected that evening and ready for use the next morning. That again is a matter where the medical officer of health has a big advantage. He has a staff of disinfectors at hand, and there is no delay in dealing with occurrences of that kind.

4759. You are quite convinced in your own mind that the results are beneficial?—I am quite convinced of that.

4760. But at present you are unable to produce figures or tabulate the results?—It is one of those matters that I do not think it will ever be easy to prove by figures.

4761. I suppose that you find fewer cases of preventable diseases as you go along?—I am not convinced on that point; I wish I were.

4762. (Mr. Walrond.) Has your committee taken any action about the exclusion of children under five?—They have not.

4763. They have not?—No, they have not.

4764. They have not passed any resolution?—They have not.

4765. (Chairman.) Have you anything to add to what you have told us?—I do not think I have.

4766. You do not think that we have missed anything particular?—I do not think so. It seemed to me that the heads of inquiry practically covered everything that one was likely to have to say.

4767. (Chairman.) We are very much obliged to you.

TENTH DAY.

Friday, 21st July, 1905.

PRESENT.

Mr. H. W. SIMPKINSON C.B. (in the Chair).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.

The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE.
Mr. R. WALROND.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (Secretary).

Miss M. E. WRIGLEY, called; and Examined.

4768. (Chairman.) What are the names of the schools from which your experience in this matter is drawn?—I am on the Relief Committee at Sirdar Road Council School.

4769. Would you tell us where Sirdar Road is?—North Kensington.

4770. In the neighbourhood of Notting Dale?—Yes.

4771. In what capacity do you act at Sirdar Road?—I am one of the managers.

4772. Have you been a manager for some time?—For two or three years.

4773. We shall propose to take your *precis* and put it on the shorthand notes as your evidence-in-chief?—Certainly.

The following is the *precis* :

A.—METHODS EMPLOYED.

1. As regards the relief of the children themselves there is decided fear of overlapping with other agencies, for though all funds are sent to and administered by the head master, the district visitors distribute tickets for free meals to the family. Also the child in school is considered absolutely apart from its family, and charity may be received by other members without being known or considered.

B.—SUMS EXPENDED.

1. The total amount expended at our school this winter, was £70 odd, and during the winter about one pound's worth of half-penny tickets was distributed in the school every day.

2 and 3. These tickets gave admission to a neighbouring soup-kitchen, the secretary of which made all arrangements for the supply and distribution of the meal.

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4. The funds were supplied by the London Schools Dinner Association and the "Referee" Fund.
5. There was an ample supply of money this year, a surplus of £16 odd remaining, with which to start next season. The only difficulties experienced with regard to funds are, the absence of any guarantee that the money will be sent, and the fact that it is not always sent sufficiently early in the season.

C.—RELIEF GIVEN.

1. (a) Dinners are given, and in a very few cases, breakfasts as well.
- (b) The dinners consist of a basin of soup and large slice of bread, or of suet, or some other substantial pudding—occasionally there is some stew.
- (c) I have been present on several occasions during the meal, which seemed to be enjoyed by the children, though I hear that the variety is not great, and towards the end of the season complaints are heard.
- (d) (i) Meals are provided on all school days except Mondays, which have been omitted during the past twelve months.
- (ii) The frequency with which tickets are given to the same child depends on the teacher's judgment of the urgency of the case. Some children receive a ticket daily, others occasionally only.
- (iii) On Saturdays, Sundays, and during the holidays, no relief is given.
- (iv) The distribution of tickets begins in November, and ends about Easter, and this period appears to be long enough to supply the need.
2. The children are informed verbally a week beforehand when the kitchens will open.
3. 33,783 meals were given during the last season. They were given for twenty-one weeks at an average of about 1,655 per week.
4. About 800 individual children were fed, the average roll of the whole school being roughly 1,195.
5. A record is kept of the children relieved, and the number of meals given, and these statistics, together with a statement of accounts, is forwarded by the head master to the head office.

D.—"RETARDED" AND AFFLICTED CHILDREN.

1. (a) "Retarded" children are provided for by the ordinary organisation, excepting that I am told they receive special attention from the teacher.
- (b) (i) Physically defectives, I understand, are provided with a meal served at the schools under the auspices of the "After-Care Committee" at a charge of 2d. daily, which money is collected by the woman in charge of the Ambulance.
- (ii) Mentally defectives at our school are provided for by the ordinary organisation.
- (c) Blind children have their midday meal at school, but either bring their own food, which is heated for them, when necessary, or for 1d. or 2d. they obtain a meal from the cookery centre.
- (d) I have no knowledge of the provision made for deaf children.

E.—SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVED ORGANISATION.

The glaring defects of the present system are:—(a) That the child is considered absolutely apart from the family. There is thus little or no safeguard against deception and fraud, the tie between parent and child is weakened, and the reason for the existence of the need remaining untouched, its repetition is rather encouraged than prevented.

(b) That the distribution of the relief is entirely in the hands of the teachers, who, though excellent as regards their own profession, have neither the time nor training necessary to enable them to deal adequately with this most difficult subject. Strong temptation is naturally offered to use the power placed in their hands for the betterment of attendance rather than solely for the relief of distress. That reform is necessary would probably be obvious to any one considering the school, not by itself merely, but as regards its influence on the surrounding district. As requested, I offer the following suggestions:

1. That a Committee should be formed from the managers of the groups of schools—to avoid any partiality which might occur in single schools. This Committee should have power to co-opt experts on the relief question, the teachers being fully consulted.

2. That one of the necessary qualifications for the post of school attendance officer should be a complete course of training in the principles of relief.

3. That his services should whenever necessary be supplemented by those of a highly-trained Almoner, similar to those now employed in the out-patients' departments of many hospitals.

It is a note-worthy fact that the boot-club and penny bank in connection with the school suffer considerably during the summer, the deposits being smaller and the withdrawals more numerous than in the winter, when the cost of living is greater and work as a rule not so plentiful. The children use their money for sweets and cheap ices, and also spend freely when at their outings and Sunday school treats.

4774. What are the "other agencies" to which you allude in the first paragraph. You say that there is "fear of over-lapping with other agencies"?—The district visitors mainly.

4775. Parochial agencies?—Yes.

4776. Is the parish the Parish of St. Clements?—Yes.

4777. There is a Relief Committee in connection with the Sirdar Road School?—Yes.

4778. Would you tell us how it is constituted?—It is constituted of two or three managers, the heads of the various departments, and a lady is co-opted as treasurer.

4779. Does that committee meet frequently?—Very rarely. Last year they met four times during the winter.

4780. What business was transacted at the meetings?—The financial report was given and the times of opening and closing the soup kitchen were arranged.

4781. But nothing was done at the meetings as regards the selection of scholars?—Nothing whatever.

4782. By whom are the children to receive the meals chosen?—By the head teacher who consults occasionally the other teachers.

4783. Is not the list of proposed recipients submitted to the Relief Committee?—No.

4784. Is there any reason why the Relief Committee should not take that matter into their own hands?—I think that as at present constituted it would be almost impossible for them to do so.

4785. Have any of the members ever suggested that the Committee was being ignored?—No, not to my knowledge.

4786. Where are the meals in connection with the Sirdar Road School served?—They are served in one of the neighbouring soup kitchens.

4787. In one particular one, not in more?—I might almost say one, because the large majority of the children go to one. A few go to the Latimer Road soup kitchen.

4788. Is the one to which you refer St. Clement's Hall, Mary Place?—Yes, nearly all go there.

4789. What is the arrangement at that kitchen as to the meals?—A certain number of ½d. tickets are bought and the children are sent in to their meals.

4790. The fund at the disposal of the Relief Committee contributes a ½d. per meal per child?—Yes.

4791. Have you been present in the school when the tickets have been given out?—Yes, I have in the special school. It is part of the same.

4792. What is the special school for?—The special school is for the mentally defective.

4793. I see that the returns of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children for this year specially mention the Sirdar Road School in North Kensington as a case in which the number of children fed during the period under report was considerably less than the average of the previous year?—The head master informs me that it is nearly 100 more.

4794. There seems to be something a little doubtful about the returns here. The number given as the average number of children fed is 332 during 1904-5, but a return which we have which is signed by Mr. C. W. Fletcher, the

head master of the school, gives 800 as the total number fed. The total number fed given in the return here is 405; that is the difference. The return to the Joint Committee shows 405 individual children fed. The return to us on Form 3 shows about 800?—Yes.

4795. Could you help us to explain the discrepancy between the figures?—Could it be that the return of the Joint Committee only takes in certain departments?

4796. It is very likely that it does not take in the special school. Would the numbers in the special school be anything like 400?—No, they would not. There are only about 100 in the special school.

4797. That would partially account for the discrepancy, possibly?—Yes.

4798. Do the children who are going to receive the tickets know beforehand that they will secure them?—Yes. I think that when they are given out for the first time at the beginning of the season the head master goes over the cases rather more specially. What I may call the regular cases are rather more carefully chosen.

4799. Would those children who receive a ticket at the beginning of the season understand that they were going to receive tickets regularly for the future?—Really, I am not quite sure. I do not think so.

4800. You have not, as a matter of fact, personally seen much of the method of distribution in the school?—No. I only know what I have heard from the head master. I have seen the tickets given out.

4801. Are they given out on the same day that they are to be used?—Yes, after morning school.

4802. Do the children go under the charge of the teachers?—No; the children go by themselves.

4803. Is there anything to prevent the tickets changing hands on the way?—I have asked that, and the head master says he would be informed of it.

4804. Do any of the teachers accompany the children?—Not as a rule, but occasionally they do.

4805. The superintendence at the kitchen is done by volunteers?—Yes.

4806. But not by persons connected with the schools?—No.

4807. (Miss Lawrence.) Do you serve on the Relief Committee which you mention here?—Yes.

4808. Has it ever been suggested that it should meet more often?—No.

4809. You have not suggested that yourself?—It is not necessary at present under existing arrangements.

4810. You have not suggested that your Committee should be the body to make the inquiries?—I am sure it would be quite impossible for our present Relief Committee to do so.

4811. Because there are too few?—Because there are too few. Most of them have had nothing whatever to do with relief, and the numbers of the school are so large.

4812. Do you think it would be possible to secure a larger committee?—Yes, I think so, if we took the group of schools.

4813. Would you suggest that they should be taken from the managers and from outside?—The managers, with specialists co-opted I would suggest.

4814. Is there anything to show whether more tickets are given away in the boys' department than in the girls'?—I cannot speak definitely on that subject, I am afraid.

4815. Have you come across any case yourself which you think had been relieved that ought not to have been relieved?—Yes.

4816. Many?—Several. I have not taken up a great number of the cases.

4817. But the majority of them you consider were in need?—I consider they were all in need in a way; but some of them were hopelessly undeserving cases.

4818. That is to say the parents were undeserving?—Yes.

4819. Is there any variety in the food. I see that it says here: "A basin of soup and large slice of bread." Is that every day?—Every time I have been there it has been so. I am told that there is variety.

4820. Was it ample when you saw it?—Yes; a good large basin of soup and a slice of bread to each child, or a large piece of suet pudding.

4821. Could they have anything more if they needed it, or was that supposed to be the dinner?—No more.

4822. That was all?—Yes.

4823. In what sort of way was the dinner conducted? Did they sit down?—Yes.

4824. At tables?—They had forms and tables.

4825. They only needed soup basins and spoons, I suppose?—Yes.

4826. Who served them? Did anyone serve it?—The ladies who work the soup kitchen wait on them.

4827. It is a charitable soup kitchen?—Yes, it is a charitable soup kitchen.

4828. How did the money pass between the teachers and the soup kitchen?—That we know nothing about. We buy the tickets and send the children. We know nothing whatever about the working of the kitchen.

4829. You say that you need so many meals, or rather, the teachers do?—Yes.

4830. How long notice do you have to give them of how many children you are going to send?—Really, I do not quite know what length of notice is given. I do not think they give very much notice.

4831. Is the soup kitchen always going every day?—Yes.

4832. Does it make any difference to the soup kitchen whether you send twenty or fifty?—The numbers always approach an average. They always give out about the same number of tickets, I fancy.

4833. They always do?—Yes, I think so.

4834. What amount of investigation do you consider exists?—Very little.

4835. Do you think that the children are visited in their homes at all?—No, not for this purpose.

4836. I suppose it would be difficult for the teachers to do that?—It would be impossible.

4837. And nobody else does it on their behalf?—No.

4838. On four days a week I see the dinners are given?—Yes, not on Mondays.

4839. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Is Sirdar Road an especially poor school?—Yes, very specially poor.

4840. St. Clement's is a very poor parish, is it not?—Very poor.

4841. You say in your first paragraph that a child in school is considered absolutely apart from the family. Do you see yourself any means of helping the child in the family?—I think that the circumstances of the family ought to bear on the question, most decidedly.

4842. You spoke of undeserving parents, for instance. What do you mean by undeserving?—I mean parents who spend their money on drink, and in that kind of way.

4843. How would you propose to feed the children of those parents who neglect to feed their children because they spend money on drink?—I would feed the children, but take care to make the parents pay.

4844. How would you enforce that?—In the same way as you force parents to send their children to school. They would not be allowed to keep the children at home; why should they be allowed not to feed them?

4845. If the teachers do not know the undeserving parents, how can they be found out?—By inquiry. I would suggest that the school attendance officers, if they were properly trained, might do a great deal.

4846. I suppose that the bulk of the children are not the children of undeserving parents in that sense, are they? Most of the parents are merely the unemployed, or very poor with very low wages?—I am afraid that that difficulty would be found in the case of a good many.

4847. I suppose that the number of children who need feeding in the winter is a good deal larger than the summer?—Yes.

4848. And that is due rather to want of work?—Yes, and expenses are heavier in the winter than the summer.

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4849. It is very largely due to slackness of work in the winter?—Work is much slacker in the winter.

4850. What is the special trade of the place? What do the parents do?—I am sorry to say that, in a great many instances, the mothers work at laundries. That is the source of a great deal of our difficulty.

4851. In those cases where the mothers work at laundries something must be done to feed the children, must it not?—The fathers in a great many cases, are not doing their duty.

4852. Are they not working?—They are not working.

4853. Are they not attempting to work, or cannot they get it?—Of course that is just the question. They say they cannot get it. The question is whether they can, or not.

4854. You think that these children are really underfed and in want of food?—Some of them most decidedly are.

4855. How are we going to make quite sure that the parents could support them? When the father is out of work and says that he cannot get it, what are we going to do?—Of course it is a very difficult question, but my own idea would be that if we got to know something of the circumstances of the family we might in some way be able to help the father towards getting work, or help in some way to cure the evil.

4856. Yes, but it would want a lot of volunteers to work at it, would it not, to bring influence to bear on each individual home?—I should not think that it would need so very many. You really need to get to know the circumstances of the family and put it into touch with those who can help it.

4857. Would you propose charitable assistance to the family, rather than dinners to the children?—I consider that where dinners are really needed, generally something more is needed, and if dinners are not needed it is a pity that they are given. You are only weakening the backbone of the family.

4858. What more is needed, do you think?—Perhaps there are some resources of the family that are undeveloped. For instance, we often find the girls are not earning nearly as much money as they might do, or boys are earning only a few shillings instead of being in proper situations. In visiting the family and going into the circumstances somebody specially trained to do it may often discover resources of that kind.

4859. You can help the family to develop resources of their own, you think?—Frequently, yes.

4860. There will still be, I suppose, a number of children who will not be well fed even after you have improved the position of a good many of the families?—There are many cases where nothing can be done for the family. I think that if there was some difficulty in getting the food the numbers would tend to decrease.

4861. But if the numbers tended to decrease would that be because the children were better fed?—We could have the children examined and see if they were better fed. We could look after that.

4862. You said just now that always about the same number of tickets were given out. Does that mean in summer and winter?—No, just in the worst time.

4863. Do any of the managers or Relief Committee manage to do any of the visiting you have been sketching out?—Not at all.

4864. Do you know anybody in the district who could be induced to do that?—I think it would need somebody to give his whole time to it in Sirdar Road, and it needs a person specially trained. I think that an amateur would do more harm than good.

4865. Are there such people to be got?—Certainly.

4866. Sufficient numbers of them?—There would be no difficulty getting anybody trained, would there?

4867. From what we have heard I thought that it was rather difficult. You said that the district visitors were the people with whom there was the most over-lapping?—As regards tickets.

4868. They give tickets to families whom they know without ascertaining whether they get tickets at the

school, too?—Yes; they know nothing about the school tickets.

4869. Are there many tickets given by district visitors?—That I cannot say; but a few years ago there was a good deal of trouble from district visitors giving tickets where the children had tickets.

4870. Would the district visitors be capable of training so that they could help the families in the way that you mention?—I think it ought to be somebody specially for the school.

4871. Is not the object of the district visitors to improve the families they visit?—The school is entirely undenominational, but the district visitor belongs to the Church.

4872. But that is the object of the district visitor. Could it not be worked into the school organization?—I think not. I think it would raise many difficulties.

4873. I suppose that members of the Relief Committee generally belong to some kind of church?—Yes—but not openly. The *raison d'être* of the district visitors, so to speak, is that they are connected with a church.

4874. I notice that you say that the deposits in the boot club and penny bank, and so on, are smaller in the summer when the wages are larger. What do you think that shows?—I think it shows want of thrift when the money is there. Instead of being saved it is spent.

4875. When you say that they draw it out for treats, and so on, does that include the country holiday fund, and that sort of thing?—It includes that, of course, but one would hardly call the country holiday fund a waste.

4876. Do you find that the people who pay into the boot clubs and penny banks are those who also get free dinners?—I asked that question very specially. I find that some do. At intervals for a few weeks they pay into the boot clubs and then they get the tickets.

4877. In fact, you think that really we could do something if we had enough trained people to help the family without feeding the child independently?—I do, most certainly.

4878. But we must have trained people?—I think that that is absolutely essential. I think that everything depends on it.

4879. (Dr. Parsons.) What sort of training would you recommend, and how is it to be obtained?—I suppose that the easiest plan is similar to that that the Charity Organisation Society adopt with their visitors, and similar to the course adopted with regard to the almoners of the various hospitals—to have a full knowledge of the various relief agencies in the district.

4880. At the present time I gather nothing is done in connection with the school feeding to improve the state of the parents and to get them to look after their children?—No, except anything the teachers may incidentally say to them.

4881. No action is taken under the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act?—No, not unless the case is an exceedingly bad one.

4882. And nothing has been done under the Local Government Board's recent order?—No, not in our school.

4883. Why not?—I do not think that the teachers fully understand it, and I very much doubt how it would work.

4884. Do you know if the guardians have discussed it at all?—I am not aware that they have.

4885. I notice that the proportion of children fed in your own school is very much greater than that of any other school that has been brought before us. It is about 70 per cent. It is 800 out of 1,200. I do not think we have had any other school at which more than about 10 per cent. have required to be fed. Is there anything so exceptional in the conditions of your district in North Kensington to account for that difference?—It is a very poor district, but how it compares with other poor districts I do not quite know. The figures are very easily obtained.

4886. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) How do you mean are easily obtained?—From the various reports published.

4887. (Dr. Parsons.) Does not that rather point to the relief being given almost too indiscriminately?—I am afraid it is given rather too easily.

4888. (Mr. Walrond.) I see that you say that dinners are given, and in a very few cases, breakfasts as well. Are breakfasts given in cases of extreme poverty?—Yes.

4889. What is given as breakfast?—A cup of cocoa and a piece of bread, I think, generally. I have never been present at breakfast.

4890. Is the breakfast given at the school, or is the child sent to the soup kitchen?—Not to the soup kitchen. They either make arrangements, or feed them at the school. It all depends; but the breakfasts are very very few.

4891. What is your opinion as to the relative value of breakfast and dinner?—I should say of the two the dinner is the more important.

4892. Some of the witnesses have told us that it is easier for the parents in the districts in which they live, at any rate, to get something by the middle of the day; that they very often get up in the morning with no money but can get some by twelve o'clock and are able to feed their children then. Is Notting Dale a district of that kind, do you think?—I have never heard that.

4893. The want of means to feed the child would go on all day you think?—Yes.

4894. In fact it is an exceptionally poor district?—Yes, I think it might be called that.

4895. (Chairman.) If the Relief Committee were constituted and worked on the lines proposed by the Joint Committee, is there any reason why that should not be satisfactory in Notting Dale?—Yes, because that misses the essential point. There is still no inquiry.

4896. But the whole point is that the school attendance officers are to be used. There is to be inquiry?—Yes, but at the present time the school attendance officers, I think, would not be sufficiently trained to really go into the subject.

4897. If the Committee were to work in conjunction with the school attendance officers, and where necessary, the relieving officers, would it not be possible to select the proper children to receive the meals?—I do not think the school attendance officers, unless trained specially, would be suitable for that. Their duties are to get the attendance of the child—not to inquire.

4898. Have you in your mind a particular school attendance officer at the moment whom you think unfitted?—No, not in any way. Our school attendance officer at Sirdar Road is excellent for his own duties.

4899. But it would not be difficult for a school attendance officer to acquire sufficient knowledge of the principles upon which the Committee would wish him to work?—Relief is a science, is it not? Just as an untrained person could hardly teach a class of children, an untrained person could hardly take up such a difficult subject as this.

4900. (Mr. Walrond.) Do not they consider the circumstances of the family in reporting to the local educa-

tion authority with a view to prosecution for non-attendance?—I suppose to a certain extent that would come in, but they do not seek to relieve the distress.

4901. (Chairman.) Would you include relieving officers in your class of untrained persons also?—I have not had sufficient to do with relieving officers to make any statement about that.

4902. Would you tell us what are the grounds upon which you propose to have a joint committee for a group of schools, rather than a committee for an individual school?—So as to avoid any fear of partiality that the managers might have for the cases of scholars in their own schools.

4903. But if the managers are only dealing with their own school, I do not quite see where the partiality could come in?—No; but I think such a committee would be more likely to choose the suitable cases. There would be more cases to contrast one with the other.

4904. Our evidence, I think, has rather gone in favour of working in regard to individual schools?—There would be considerable difficulty. If you grouped the schools they would be trying rather to run their own particular children, and would not that competition be a good thing, as it were—should not we be more likely to get the right cases?

4905. (Chairman.) Is there anything you would like to add to what you have said, before you leave us?—No, I think not.

4906. (Mr. Walrond.) Are the schools grouped for Notting Dale?—Yes.

4907. (Chairman.) Do you know anything of St. Clement's National School, which is close by?—Only what I hear.

4908. Is relief given in that in the same kind of way?—A very few tickets are given there.

4909. Much fewer tickets are given there?—Very few tickets.

4910. Does that depend upon the view of the teachers in the school, or on what does it depend?—I fancy that the class of child is rather better; but I am afraid I know nothing of the working of the school.

4911. (Mr. Walrond.) Is that done by a relief committee?—I think not, but I cannot speak positively.

4912. (Chairman.) Do not the numerous district visitors who work there try to raise the standard of the home? When you say that nothing is done, I suppose that there are few districts in London with so many workers as the Notting Dale district?—It would depend absolutely on the district visitors. The district visitor very frequently seeks to give relief, I think.

4913. (Chairman.) We are very much obliged to you for your evidence.

Mr. W. H. MEEK, called; and Examined.

4914. (Chairman.) You are head teacher of the Waterloo Road Council School?—Yes.

4915. Would you describe to us the position of the school?—It is on the main Waterloo Road, midway between Waterloo Station and the Obelisk. St. George's Circus I think it is commonly called.

4916. Is it situated in a very poor district?—Yes.

4917. What sort of numbers of children have you on the roll?—306 this week.

4918. That is the boys' department only?—The boys' department only.

4919. In the other departments have you the same kind of thing?—1,014 was the last return I sent in.

4920. It is about 1,000 then. What are your other positions besides that of head master of the school which enable you to give us an opinion to-day on this matter?—I am the honorary secretary of the Children's Country Holiday Fund for North Lambeth. We deal with a large number of cases there, and I have taken up municipal work, I am a Borough Councillor of Camberwell, and I

have looked into these matters rather outside the school Mr. W. H. Meek.

4921. For how long have you been at your present school?—For six years in December.

4922. We will now take your *precis* and put it on the notes as your evidence in chief?—If you please. The *precis* is as follows:—

STATUS OF SCHOOL.

Employment of Parents.		Housing Accommodation.	
Labourers (of all kinds)	94	1 Room	16 families.
Carmen (busmen, etc.)	35	2 Rooms	110 "
Widows	23	3 Rooms	67 "
Odd men (street hawkers, potmen, touts)	64	4 Rooms	31 "
Artisans (printers, carpenters, painters)	32	House	50 "
Superior (police, postmen, railwaymen)	16		274
Shops (small)	10		

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PERCENTAGE OF MEALS GIVEN.

1899-1900, 15 per cent. approximate.
1900-1901, 15 per cent. approximate.
1901-1902, 12½ per cent. approximate.
1902-1903, 10 per cent. approximate.
1903-1904, 10 per cent. approximate.
1904-1905, 12 per cent. approximate.

METHOD OF SELECTION.

Children of widows, fathers in infirmary, or hospitals and out of work; placed upon a list and investigation proceeds on the following lines:—

1. Previous experience of same families.
2. Information obtained from children, and parents if deemed advisable.
3. Reference to the school bank, and sheets drawn up for Children's Country Holiday Fund (specimen sheets attached).
4. Census of playground at 12.30 to 1 p.m., and on separate days from 1 to 1.30. Also of neighbouring market during dinner hour.
5. Conference with head teachers of other departments.
6. "Feeding List" prepared.

GENERAL REMARKS:—

(a.) School considerably below average.

Officially returned difficult.

(b.) We have fed all applicants who have made good their cases.

(c.) We have never been short of meals.

4923. Your table shows at a glance the occupations of most of the parents?—Yes.

4924. I suppose that most of these are more or less precarious occupations?—Yes.

4925. With the exception of superior artisans who are few in number, the police and postmen, and may we say the carmen also?—I should say so. Those are fairly regular. A number of them are odd men, that is men whom various companies take on for duty when their regular employees fall out of service.

4926. The percentage of meals shows that you had been gradually falling from 1899 to 1904, and have gone up a little bit in the last winter?—I came to the school in 1899, and, therefore, I did not think it was within my province to interfere until I got a grasp of the subject. That accounts for the 15 per cent. It ran as it was before. Then I gradually reduced it to 12½ and 10 per cent., last year it went up 2 per cent. owing to absence of employment.

4927. Did you consider that last winter was a specially difficult winter?—I can give you one figure from the school bank. The balance in the bank at the end of 1903 was £15 11s. 1d., and in 1904 it was £6 3s. 11d. That showed me that there was a considerable amount of extra poverty in the neighbourhood.

4928. Where do the children from your school get their meals?—They get them at two centres; at Collingwood Street in connection with the West Southwark Children's Dinner Fund, and Johanna Street Soup Kitchen.

4929. That would be in connection with what—under what fund would that be?—Under the North Lambeth Free Meal Fund, with which I am connected. I am connected also with the West Southwark.

4930. We have been unable up to the present to get any statement from the North Lambeth Fund. I have before me a statement of free dinners and breakfasts for the poor school children in Southwark?—Yes.

4931. Some of your children go to Southwark?—Yes, we are on the border line—the line between Lambeth and Southwark passes through the school playground.

4932. That accounts for the phenomenon which I could not understand?—We draw roughly half our children from Southwark, and half from West Lambeth.

4933. Does the residence of the children determine to which of the two centres you shall send them?—Yes.

4934. Have you a Relief Committee on the lines of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children at your school?—The Relief Committee deals with the three schools. We have not one specially for each school, but one dealing with the three.

4935. That would be under the North Lambeth Fund?—Yes, that would be so.

4936. How is the Relief Committee constituted?—It is constituted of the heads of the various departments and the visitor fixed to each school, together with the representative of the managers. The Chairman of that Committee is the Chairman of the local body of managers.

4937. Does that committee meet frequently?—About three or four times during the winter session.

4938. Are those meetings of a formal character, or do they take serious business?—They take minutes.

4939. Are cases of difficulty referred to them to decide?—I think not. The head teachers decide them in conference with a manager and visitor largely.

4940. Practically, the selection of the children is in the hands of the different teachers?—That is so.

4941. Speaking for your own department how do you set to work selecting a child?—I have given you the headings.

4942. Yes, and I thought, that you might perhaps elaborate them a little?—From previous experience I have an account of most of the families in the school. There is no child I could not tell you something about, and if it is a child that is fed I can give you a large amount of information concerning it that I have gathered in the six years from various sources. I have here a series of papers in connection with the children's country holiday fund ranging from six years, where the whole history of family after family is given; the number at work; amounts earned; number of rooms they live in; rent; and number of family. There is a large amount of information in those papers.

4943. You retain those papers?—Yes.

4944. You refer to them before putting a child on the list?—Yes, if I am in doubt.

4945. You have most of the information in your mind?—Yes. Then the parent is brought up if desirable. If a child asks for meals I can always refer to it's balance in the bank. A child was fed in the girls department. I had a little conference with the head teacher, and found that her brother had £5 in the boy's bank, so we struck the child off the list at once. The school bank comes into operation there and gives us roughly the condition of the neighbourhood.

4946. Does that fact being known prevent children from subscribing to the bank. That is a point you have had, no doubt, in your mind?—We should not let them know that. That is the whole secret of the business. You must operate without the children knowing, or else you are very soon overrun. I find a great help in taking a census of the playground.

4947. Will you describe to us what takes place when you take a 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.

4948. 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.

4949. The "neighbouring market" you mention here is the New Cut?—Yes.

4950. 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.

4951. You also hold conferences with the other head teachers?—Always.

4952. Do you find much difference of opinion there as to the methods?—No, we agree as to selection. I think that the head teacher of the girls' department is a little freer perhaps than I am, but still we agree practically. She is prepared to substantiate all her cases, I must say that, and I think she is right. Sometimes a boy can get a meal where a girl cannot. I never give the boys in standards 5, 6, and 7 meals unless under very particular circumstances, because as a rule they trouble the parents until they get a meal. 25 per cent. of them labour in the evenings, and on Saturdays, so that they get small amounts of money.

4953. From the returns you made to the joint committee I see you return sixty boys, seventy-five girls and sixty infants as fed last year in the school, showing much the same kind of numbers in each?—That is about it.

4954. In Johanna Street School there is a very much larger number of boys in proportion, I see?—I do not know.

4955. One hundred and thirty-seven. You say that as a rule the teachers agree in their view in selection?—I am talking of Waterloo Road.

4956. I meant a conference of all three schools. You meant the three departments of one school?—Yes, the one school, Waterloo Road.

4957. I misunderstood you?—We agree in Waterloo Road. The three head teachers of the departments—boys, girls, and infants—agree. The other does not come within my province.

4958. That question would come up at the meeting of the North Lambeth Fund, if one school was feeding many more children than another?—Yes.

4959. Has that been discussed at those meetings?—I think it is generally taken for granted that there is greater need in Johanna Street.

4960. Do you think the class of parent is in a more casual position than the parents of your children?—I do not think I could say so. The neighbourhood is practically the same. Their worst street is Murphy Street. I walked down it the other day. Our worst street is Little Thomas' Street, and I think Little Thomas' Street is slightly worse than Murphy Street, if anything.

4961. Your personal opinion is that there is not much to choose?—I should not like to state that, because I have not the details, but the neighbourhood is practically the same.

4962. When the feeding list is prepared is it revised frequently?—Yes. Those are struck off whose parents get work, or who, from any other cause, cease to need the meals.

4963. When a child's name is on the feeding list the child knows it will receive meals until notice is given to take it off?—The child does not know that its name is on the feeding list; that is only in the knowledge of the head teacher and the assistant teacher.

4964. Does a child not know when it comes to school that it will get a meal that day?—Not necessarily. Generally speaking, the same child gets the ticket, but he does not see the list.

4965. Do you consider that that is a right principle?—I consider that the principle is to find the meal for the child, not exactly the child for the meal. You see, if you get fifty meals given to you you have to find fifty children. That is the difficulty. I would rather have meals for the children than children for the meals, if you see what I mean.

4966. I quite agree with that, but my point is: Does it not lead to want of thrift on the part of the parents if they are not aware whether the child will or will not get a meal in the middle of the day? Will not a careless parent say: "He will get a meal," and not provide anything?—To an extent; but the child with the careless parent is not on the list, as a rule. It is the child whose father is out of work, or in the infirmary, or the child who has no father.

4967. Would you not put on your list the unfed child of the careless parent?—Undoubtedly I would, if he was in want of a meal.

4968. That is a case I had in my mind?—If I thought he could get it at home I would send for the father and mother. I always tell the children and the parents themselves that it is the father's duty to get the child a meal. That is the principle I go on.

4969. Do you find that you can influence parents a great deal by sending for them?—Yes, to some extent, undoubtedly.

4970. (Miss Lawrence.) You spoke of previous experience of the same families. Do not you find the circumstances vary very much from year to year?—Not greatly.

4971. The same man who is out of work one winter will more than likely be out of work next?—Undoubtedly that is so.

4972. In the matter of application I gather that you select the children without their absolutely applying?—Yes.

4973. You do not wait for the children to apply?—No, we do not wait for the children to apply in all cases. They do apply at times.

4974. If a child is underfed you give it a meal without application?—Yes, that is so.

4975. Where do they have these meals?—At Collingwood Street, which is off the New Cut, and at Johanna Street soup kitchen.

4976. At Collingwood Street is the meal given in a hall?—It is in a small hall up a side street leading out of the New Cut on the right hand side not far from the Victoria Hall.

4977. How is the meal provided?—It is provided by the West Southwark Association. The people there cook and provide the meals.

4978. You merely get the tickets from them?—Yes.

4979. What do the children get in the way of food?—As a rule they get a basin of soup of various descriptions and a piece of pudding.

4980. Most of your children you send for dinners, I understand?—For dinners only.

4981. You have no doubt seen the dinners served? I have once or twice seen them served; in fact, several times.

4982. Who serves them out; who waits on the children?—In the Johanna Street soup kitchen the teachers do so.

4983. Do they take it in turns?—Yes, they take it in turns.

4984. How many are required?—About one to a group of twenty.

4985. How often a week does the teacher have to give up his time?—Speaking for the boys' department at Waterloo Road they take it in rotation. It comes about twice in three weeks.

4986. Do your teachers go with the boys who go from your school?—They go with them.

4987. And see them have their dinner?—And see them have their dinner. I did not send any to Johanna Street in 1902-3 and 1903-4, and only a few in 1904-5.

4988. You sent them to Collingwood Street?—I did not find the distress so great in West Lambeth in 1902-3 and I did not send any because there was difficulty in getting the children. There were thirty meals provided and I found difficulty in getting thirty children. I got one or two of my friends to give me a little money and instead of sending the children for the meals I found the meals for the children.

Mr. W. H. Meek. 4989. That reduced the numbers considerably?—Yes. That reduced the numbers considerably.

21 July, 1905. 4990. Who serves the children at Collingwood Street. Do the teachers go?—The teachers do not go. I think it is done by voluntary helpers. I could not state it for a fact, but I am told it is done by voluntary helpers.

4991. (Chairman.) Forty-five pounds was paid in 1903-4?—Yes.

4992. (Miss Lawrence.) Do they sit down at tables?—At forms.

4993. Do they have tables?—At Collingwood Street there are some tables. In the Johanna Street kitchen I have not seen tables. They take the basin in their hands and eat the soup with a spoon and have a piece of bread. I can show you the Managers' Report. It covers the other area. They say "Waterloo Road has attained an unenviable notoriety" which entitles it to be classed with those known as specially difficult schools. In 1900 they say, "these things" (having mentioned them) "must tend to make the work in all departments difficult." In 1904 they say "there is no improvement in the inhabitants, ever shifting, always poor, having little, if any, self-respect, and in the majority of cases altogether lacking in moral tone."

4994. (Chairman.) Are those written by the Managers of the group of schools?—Yes.

4995. That was a Report to the School Board?—Yes.

4996. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do you know if any of your boys have relations in Johanna Street School?—I could not say. I do not know of any case.

4997. Miss Foxley told me that she had three girls in her school who had relations in Johanna Street School but you do not know any boys who have?—I have not investigated that.

4998. You think it is the same kind of district, and they come from the same kinds of streets; if not the same streets?—To a certain extent.

4999. You say that people take it for granted that Johanna Street is poorer?—Yes; people take that for granted.

5000. Too much you think?—I do not know the basis of their opinion. I should say myself that Johanna Street is slightly worse than Waterloo Road.

5001. But not very much?—I should not say it was much.

5002. Miss Foxley sent me the other day the numbers that were fed. She said that out of the thirty-three families in her school who had members in the boy's department she was entirely in agreement with you in the twenty-seven cases. In the case of three others the boys were in the upper standards and could look after themselves. With regard to two you expressed dissent. Did you discuss these cases with her?—Yes. In one case the child had £5 in the bank and I told Miss Foxley. In the other case I should have fed the boy.

5003. You think that you ought to have done so?—Yes, I think I missed that boy.

5004. She was right in one, and you were right in the other?—Yes, I think so.

5005. That is considerable agreement. In her department she takes tickets from both the Southwark and North Lambeth Funds by which means on Wednesdays and Fridays she gets a double portion of tickets?—Yes.

5006. Southwark has Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and North Lambeth has Monday, Wednesday, and Friday?—Yes.

5007. So that on some days she only has one lot of tickets, and on Wednesday and Friday she gets double tickets? You do not do that?—I have not done it in 1903-4, but in 1904-5, this present season, there was a little more distress and I asked for twenty to start with and twenty-five afterwards from North Lambeth.

5008. Is it not rather awkward having Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays with only one source of supply?—It does not seem quite right.

5009. If you want all the tickets from both on some days you want them on all?—Yes.

5010. On Monday, fewer tickets are required?—On Monday there is a little left from the Sunday meal.

5011. Thursday is a very different day?—I should say so.

5012. If you have fewer tickets on Thursday you cannot do your duty by the children?—I have a few shillings left from a little fund I have, and I see that every boy gets a meal even if he has not a ticket.

5013. (Chairman.) The home of the child would determine to which place he should go, you said?—Yes.

5014. Therefore a vacancy in one of these two centres would not be available for children from the other?—The supply is not on a scientific basis.

5015. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) In the case of these careless parents to which the Chairman referred, are there not a large number of those?—You would create it if you were not very careful. I should think there is a number who would go that way if their bent was allowed freedom of action.

5016. You think that you do not encourage them?—I think not. The encouragement would arise if you went into a class and said "Hands up, children who require meals." That would encourage the careless parent; but if you investigate and do this thing to a large extent quietly without the knowledge of the children, you do not encourage the careless parents.

5017. If you ask them to come to meals they will come?—Yes, undoubtedly. That is the whole difficulty. You seem to create the disease by offering meals wholesale.

5018. You speak of the country holiday fund papers as being a great source of information. Do the same children who require feeding go into the country in the summer?—Not altogether, but to some extent.

5019. The country holiday fund children on the whole would be of a rather better class than this poorest class, would they not?—They need only pay as low an amount as a shilling and two shillings for a fortnight; and parents will argue like this: "Two shillings for my boy for a fortnight—he will cost me that at home." I am dealing with the matter now.

5020. You find that a good many go for the holiday who are under-fed in the winter?—Yes, a number of them.

5021. (Chairman.) Have you anything to add?—There is only one thing. I took the average age in two standards this morning and the average height—in Standards VII. and ex-VII. The average ages were thirteen and eleven, and the heights were 4 feet 8 inches and 4 feet 5 inches. I do not know whether that is, from a medical point of view, satisfactory.

5022. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Are any children being fed now in your school?—No, they have not been for some time.

5023. Miss Foxley told me that in her department she was feeding some even up to the 10th June, and you are not?—No.

5024. You do not think it necessary?—I have not found the necessity. I always tell the teachers: "If you find a boy who looks ill and you think he is without food report it to me at once." I have not had a case brought to me. I have looked round the school very carefully.

5025. You still have a little money and you could feed them?—Yes.

5026. You do not think that there are cases that go right through the year?—I have not found any.

5027. (Chairman.) Have you found it necessary to refer to the attendance officer, or relieving officer?—The attendance officer will give you valuable information as to the father—whether he is about the home, and anything of that description.

5028. You do not hesitate to ask his help in that case?—Certainly not. He is a valuable adjunct in the matter.

5029. (Dr. Parsons.) Have you met with the class of retarded children who, though not physically defective

are from want of nourishment below the proper standard?—I have not sufficient information on the normal standard to give an answer to that.

5030. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do you find very great difficulty, for instance, in keeping your school as a whole up to the ordinary School Board curriculum?—Not if there is a little latitude allowed by the Education Department. For instance, if you leave out case, nouns,

pronouns, and so on in Standard V., they can go through the curriculum after that. That is always a difficulty. With a little latitude I have found no trouble.

5031. That is because the homes are very poor, and the children do not get any kind of cultivation at home?—Not necessarily because the homes are poor. They have no cultivation at home. To a large extent you have to create your own ground to start with.

Miss E. B. LING, called; and Examined.

5032. (Chairman.) You are the Head Teacher of the Ponton Road Council School?—Yes.

5033. Would you tell us in what neighbourhood it is situated?—Nine Elms, just beyond Vauxhall.

5034. Close to the Goods Station of the London and South Western Railway?—Yes, and close to the river.

5035. How many children have you on the roll?—210.

5036. Is it simply an infants' school?—It is at present; but after the holidays next year it is to have a Standard II.

5037. They are all young children?—They are all young children.

5038. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You have Standard I. now?—Yes.

5039. (Chairman.) Have you been there for some time?—I have been there for just four and a half years. I am leaving. I expect to go to my new school after the holidays.

5040. About how many out of the 210 received meals at one or another time during 1904?—From ninety to 100 every week.

5041. That would mean more individual children if about ninety to 100 received them as a weekly average?—In the coldest weather we fed from ninety to 100 every day.

5042. I suppose that more than 100 children would have been separately fed if you took it over the year?—Yes. I should say about 100 of the very needy ones.

5043. For example, the return of the Joint Committee is: "Average number on the roll, 171. Weekly average of children fed is 79"?—Yes.

5044. We will put your short *precis* on the notes as your evidence in chief?—Yes.

Children "improperly" fed, a greater difficulty than children "insufficiently" fed.

Children suffering most from bad feeding, need most supervision when food is provided.

In a district where there are many such children the work becomes too heavy for the head teacher of the school to undertake to carry out entirely.

When the "feeding" is carried on daily, the diet which can be provided by the school becomes too monotonous. To superintend the feeding of a number of children entails the curtailment of the dinner hour of one of the teachers—and is felt most in poor neighbourhoods, where it is of course impossible for the teachers to live within walking distance of the school.

5045. Is there a Relief Committee in connection with the centre?—Yes. Now they have organised one properly among the managers, but up to the appointment of the new managers this year it was just composed of one or two managers, and the head teachers of the schools under those managers.

5046. Now there is a Relief Committee consisting of the head teachers and managers. Are there any other persons?—Not at present. They have no one else on the committee at present, but just the managers and the head teachers.

5047. Is it for this school only, or for a group of schools?—For a group of schools now.

5048. For the group under the Council to which the same managers are attached?—Yes, three schools.

5049. What are the other two schools?—Sleaford Street and Raywood Street.

5050. Was the number fed last winter larger than in previous ones?—No, not larger than the previous

year. The first two years, I think, not quite so many were fed. The last two years we have seemed to have greater need.

5051. Where are the meals given?—In one of the class rooms in the baby room.

5052. Do you find that the giving of meals in the school has drawbacks?—Yes.

5053. Would you kindly just indicate what you find about that?—For one thing we have to use a room which has been in use up to 12 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 class room, which, of course, is not nice. It means that 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. They bring their own spoons and basins, or plates, or whatever may be needed, and the teachers have to stay to superintend.

5054. Does it encroach largely on the time of the teachers?—Yes. In the early part of the year, before the teachers were used to working it, sometimes it was a quarter past one, but always it runs to 25 minutes to one before we can get the last child out. Before the teachers can start home it is a quarter to one. They all have a tram journey.

5055. Does it involve the presence of the whole staff of teachers?—No; we take it in turns.

5056. How many?—Three teachers besides myself each taking a turn every week, and one teacher two days every four weeks.

5057. (Mr. Watford.) You have somebody to clear the room up?—Yes, we have the caretaker. We have had to pay for that being done.

5058. (Chairman.) Were breakfasts given at the school?—Breakfasts were not given out of the fund. We did not give many. If parents or children said the children had had no breakfast we gave them breakfast, but there was no preparation for that. We simply made bread and milk and gave it in a room to fourteen or fifteen. We never gave more than that.

5059. How during the past winter have the children been selected?—In the first place, the first thing in the morning, generally during the Scripture lesson, the teacher notices if there are any children who look particularly wan and languid, who seem not up to the usual mark. You see we have the great advantage of the assistance of Mrs. Despard and the trained nurse who lives with her in the neighbourhood. As soon as they hear of any cases of distress in their visitation they send word in to us and we put those at once on the list, and they are fed every day until we hear further. We hear from the visitor of any cases and we hear from the parents or children themselves of parents being out of work, or other circumstances. The two principal means are our own observations and what we learn from Mrs. Despard and the trained nurse who lives with her. This trained nurse is able to tell where a child is underfed, where sometimes we cannot. For instance, in the case of one child we had who looked very fat and well fed it was really caused by disease from which the child was suffering. We found out that it needed looking after as much as those we call the very delicate and rickety ones. We are not always able to tell.

Miss E. B. 5060. Does this nurse visit the homes of the children?—
Ling. Yes. She does not do it so much now as she did when
21 July, 1905. she first came. The parents go more to her now with
their troubles and their fancies, because she has so much
to do.

5061. But you feel that you are exceptionally situated?—
Yes, I do. If we are in doubt we can always send to
the nurse to come to us, or we will go to her and get the
benefit of her knowledge.

5062. In default of such help as that, you would feel
yourselves in considerable doubt as to whether you were
selecting the right child or not?—Sometimes we should
be giving the meal, and we might be giving it where it
was not needed, but that would be better than not giving
it at all.

5063. Do you make much use of the information in
possession of the attendance officer?—Not very much.
If in the course of his visitation he hears of any case
of distress he tells me, but I have not used him very much.
I daresay I should use him more if I had not the other
means.

5064. In your case are the children all living very near
the school?—Yes, quite close; they all live within a
minute's walk. This last month or two I have had two
families from the other side of the Wandsworth Road.
That is the greatest distance, and that would not be
more than ten minutes. That is the reason why the
school has always been so small. It is because there are
the goods yard crossing on the one hand, the gas factory
and the crossing by the "Rifleman," with the horses
drawing up for watering, and the carmen for their meals.
The children cannot come very long distances, at any
rate little children cannot.

5065. You think in many cases where food is necessary
it is due to improper feeding as much as to the actual
want of food at home?—Yes, I have noticed that. I
did not set out to see it. I had not thought of the aspect
of improper feeding, but I have noticed what the children
bring for lunch (they never bring their dinners), and what
we have to take away from them. We had, only this week,
a case of something that the children call "mince." It
is most terrible, a block of hard pastry top and bottom,
with dreadful stuff in between. It is enough to give
them acute dyspepsia to eat it. It is made by the local
baker. I have warned them about it. Many of the
parents leave it when they go out in the morning, and a
number of them are not back till nine at night. Our
bigger girls have to be mother to the smaller ones until
the parents come home. One child really looks very, very
worn every day. She is only eight herself. She has
three little ones to mind. We do what we can to lighten
her load. She was in such agony yesterday afternoon
that she cried until her nose bled. I wondered whether
she had been eating this dreadful "mince." She com-
plained of pain in the stomach. She cried violently with
the pain. We could not stop it. At last her nose bled,
simply with the violence of her crying. To-day she had
to go home and serve out the fish which the mother left.
Sometimes it is to boil eggs. It is one of the better
families, but that is the condition under which they live.
Then there is a nice little boy whom to look at you would
think was well looked after. I found him one day with
a bag of broken biscuits for his dinner. Now, you cannot
buy in Nine Elms a decent biscuit to eat. We cannot to
give to the children, if we want a hurried meal. They
are not nice. The bread we would not buy for ourselves
in Nine Elms. Many of the children have that. Then
we have a little three-year-old girl. We noticed how very
delicate and small she was, and I could not understand
that she was insufficiently fed from what I saw of the
parents, but I quite understood when one morning we
took her lunch away. It was wrapped up in a wretched
piece of newspaper. It was great lumps of stringy salt
beef between two lumps of bread—for this three-year-old
mite.

5066. That was for lunch, and dinner was still to
come?—Yes. She was not insufficiently fed. She was
always coming with a piece of bread and butter—finishing
breakfast. She brought lunch, and had dinner directly
she went home, and brought something back in the
afternoon wrapped up in paper. I knew that she was
not under-fed.

5067. (Mr. Walrond.) She was over-fed?—Yes. I
spoke to the mother with respect to the lunch in the
morning and food in the afternoon.

5068. (Chairman.) Children of that class would not
receive the free meals?—No. It is easier to deal with the
insufficiently fed, because we can feed them. In the case
I have mentioned I spoke to the mother about the over-
feeding and she received it quite civilly, but when we had
taken away the salt beef, which was afterwards, and the
teacher spoke to her about it she was rather testy. I
think she thought we were constantly interfering. Many
of the children I see going with their plates to the public
house, and to the little cook-shop to get cooked meat.
They do not get much of that. That is mostly for the
parents. Then they have other things. We have two
very wretched boys indeed. I have been trying to get
the relieving officer to get the society to take up the case.
I cannot get at the parents at all. When I sent the
relieving officer the father laughed in his face and said
they had plenty to eat. But they are wretched looking
children. All I can find they have is tea and faggot-stew.
I know what that would be in Nine Elms. The
father says that they have plenty to eat, but I am
sure they do not have the proper kind of food. That is
what we all feel—that they want some sort of inspection.
I only tell you what strikes me as we go along and that is
what seems to be wanted—somebody to superintend
what the children eat.

5069. Do you see that you, or Mrs. Despard and her
nurse, are able to instruct the parents with some degree
of success as to the proper lines on which to feed children?
—We can tell them and do all we can, but I am sure it is
not of much use when we come to think that many of the
families live in one room with, perhaps, only a little parlour
grate at which to cook their food. You see the difficulty.

5070. (Miss Lawrence.) What do you give the children
now for their meals?—Mrs. Despard sends the soup
every day.

5071. It comes already cooked?—Yes; it comes nicely
cooked from her kitchen.

5072. Does it arrive hot?—Yes, in large enamelled
jugs, ready for us to pour out. She varies it as much as
she can with rice or barley. We cannot get them to eat
the barley soup. It is very nice and the best thing
for them. As often as she can she puts vege-
tables in. We know that many of the children suffer
simply from the want of vegetables. Two years ago I
used to have it from the cook shop where we got puddings
made. Really we got them very well made, but the soup
was not at all satisfactory. One day we had it sent in
and we had to send it back. We could not give it to them.
The teacher who was superintending that day said that
really the appearance of the stuff that they had served
made her feel quite sick. A point that struck me at
the time was that if we had given the children tickets and
sent them to that place to have it, you see, they would
either have eaten it or gone away without, and we should
have known nothing about it. The soup they have every
day in the week. Sufficient is sent for all who need it
and some days enough to feed more. Then we have
raisin puddings and treacle puddings. They are really
very well made.

5073. Is there a slice of bread given with the soup?—
Yes. We had when we could afford it little loaves from
the baker. We could not afford that every day.

5074. Do you know at all the cost per head of each
dinner received?—Three farthings to a penny it works
out at. Sometimes it was more, but that was the average.

5075. As to the age of the children, was there any
marked difference in the children who needed it. Were
there more of one age than of another?—No. We notice
that our baby children, say up to the age of five, looked
much better than the older children, and we had Mrs.
Young, the sanitary inspectress from the borough council
and she noticed the same thing—that the babies looked
much better than the older children. They are better
looked after. The older ones are left to shift for them-
selves a good deal.

5076. You principally give the food to the older ones?
—No. The babies look pretty well and we should not
give them so much, but we should feed them. The lady
says that it is because they are breast fed children that

they look so very much better. We knew that many
of the mothers were not at home to feed them, but in
Nine Elms many of them are Irish and this inspectress
says that the Irish mothers are very good to their babies
and look after them well.

5077. What is the largest number a day do you suppose
that you fed?—Ninety, and on an exceptionally cold
day we would manage one hundred. What I felt about
the children was that if we could give them a cup of warm
soup before they went out it would be something before
they had the cold stuff, whatever it was, at home. So
that whenever we could on the very cold days we tried
to manage a cup of warm soup before they went out.

5078. Have you ever had any food in from the cookery
centres, or are there not any near?—They are too far
away. I believe that this new Committee are talking
very much about trying to work in the cookery centres
and at Raywood Street, a school in the group. They have
cooked dinners for the infants there and the head teacher
has spoken very approvingly of those dinners. They
have greater difficulty than I have. Their school is bigger
and they have a larger number to cater for and they
have not Mrs. Despard near to help them.

5079. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Are you still feeding any
of them in the summer?—No. I did up to recently,
up to recently I got relief from the relieving officer for
a few cases we had and then I got the caretaker to cook
them a proper dinner. I am referring to the two wretched
looking boys that I told you of. Besides that I had £1
from the Committee and I spent that in the same way.

5080. For the same children?—Yes. When we ques-
tion the children it gets them into trouble at home. I
gave it up at last. They were quite afraid to see me
come into the room, for fear I should ask questions so I
simply went on their appearance.

5081. When you speak of their having faggot stew,
what does that mean?—I do not know.

5082. Is it not an extremely nasty compound?—Yes.

5083. (Dr. Parsons.) It is the internal organs of
pig chopped up and wrapped in skin. You see it
in pork butchers' shops in congealed gravy. Fag-
gots have to be warmed up. They are very highly
seasoned?—The taste of these people is for things
highly seasoned. I see them going for the pickles and
things of that kind. I know that many of our children
do not get vegetables. When I am going home, about
twenty past twelve, I meet the mothers coming in with
vegetables in their aprons. They cannot be cooked in
time for the children to have them and besides that the
children play in the streets and the playground during
the dinner hour.

5084. Do they get a hot meal in the evening when the
father comes home?—Some of them do sometimes.
From what I gather, on Sunday many of the children
have the first meal about three in the afternoon. The
mothers go out in the morning to Vauxhall Walk and
shop and come home and cook. We have nothing to do
with them, but that shows the style of the parents about
there. A woman was supposed to be in very great straits
in one case. I sent over something by our caretaker to
the woman, who was ill. She had plenty of flour in the
house but not a fire or anything to cook a pudding with,
or anything of the kind. I took back the flour that we
sent her because I found she had already plenty but did
not or could not cook it. I know they were without
coals. There is this difficulty that they have not the
convenience for cooking. 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.

5085. You think that there are a good many who could
pay if there was the opportunity?—Yes, and that is the
opinion of the teachers who have been there longer than
I have—that many of these parents would be glad to pay
even 2d., perhaps, if their child could have a meal. We
all very much feel the need of some place where the children
could go and have their dinners—some central hall. The
other schools are much worse placed than I am, because
their numbers are larger and some of the schools have no
hall at all. We have a hall of course.

5086. (Mr. Walrond.) Do you think that you feed all
the children who really require it?—Yes, I think we get
in all the children that really require it. I think there
are very few of ours in fact, perhaps only about a dozen,
if there are a dozen, that are properly fed. When I think
of them there is only one little girl to my mind who is
properly fed and looked after.

5087. Out of the whole 210?—Yes, we find a great
difference in her work. She works differently from the
other children. It is much easier to teach such children.

5088. Do you think that many of the 90 or 100 that
you feed would get a meal of some sort if you did not
feed them?—Yes, many of them would get something.

5089. A proper meal?—They would not get enough,
and they certainly would not get the proper kind of meal,
but they would get something. The mother would prob-
ably leave something. When we inquire, it is only
bread and tea for breakfast and bread and tea for dinner.
In many of these cases I have heard of I am sure it is
quite true because I have inquired of the different mem-
bers of the family apart and got the same answer—"Bread
and tea"—the tea being left in the teapot.

5090. A good many would really get nothing if you
did not feed them, I suppose?—I would not say a good
many, but I would say several.

5091. Not more than several?—No. I think that
probably even the worst off of them have a piece of bread.
I think that we know all the cases where there would be
nothing.

5092. Do you think your feeding is a sort of indirect
encouragement to the parent to neglect the giving of
proper food?—No, I do not think so. I do not find with
regard to the parents that they do not try to get food
prepared when they have it at home. I have not found
that. I dare say that they think "Oh, well, if we merely
leave them this they will have something else," but I
think they would leave more if they had it.

5093. But the kind of cooking may be more or less
determined by their feeling that the child at any rate
will get a meal that suits it at the school, and therefore
they cook these concoctions of their own to suit them-
selves. Do you think that is a fact?—No, I do not think
that either. I think that they have not the convenience
and, I suppose, they have not the knowledge to cook.

5094. (Chairman.) Can you say that your children
are obviously better for the meals that you give them?—
Yes. When two of your number came down we had been
feeding the children for a long time. Mrs. Despard comes
to me when the winter weather begins, and she asks me
how the children are looking and we go by the looks of
the children a great deal. At the end of the season they
look very different from when we begin to feed them.

5095. Do you find that they are more capable of
doing their lessons?—Yes, they brighten up wonderfully.

5096. (Mr. Walrond.) They are exceptionally well
looked after between you and Mrs. Despard?—Yes,
Nine Elms is well looked after, but she told me she could
not always be sure of doing it. You see last year she had
to drop the cod liver oil considerably; that made a
remarkable difference. I noticed a difference in the colour
of the children's hair and the brightness of their eyes.
Their colour deepened and they brightened considerably.
I pointed a child out myself. Dr. Kerr from the County
Council had been down and picked out a child as being
rickety and he said she needed cod liver oil. That was
given to her and we gave her hot milk at playtime. I
pointed her out to Mrs. Despard. The child had a nice
pink colour and her eyes were blue and bright and her
hair was bright, I shall always remember the child because
I was so struck with the change after she had been treated
like that for a time. Oh, yes, it does show on the children
themselves.

5097. And in the quality of their work?—Yes, it
makes a great deal of difference to that.

5098. (Chairman.) From what source is the money
derived out of which the feeding comes. I refer to the
£8?—From the London Schools Dinner Association.
What Mrs. Despard gives us she gives us in kind. At
any time if I had not anything and could not get any-
thing otherwise, I should send round there and get it; but
of course, that is not so in every neighbourhood.

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5099. Is there anything else that you would wish to add?—There is this point with regard to the feeding that as we have to carry it on as best we can and get what we can, there is difficulty with regard to getting food properly cooked and sometimes our money is not enough to afford a sufficient variety. It is of no use talking about it. The meals become monotonous for the children. They get great patches of scurvy probably due to the monotony of the feeding during the winter months. At any rate it struck me that it might be that.

5100. (Dr. Parsons.) Do not the children get fruit in their homes?—Yes, but that you see is of a bad kind. We have a little boy, a wretched little consumptive fellow, a poor little mite he is, and the mother sent me word to say he had had no breakfast when I went to fetch him to have his bread and milk. He had a piece of perfectly green rhubarb and was gnawing it. The poor child was evidently so hungry that he had to have something and that is what he had. There is a little greengrocer's next to the school. It does not often happen, but occasionally they have a heap of refuse outside, and the children go and fetch the rotten tomatoes and so on. We have had to talk to them about that and take them away. When they buy fruit of course they do not buy

Mr. T. PILCHER SHOVELIER, called; and Examined.

Mr. T. P. Shovelier.
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5105. You are head master of the "Chaucer" Council School?—I am.

5106. Which is in Bermondsey?—Yes.

5107. Would you describe to us the surroundings and situation of the school?—It is off Tabard Street. It is a street under a new name. It is an extremely poor neighbourhood. Charles Booth says it is one of the blackest spots. He says that the school in Westcott Street contains some of the poorest children in London. He said that in the original issue of his book "Life and Labour in London," and in a recent volume he says that the judgment he formed then had been confirmed by what he had seen recently. I agree that it is exceedingly poor.

5108. About how many children are there on the roll?—About 450 boys.

5109. Is the school a three-department school?—Yes. There are 1,350 children altogether.

5110. For how long have you been there yourself?—Since February, 1894.

5111. I gather that the children go to two centres for their meals. Is that so?—Yes, and sometimes I have fed them in school, which would make another centre.

5112. But mainly they go to the Lansdowne Place Ragged School, and the St. Stephen's School Room?—Yes.

5113. In the first place, that of the Lansdowne Place Ragged School, the meals are supplied in connection with the London Schools Dinners Association?—Yes.

5114. In the other case—the St. Stephen's School Room—they are in connection with the Destitute Childrens Dinner Society?—I have no knowledge as to anything there. I have no knowledge of where they get the money, how they spend it, or how the thing is organised. I have no connection with it except that they supply the children with meals.

5115. How do you settle to which centre you shall send? Is the admission by ticket?—By ticket. We do not differentiate. We have a certain number of tickets, some for St. Stephen's and some for Lansdowne Place, and if a boy does not get one he is very glad to get the other.

5116. You do not say that one particular boy shall always go to one, and another boy to another?—No.

5117. How do the tickets reach you?—In one case a helper of the Lansdowne Place School comes and gives me a certain number to last for the week.

5118. Do you send in a request for the number which you want?—No. I am on the Committee of the Lansdowne Place School by virtue of my position as head-master of the "Chaucer" School. We settle the general line of action, and the comparative amounts, the number

the best. A good many of them buy the cheapest nasty green things.

5101. (Mr. Walrand.) That is very common, especially with small boys?—I find the nicer children more particular. We have not many nicer, but those who are are far more particular. I should very much like something to be done for the better provision of meals so that we could seat them and something should be done with regard to superintendence. The teachers have never complained.

5102. (Chairman.) We have noted what you have said on that head?—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. As I am going to another and a larger school of the same kind, St. George's in the East, Ratcliffe Highway, I suppose I shall have something of the same nature to do there. I shall have a larger school.

5103. With no Mrs Despard to help?—No. I do not know whether there is anyone else there to take her place. I have not anything further to say.

5104. (Chairman.) We thank you for your interesting evidence.

of tickets to be sent to the "Chaucer" School, Webb Street School, and Weston Street School—three schools served from the same centre. After discussing ways and means and probable necessities we decide that a certain school shall have so many tickets a week, and others more or less according to the poverty of the school, and the number of children attending.

5119. Those tickets would have to be used during the week in which they are issued?—Not necessarily, but they are as a matter of fact.

5120. With regard to Lansdowne Place Centre each one of those tickets means a halfpenny to the association. I gather. What is paid to Lansdowne Place centre in respect of each child going there to have a dinner?—We paid 3d. at first, but we have been paying 3d. per head for some time. I did not anticipate the question so I cannot give you the exact date.

5121. A fixed sum is paid in respect of each ticket taken?—Yes.

5122. And that centre is supported by grants from the London Schools Dinners Association paid direct to it?—Yes.

5123. And also supported by the price paid by each school for the tickets?—Yes. There is some overlapping. I get something from the Referee Fund—£30. I am not always sure that I shall get £30. I have sometimes £15 and then it is followed by additional grants of £7 10s.

5124. From Mrs. Burgwin?—From Mrs. Burgwin. It usually is £30. With that money I pay the Lansdowne Place people 3d. a head, and I make a payment to the St. Stephens people occasionally. I do not pay so much per head. This is why I make the difference, the St. Stephen's people used to send tickets to me. Sometimes the boys did not get the dinners. They did not reach the place. I went to see why they did not go to have the dinners. After a consultation an alteration was made in the dinners. Then Mr. Dodge wanted me to sell the tickets to the children at a 3d. each. We sold the Lansdowne Place tickets for a time at a 3d. each. I found that they would readily buy Lansdowne Place tickets at a 3d., but would not buy the St. Stephen's tickets at a 3d. I told Mr. Dodge that, and he altered his menu. Then he found the thing did not go. He suggested selling tickets at a 3d. each. I had to remind him that my business was educational, and not of this character, and that it interfered too much with my legitimate work. I said that he could send tickets in, and collect the money at the doors. He said, "Charge a 3d. each, and if they cannot pay give it to them." I could not accept that position. It would mean that I would agree to be deceived, and I could not take that position at all. I must give the tickets away, and leave it to the children to pay. If a boy says he cannot pay, I have to see if it is true and all the rest of it. I

cannot afford to be deceived. On those grounds I declined and left the children to pay at Mr. Dodge's own place.

5125. Are not these meals given free as far as the children are concerned?—Yes, they are now, practically. Some-time ago some of them were given free. In other cases the children had to pay 3d. each at Lansdowne Place and at the other place.

5126. Do they now at Lansdowne Place take money or only admit by tickets?—They take some money, but the greater part of the feeding is by ticket from these three schools. They take the money and it has been accepted by the working committee in some instances to avoid waste when there is something over. They allow children to come in and finish off what is left. The committee at Lansdowne Place are strongly of opinion that it is very undesirable to have these casual buyers at a 3d. each.

5127. The account sent to us only shows grants from the London Schools Dinners' Association and dinners at 3d. and afterwards at 3d.?—At the beginning of the season we of the council schools paid a 3d. per head. That would include what we paid at a 3d. per head and also the casuals who finished off the food which had been prepared.

5128. Do you think that there would be any demand for a meal to be paid for by the parents at so much per head if provided?—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 ask would they pay, they would ultimately pay, but not willingly. They would have something to unlearn. They are exceedingly poor.

5129. Would they object to paying for children at a meal where some children were received free?—No, I do not think so. We had until last year some paying a 3d. and at the same time some meals were distributed free.

5130. How do you select the children for the free meals?—I hold an enquiry in November. I have brought a copy of the document which I have had drawn up with the names written in it. I put the headings, addresses, number of rooms, occupations, of father and mother and number of children living at home. I want to get at the source of income. A child living at home is sometimes a source of income. Then I put the number and ages of the children at home and then "Remarks." I will quote one or two. It shows how it helps us to understand what the home circumstances are, and therefore whether a child is really from a necessitous family.

5131. Are your materials collected solely from the children themselves?—Yes, but they are edited. The masters collect the information. They do things cautiously. We have had nine or ten years at this. Many years ago I started it. We do not ask bald questions. The information is got from each boy privately at the master's desk. After the class master has done this I take certain cases. If a statement appears to be a strong statement or too picturesque, or if there is any reason for doubt or for wanting to have it verified, I go through the case myself seeing that I know a good deal of the home circumstances of the people as I have been there so long and had successions of children from the homes. If there was intention or wish to deceive it would not easily be successful. Then I get the attendance officer if I am in doubt and with him I go through the cases and say "Do you agree?" or "Can you tell me anything about this case?" or "I am not quite satisfied about this. Why does this man's name appear?" Perhaps I have a man who is a printer or painter in regular employment—not highly paid, but still regularly paid, and I say to the attendance officer "What about these people. Do you know anything of the case?" and so on, and he will tell me. Sometimes I have gone round to the home myself. That is not altogether a desirable proceeding, but when one is determined to get to the bottom of the matter it is the only way to do it sometimes.

5132. You keep these records by you from year to year?—Yes.

5133. And are able to compare the statement of one year with the statement of the last year and so on?—Mr. T. P. Shovelier.
Yes. Shall I quote one or two.

5134. Give us a few typical cases?—"Two rooms. Father absconded. Mother: house work. Seven children. Children living at home. Ages three, six, eleven, fifteen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty-one." The one of nineteen is a girl, and eleven, fifteen, eighteen, are boys, I do not know the sex of the six and three. "Mother goes out washing twice a week. Eldest son sleeps in downstairs room." They have two rooms. "All the rest including the mother in upstairs room, two beds." The next case is "Two rooms. Father herring curer. Mother house work." "House work" means work at home. Four children living at home, ages one, six, seven, eleven. All sleep in one room, and live in the other. Father worked four days last week; full time this week." It was on Wednesday I made the note. Up to Wednesday he would be making full time. The next case "Two rooms. Father a waterside labourer. Mother: house work. Six children living at home, ages four, seven, eleven, thirteen, sixteen, seventeen." The thirteen and seventeen are girls, and eleven and sixteen are boys. I do not know the sex of the younger ones. Some sleep upstairs, some down. "Father odd jobs, precarious."

5135. That shows us the kind of way in which the record runs?—Yes.

5136. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Did you get any idea of the wages of the older boys?—Only in certain cases. In another enquiry that I conducted I got the wages. I inquired how and why and to what extent the children were employed.

5137. In the case where the father absconded and there were boys of eighteen and twenty-one and so on, were they earning wages do you know?—I know that one boy is a van boy on one of Pickford's vans. The girl of nineteen was at Pink's factory. I do not know about the boy of twenty-one. I could find out. I have it somewhere.

5138. (Chairman.) You do this amongst other things in order to inform yourself what is the income of the family?—Yes.

5139. Do you get the total income of the family on that return?—No, I only get an idea of how much they earn.

5140. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Are these families that you named where families from which have been fed?—This is the whole roll. Those have been fed, I think. Now and again we have "Comfortable circumstances."

5141. (Chairman.) You take the census of the whole school on these lines?—Yes.

5142. Then you draw up a list of children to receive meals?—Yes.

5143. How do the children get on the list? Do they apply or do you select them?—We select them.

5144. Without application on their part?—Yes. They would all apply.

5145. They would all apply?—Nearly all would. 5 per cent. possibly would not.

5146. What are the guiding matters in determining whether you will put them on the feeding list or not?—If I think a child has not really a chance of getting sufficient food at home that is the main, in fact the only thing that is considered. If he has not, I put him on the list no matter what the sins of the parent or what the creed or anything else.

5147. I was thinking at the moment of the appearance of the child. Is that any guide to you. If you found a very chubby child whose home circumstances were apparently very bad would you put him on the list?—Not until I found out something about the home. I find the cases which require help most and the most touching cases are those where there is still a clinging to respectability, and boys try to wear collars. I have a few collar boys in my school—not many. Some of them, not many, wear collars and are ashamed to come without boots and so on, and they are probably the poorest. The most picturesque cases are not the poorest. The boys who have men's trousers on cut short, for instance, picturesque ragged

Mr. T. P. Shovelier. little vagabonds, are not necessarily the poorest. Sometimes the poorest are those that are dressed very decently.

21 July, 1905. 5148. Is the determination practically entirely in your own hands?—Yes, it is.

5149. Is there any relief committee in connection with the joint committee of the County Council?—Yes, there is, in accordance with the rules, and the Committee acts really through the head teachers. In some places it is not so, but in this case it is so. The committee say that the teachers have their confidence, and they could not do any good by attempting themselves to help as a committee, and therefore they do not help.

5150. Do you call in the services of the attendance officer frequently?—Not very frequently. I used to when I did not know the place so well, but I know so much of it now. He is in every Friday on other business, and whenever there is any occasion I can always get his opinion, and I do. Sometimes he will go to a place on purpose to find out something, and let me know about what I have asked him.

5151. You get a good many changes in the district—families, I suppose, coming and going?—Yes, and they come back again, too.

5152. You remember them?—Yes. They come and go because of the rent, or something else. Sometimes they go to the workhouse and come back again.

5153. (Miss Lawrence.) In the selection of children in schools do you confer with the heads of the other departments, or do you work separately?—Each one is supposed to know the children of his or her department. All that we do together is to settle when the dinners should begin and when they should close—at the same time.

5154. You do not compare notes as regards children in the same family?—No.

5155. It might happen that a girl in a family was getting a dinner and a boy in the same family was not?—Quite so.

5156. That would be because of a difference of opinion between you?—That might easily happen.

5157. Do you know if there is any great difference in the number of children fed in the different departments?—There is no great difference. The numbers are fairly constant. The boys and girls are about equal in numbers. The infants are fewer.

5158. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You get the same number of tickets given, or the same amount of money?—Yes.

5159. It is the tickets that rather determine the number of children?—Yes.

5160. (Miss Lawrence.) What is the character of food they get?—During the season I pay one or two surprise visits. At one time I found the children at Lansdowne Place with a basin of soup and a big piece of pudding. It is chiefly soup, with pieces of meat in it, and bread and plum pudding.

5161. Who serves the food?—People in connection with Lansdowne Place, and in the other place in connection with St. Stephen's church.

5162. Do any of your teachers accompany the boys?—No.

5163. Is there no fear of the tickets changing hands on the way?—That is a matter of school discipline. We have to arrange that that does not often occur. It should not occur at all—that is to say, tickets should not be bartered. If a boy does not use his ticket he is taught to understand that he is "not playing the game." That is the phrase we have there. He is not acting fair and square. He should not take the ticket if he does not use it. He is expected to decline it at the time, and give a reason. If he takes it away and then cannot go, he should bring it back.

5164. You do not think that the bartering of tickets does happen?—Now and again it does happen, but not often. I have confidence in them. We know a good deal of what happens in connection with these things. Now and again one is deceived.

5165. But not as a rule?—We get very near the truth from one's experience.

5166. How many do you send each day?—That varies according to the weather and the distress. Early in the winter we would only send seventy or eighty or 100. When the frost had been on for some time, or employment was very slack, and there were many out of work, the number would be raised to 200 or 300 meals. What I am talking of now includes dinners and breakfasts. It has amounted to 360, or even more, in one week, whereas in other weeks it would be rightaway down to under 100.

5167. Does a boy get a dinner for every school day in the week?—No.

5168. What is about the average number of times when he would get a dinner?—When we are in full swing in the winter I should say three days out of five per week. We have no official connection with Saturday or Sunday.

5169. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Does the headmistress in the girls' department keep any records like yours, or take a census?—That is not in my province—I do not know.

5170. It is very unusual?—It is unusual, and probably she does not do it. I did this many years ago and found it so extremely useful that I have never thought of dropping it. Last year I was understaffed for a very considerable time and felt that something would have to go, and this did not get attended to as well as it has been in the past.

5171. You say in your *precis* that you think that wilfully careless and neglectful parents should be prosecuted. Are there many such parents?—I am afraid there are.

5172. But they do not get prosecuted, do they?—No they do not. That is the difference I have had with Mr. Toynbee, the local Charity Organisation man. He says, and probably it is true, but I cannot accept the position any more if it is true, that every meal you give means another half-pint to a dissolute parent. I say, "Well even if it is so, if you bent your energies towards prosecuting the dissolute parents, you would be doing more good than in coming to me trying to get me not to feed the child. I say feed the child, even if it does all the ill you say."

5173. How do you find out the overlapping that you speak of. How do you find it out with regard to the local religious organisations? Does it mean that the children get two tickets, or what?—We take the utmost care in selecting the children, and when we select children who are not on the books or within the ken of the people at one or other of these religious associations then the others can go there and get a meal. There are some who have nowhere to go to get a meal, because they do not attend Sunday school.

5174. Do you make a difference in your selection, having regard to whether they go to any of these other places or not?—Now and again when we have not had enough tickets and had to cut out really necessitous cases we have cut-out those who probably would go to another place.

5175. (Chairman.) Do you imagine that a good many of the children who do not appear on your list as having received food may receive it through other agencies?—Certainly; that is what I complain of.

5176. The 863 out of the 1,357 on the return is not the measure of the necessity of the children in the school?—No.

5177. The 500 or so unaccounted for may also, many of them, get help through one of the religious organisations?—Yes.

5178. (Dr. Parsons.) Has your experience led you to think that the class referred to in our reference of children who though not defective are from malnutrition below the normal standard is a numerous one?—My experience has emphatically, because so many of these children are puny starvelings. Instead of the wilful strong and naturally boyish naughtiness there is a sly, quiet, impish sort of naughtiness with many of these children.

5179. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) In what way are they below the normal standard?—In height and wind and weight. They cannot play games as many of the boys do, and I really do not know that they can eat as well as the others. They have not such an appetite.

5180. Are they worse at their school work?—Yes; many come to school and sleep. That is partly due to malnutrition, and partly due to excessive employment.

5181. And going to bed late and not getting proper sleep?—Yes; it is very dreadful. Last week I had an instance which I had had before of a boy sleeping in school. We know that he did not do work and we know also that the parents were fairly regular people for the class of people there—that is to say, they did not drink, and there were not rows, and so on, at home. On two or three days he slept at school. I thought there might be some special reason, and I inquired, "What time did you go to bed." He did not go to bed until twelve o'clock. "And why did not you go?" "I did not want to." "Did not your mother make you go? Do not you know you ought to go to bed before that, a little boy like you?" "If I go to bed I cannot sleep." "Why not?" "Because of the fleas and the bugs." The fleas and the bugs disappear at daylight and the children can sleep. This is not palatable, but these are some of the conditions. This was an undersized weakling probably due partly to being fed insufficiently and partly perhaps to being fed improperly as well.

5182. (Chairman.) Do you think there is more insufficient than bad feeding?—I cannot say that. I think that the insufficient feeding is quite as rife. A combination of the two, I think, would apply in almost every case.

5183. Are your boys able to get loose pence to spend on sweets and such like things?—Yes. It is very curious but it is so. They can get money for sweets, and so on although there is this awful poverty.

5184. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do they smoke cigarettes much?—I have tried to discourage it, but they do it. They know that I do not like it.

5185. That would interfere with their appetites, of course?—Yes, but I do not think there is much of that, although, I am afraid, some of them do. I do not hear of it very often.

5186. (Mr. Walrod.) I gather that there are several other causes besides the actual want of food which would cause these children to be below the normal standard?—Quite so, the want of sleep that I instanced just now, for example.

5187. Badly-ventilated homes, and so on?—Yes.

5188. (Dr. Parsons.) The over-crowding?—Yes. I have on these returns some terrible cases, some where the family have only one room. There is a struggle for the decencies in some of these cases. There is one case where a family of young lads and girls from seventeen to twenty-three and little children as well were all in one room—four or five of them. There were two beds and one girl of twenty-three slept with Mrs. So-and-So, and another with Mrs. —, with So-and-So down below. They had a curtain between, the boys on one side, and the girls on the other. There was a struggle for the decencies under these awful conditions.

5189. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You would not always find that struggle?—No, that is so, and even there the struggle cannot always be successful.

5190. (Chairman.) You say that you have tried to impress on the boys the fact that they ought not to take these meals unless the family were in need of them. Do you really feel that you have succeeded to some extent in that?—Yes.

5191. What indications have you had?—It seems to have been established at school that it is not right; it is not playing the game; it is not fair. It is mean, and so on. They have learned that "There is no disgrace in being poor—as poor as you like. There may be disgrace due to some-

body, but to you children it is not. The only way in which you can disgrace yourself is by yourself and through yourself, and you can do it very effectively and very easily by sneaking round for these things when you should not, and there are other boys who want help more than you." We have kept records in this shape; we have the names, and we have put a mark against each boy who has received the meal. Occasionally we put a note at the end, "Parents applied to be taken off the list; father going to work to-morrow." Another case is "Father got work. Mother says 'Thank you very much' and boy asks to be taken off the list." Many do not say, "Thank you very much," but we have plenty of cases where they ask to be taken off the list. Occasionally we have tickets to give, and somebody puts up his hand for a ticket and somebody else will report and say, "Please, Sir, his father got work yesterday." It is a little place and a great many of these people know each other extremely well, and one boy will say, for instance, "Please, teacher, he has two brothers at work." They are very keen about this. I have told them that we want them to be keen and ask them to find out the people who ought to be able to help themselves.

5192. How are the tickets given out. Does the teacher ask each day who wants a dinner?—Yes.

5193. Is it done quietly, so that the other children shall not know?—No. We have a list. The thing is not always managed in precisely the proper way, but then you see you have to use the help of varying degrees of tact and thoroughness, and so on.

5194. Would you take a particular morning and say what happens. You have your supply of tickets as head teacher. What do you do with them?—When the man comes from Lansdowne Place with these tickets I send for a boy from the first class, and he has "Room A" so many, "B, C, D," and so on, when the tickets vary sometimes there are more or less. I have this arranged up to forty or fifty. It is revised every week. I give him the tickets. They are sorted out in that way and distributed.

5195. They go then to the teacher in charge of the class room?—Yes.

5196. What does he do when he gets them?—He is supposed, but through stress of other work sometimes he does not do it, during the morning to make up his mind exactly what he will do with the tickets so that there shall be no competition for them. He knows the cases, and he should have the marks already put in.

5197. Do you supply him with a remark list showing who should have the tickets?—Yes. I say, "Keep your eye on this case;" for instance "The man cannot get work." Anything I know about the case I report to the master. He has to keep his eye on it, to be suspicious or generous or anything of the kind. I pass it on to the master if I know anything and ask him to act circum-spectly.

5198. (Dr. Parsons.) With regard to the feeling that it is mean to ask for a ticket when the boy does not need it, does not that depend on its being known that the supply of tickets is not sufficient to go all round and that if one boy has one who does not want one another boy that does must go without. If there were an ample number of tickets so that all could have them would that feeling exist?—If you appeal to boys in the right way and are cute enough to take the particular things which will appeal to boys, you need not mention all the other things, although, as a matter of fact, I have mentioned some of the reasons why they should not have the tickets.

5199. (Chairman.) Have you anything to add to what you have kindly told us?—I think not.

Mrs. L. J. HUMM, called; and Examined.

5200. (Chairman.) You are the head mistress of Cook's Ground Council School, Chelsea?—Yes.

5201. Would you tell us what the position of the school is?—It is a school attended by about 400 girls and the same number of boys and just a few less infants—about 350.

5202. It is about a 1,200 school?—Yes.

5203. Whereabouts is it situated?—On the north side of the river Thames and near to the Albert Bridge. We

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have the slums round us of Milman Street and Church Street and Gilray Square and some streets on the other side of the King's Road. On the east side of the school we have a much better class of house—Cheyne Walk 21 July, 1905. and Cheyne Row and Oakley Street.

5204. You have some children coming from good homes?—A few.

5205. The neighbourhood is either inhabited by people who do not use public elementary schools or by those

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who live in quite a low class of house?—Yes. The children of the better class go to Whitelands Training College or to the Polytechnic.

5206. How long have you been at the school?—For four years.

5207. We shall put on the evidence the *precis* which you have kindly sent in and take that as your evidence-in-chief?—Certainly.

The *precis* is as follows:—

I.—METHOD ADOPTED IN SELECTION OF CHILDREN.

(a) *Teachers.* The head teacher and class teachers notice any children who are looking ill and underfed and a list of names with addresses is sent to Relief Committee for consideration.

(b) *Managers.* A Relief Committee is formed of managers of the school. This Committee meets every week during the Christmas and Easter terms, and once a fortnight during the summer term.

The names of children submitted by the head teachers are divided amongst members of the Committee, who take four or five cases each. Full inquiries are made into each case and particulars reported at the next meeting. If any case requires special and immediate help the members of the Committee have power to give it without waiting for next meeting.

(c) *Outside Influence.* Where necessary cases are reported to Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children or to the Guardians.

II.—METHOD OF MAKING ENQUIRIES AND THE RESULT ON PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

(a) The members of the Committee go to the homes and try to see the kind of food given by parents to the children. In some instances it is of a kind which does not nourish, and the visitor points out that for the same money more nourishing food could be obtained, e.g., porridge, milk, soup.

The cookery lessons now given in the school should improve the condition of the future generation.

Some parents take advice and an improvement is seen in the condition of children.

(b) Where the underfeeding is caused by the carelessness or thriftlessness of parents, the case is reported to the S.P.C.C. We all feel that the feeding of the children could be done and is a small matter compared with the necessity of compelling the parents to attend to the general health of the children.

(c) Undeserving parents know that full inquiries are made into every case, and consequently they do not try to obtain food when children do not require it.

III.—HOW MEALS ARE PROVIDED AND SOURCES FROM WHICH MONEY IS OBTAINED.

(a) At the end of each week a list of the *rites* those to be fed is sent to the head teacher, and also to those who are providing the meals, and these children are fed for the ensuing two weeks, and at the end of that time they are reconsidered.

(b) The Chelsea Children's Mission, Church Street, provides dinners at 3d. per meal, the cookery centre at the school can do it for 1½d. per meal. The meal consists of Irish stew and bread and jam; or soup and bread with a suet pudding. Children can have as much as they require. Some of the Committee feel that a breakfast of warm milk and bread and butter would be of more value, because the parents have no money in the morning, but can sometimes get some before twelve o'clock.

(c) Of the 390 children on the roll of this school forty-one cases or about 10 per cent. were reported to the Relief Committee; of these ten girls or 2½ per cent. were fed. These girls came from eight families.

(d) The money for the dinners is obtained entirely by voluntary contributions, given by the members of the Relief Committee and their friends.

5208. I see that the number of children fed during the year 1904-5 in Cook's Ground School was very small compared with that of other schools?—Yes.

5209. The total number was only twenty-five out of 1,192 on the roll. Of that number an average of only three were fed weekly in the girls' school?—Yes, about that.

5210. How many actual children were fed in the girls' school?—Ten, and they came from eight families.

5211. You explain in your *precis* your method of selection. Would you tell us about that?—I am always very watchful myself and the teachers are the same to see every day any children who are looking underfed or show signs of being underfed in any way at all. Those cases are reported to me day by day. I make a note of them, and on Thursdays the list is handed in to the Relief Committee. All the work is done by the Relief Committee after I have handed the list in to them.

5212. You select the children in the first instance?—Yes.

5213. Entirely by appearance?—I get notes from the parents sometimes and sometimes I get outside evidence brought to me. The school attendance officer sometimes tells me if there are any cases that come under his notice where the children have not been well fed or come from homes where he thinks there is likely to be underfeeding.

5214. How is the Relief Committee constituted?—There are nine managers on the Relief Committee, and the three head teachers. The Committee meets once a week from the summer holidays until Easter and once a fortnight from Easter to the summer holidays.

5215. It never drops its operations?—Never. During the summer time they are helping the children who are going away into the country. These cases are brought down to the Committee on Thursday and are divided out between the different members of the committee. The members have four or five cases each. They take one of these forms and make full inquiries into the case. I brought these papers to give you some idea of the amount of inquiry that is carried on. This is the inquiry about one child.

5216. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) All those letters about one case?—Yes.

5217. (Chairman.) That dossier consists of the correspondence on one case?—On one case entirely. This letter is from the Charity Organization Society. These are from the Almoner of St. George's Hospital, because the child was put into St. George's Hospital. One letter is from the district visitor.

5218. Can you tell us how many cases were investigated to lead to ten children being actually fed?—Forty-one. These cases are brought up week after week. I submitted sixty-five names.

5219. Your original list contained sixty-five names?—Some of the children came over again. If I submitted them and they had no relief and then later on I thought that they really required relief, I submitted the names again to the Committee.

5220. The forty-one would not be the same child coming more than once, but separate children?—Those are forty-one cases.

5221. Were there more than forty-one on the first list?—No.

5222. There would be the same number on your first list?—Yes.

5223. What is the usual attendance at the meetings of the Relief Committee. Are the head teachers always present?—Yes.

5224. How many out of the nine managers would be present?—Six on an average.

5225. As many as that?—Yes.

5226. How many would be ladies?—Four ladies and two gentlemen are always there. Mr. Crookes is always there and Mr. Gerald Ritchie.

5227. These members of the Committee no doubt are interested in other matters also. Some of them may be guardians or some of them Charity Organization workers?—Yes. Mrs. Dunn Gardiner is a guardian. She takes a great interest. She is often at the Committee meetings, but she has not been there recently.

5228. The committee are a committee of experts?—Almost entirely. It is an excellent committee in every way.

5229. Do they work in connection with any other schools besides Cook's Ground?—Yes, Marlborough Road. They

meet at Cook's ground one week and Marlborough Road the next week.

5230. Is there much difference in the standard of life of the parents with regard to the two schools?—I think not.

5231. The results seem to be very much the same. In one case twenty-five were fed and in the other twenty-one?—Yes.

5232. Marlborough Road is rather larger. It has nearly 1,500?—Yes.

5233. (Miss Lawrence.) Do the head teachers all generally attend the Committee meetings?—Yes, every week. We always go down and report the cases and ask questions and we are asked questions by Mrs. Phipps, the Chairman of the managers, and by the Chairman of the Committee also. We do not always stay the whole time, because we cannot spare the time.

5234. You and the head master and infants' mistress would be able to compare dates as to the different children in the same family in your different departments?—Yes.

5235. If one child is relieved, are others in the same family generally relieved?—Not always.

5236. How do you choose which shall have it and which shall go without? Presumably if the family is poor they all want it?—In one case for four weeks two sisters had food. The younger sister still looked very ill. The father was able to supply a little. The Relief Committee continued the food to the younger sister who seemed ill and needed more nourishing food than the father could give. The elder sister was quite satisfied and seemed to get on with what the parents were able to give. It does not often happen like that.

5237. On how many days do the children have meals?—Five days a week.

5238. Dinner?—Yes.

5239. You do not give breakfasts?—No, but I am strongly in favour of breakfasts. I think that if they could get a cup of hot milk and bread and butter before they got to school it would be a great advantage.

5240. Possibly they could get dinner midday. A little money might have come in by then?—Yes. It has gone by the morning. The thriftless ones spend the money. The money is spent over night at the public house and sometimes by the mother. Children go without breakfast more than without dinner. The mother or rather the child itself will often get a 1d. or 2d. by dinner time.

5241. On the whole, you are in favour of breakfasts?—Yes. Half the day has gone on by dinner-time. You cannot give a child milk in the middle of the day as well as in the morning.

5242. You think that they would work better in school if they had breakfast rather than dinner?—Yes.

5243. Is the food provided mostly from the Chelsea Mission which you mention or from the cookery centre?—The whole of it in our district comes from the Chelsea Mission. Marlborough Road has a cookery centre.

5244. Threepence a head seems rather high?—That was because they provided cookery and accommodation and provided meals for any number of children. Some days there would be only two or three and at another time twelve or fifteen. They seemed to think that they must charge more because of this.

5245. Are other children fed there besides those who go from your schools?—Yes. There are tickets given out by the Chelsea Mission and the children can buy those tickets for a halfpenny each from the missioner.

5246. If they can do that, why should not they do it instead of having your more expensive meal?—That I do not know.

5247. It seems curious?—I do not think that they would work in with the Relief Committee in that way. They give their tickets out as far as they can and any that they have over they sell. They give them out to Bands of Hope and Sunday Schools, as a rule, and to children attending the service in the Mission Room.

5248. Do you find that many children in your school get those tickets?—No, not many—only about a dozen.

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5249. They would get them if they applied?—They have not enough money. Some weeks we do not get any. Occasionally I ask the child of a missioner who attends my school to ask her father to let me have any that he has over. We should not get them offered.

5250. (Mr. Walrond.) The tickets that you refer to now are in addition to the number you have mentioned?—Yes.

5251. They do not appear in your returns?—No. It has nothing to do with the Relief Committee. It is quite uncertain. I may get six one week and none at all another.

5252. (Miss Lawrence.) What is given as a rule?—Irish stew, and bread and jam to follow, as much as they like. Some of the boys and girls have three helpings. If they give them soup and bread they give suet pudding to follow. If they have meat they do not have puddings.

5253. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Is this form printed by the Committee?—Yes.

5254. Does "Group 1" mean that it applies to your school only?—Ours and Marlborough Road.

5255. Is there a Group 2?—Not for the Relief Committee. There is a Group 2 of schools.

5256. (Miss Lawrence.) It refers to the managers?—Yes.

5257. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Your managers pay for the printing?—Yes, it is all done by voluntary contributions by the managers and their friends.

5258. You do not do any visiting yourself?—No.

5259. I expect that you have enough to do without it?—Not only that, but the parents come and see me, and I get information in the school. The managers are kind and go round. I have been to the homes, but the difficulty is that I can only visit the homes after school time in the evening, and very often the mothers and fathers do not get home from work until late.

5260. Do the Committee manage to catch them in the evening?—If they do not find them at home in the day time they visit them in the evening.

5261. Do you think that the number you feed is a sufficient number?—There are some cases where the children are really in want and yet the parents are thriftless, and wanting in care for their children that the children do not get as much food as they might. I have three children in one family who have moved from Chelsea to Battersea, but they still attend my school. The mother and father were starving, and so were the children. The mother was told to go to the workhouse; she at once turned round and said to the visitor, "I do not like doing the washing. If I go there I have to work too hard. I do not like this, that, and the other." The visitor said, "You ought to do so. If you do not go into the workhouse the children will be starved." They could not be helped because they wanted every meal during the day, and dinner was really no good. The parent would not go into the workhouse, and did not go.

5262. The children were left unfed?—No. The teachers fed the children. The Relief Committee knew that the teachers would do it. It was a private arrangement between ourselves. We did not do it through the Relief Committee because we wanted to force the parents to apply to the guardians.

5263. Did you force them?—No.

5264. Are you still feeding the children?—No. The father is a costermonger. He can do hawking at this time of the year, but during the winter they were starving. The Committee felt that it was of no use helping them, but they were starving.

5265. It was known, was it not, that you would do it?—They felt that the teachers would not let them starve, but they were not given regular dinners every day.

5266. Does that sort of case often occur?—No. That was the only case last winter.

5267. (Dr. Parsons.) That was before the date of the Local Government Board circular?—Yes, before the circular.

5268. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) On the whole, you think you are feeding the children who need it?—Yes, I think

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Mrs. L. J. Humm. so, in fact I am sure of it—as many as need it in our school.

21 July, 1905. 5269. (Mr. Walrond.) I suppose we may take it that none of these ten girls pay anything for their dinners?—Nothing at all. The Relief Committee also provides boots. We tried to get some of the money refunded for the boots, but it was very difficult. A great many of the children had boots given to them by the Relief Committee during the winter. In only one case was money paid. We could not get the money back.

5270. You do not ask for money for the food?—No; no money at all for the food. I have a case here of a girl who was fed for seven or eight weeks because she was leaving the school, and it was done in order to fit her to go out into the world as she was in such a delicate state of health.

5271. (Chairman.) Do you find that the effect of the meals you give is distinctly to improve the health of the children?—Yes, after a week I can see the difference in a child. She becomes less listless and less fidgety and tiresome. Sometimes underfed children are very fidgety. You can see a much more healthy tone about the skin after a fortnight. It is most marked.

5272. Are there many children in the school who receive meals from other charitable agencies than your Relief Committee?—No.

5273. Are you really able to answer that question?—Yes, I think I am.

5274. The mission that you spoke of is at work there?—That is the only one I know of. There is soup given away there. Do you include that in your question?

5275. Certainly?—Soup is given away by the St. Luke's people. They go to the rectory for it.

5276. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) The soup is given to the children?—Yes.

5277. (Chairman.) Not specially to children, but to families?—To families. They have a ticket, and the children fetch the soup.

5278. How many children are fed daily at the mission in Church Street? The number you would have there would be very small, but there are others, I suppose?—The number is thirty-five, I think.

5279. Not a very large number?—No.

5280. They would be coming from voluntary schools, presumably?—Yes, the Roman Catholic School.

5281. Is it a Roman Catholic Mission?—No. Some come from the Bands of Hope, some from the Roman Catholic School. Some come from the Band of Hope connected with the old church at Chelsea.

5282. That mission does not provide a meal I take it which anybody can get on payment?—No, not at all.

5283. Would there be any demand for such a meal in your neighbourhood?—Yes; there would be a great demand, but they would not all be deserving of the meal. Many people would like to have the meal given to the children simply to save themselves the trouble of getting one.

5284. I am speaking of a meal paid for, not a meal given. Supposing that a meal was supplied at a 1d. or 1½d. would many of the parents take advantage of it?—Yes, they would, instead of sending the children to the fried fish shop.

5285. Have you a great deal of that in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

5286. Children have money to go out to buy something?—Yes. As I went to school I saw the road strewn with greasy paper, and I thought about the sort of fish they would get on such a day as this from a fried fish shop. I am not surprised that many of them are sick.

5287. (Mr. Walrond.) Do many of them bring lunch to school?—Yes, that is quite an institution.

5288. (Chairman.) It is taken during the break in the morning?—Yes, I always tell them that they would be better without it, but they still bring it. They never seem to be without bread and butter.

5289. Do most of the children go home in the middle of the day?—Yes, or to the fried fish shop.

5290. What proportion would go home, and what proportion would go elsewhere?—About 2 per cent. would go elsewhere. The meal they get at home consists of bread and butter and tea in some instances. I know one child who goes home and there gets bread and butter and tea for a meal, and she has to light a fire before she can get the tea.

5291. Was that considered a wholesome meal by your Committee?—The case was considered.

5292. Did she have a meal?—Yes. That would be malnutrition. When the Committee visit they are able to improve that state of things greatly. They are able to tell the parents that they can provide a much cheaper meal than that, and much more suitable, and we can see the difference in the children.

5293. Do you consider that there are other schools in London with a similar class of children where many more meals are given than in your case with equal or less reason?—You mean that in the same class of school many more meals are given, and do I think that they are required?

5294. I will not say that, but do you consider that there are many schools in London under similar conditions to yours in which many more meals are given. Is the reason for the few meals to be found in the fact that the school has not real need of help in the sense that careful administrators regard it?—More inquiries are made. Then, you see, visitors tell the parents to go to the guardians. Parents have not thought about going to the guardians. They are told that so much food is allowed per week by the guardians, and we do not help in those cases.

5295. In a good many of the cases means would be found to provide the children with food, but not through the Relief Committee?—Yes. In cases where the children are neglected through the mothers' wanton neglect, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is communicated with.

5296. Was not the case of the costermonger which you mentioned just now a case for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children?—Yes, it was reported to the Society and the children had food for a little time.

5297. Do you find that the indirect effect of reporting to the Society is considerable?—Yes, because one parent tells another parent and they are very frightened of the Society.

5298. (Mr. Walrond.) When those enquiries take a long time what is done in the meanwhile for the child?—The enquiries do not take more than a week, as a rule.

5299. (Dr. Parsons.) Have there been many cases brought by the Society before the magistrates?—Not since the Relief Committee met. I have given evidence with regard to cases in the school, but I have not been to the police court this winter. Here is a letter from the Society with regard to a case that they visited, and saying that an improvement was found on the second visit.

5300. Without the cases being brought into Court, the Society manage to get a certain amount of improvement effected?—Yes. We enquire every day in these cases of the children, "Have you had any food to-day?"

5301. (Chairman.) Are you empowered by the Relief Committee to give food at once in urgent cases?—Yes. I write to the Chairman of Managers at once and either she or Mrs. Meinertzhagen, who lives quite close, comes in at once and sees the cases. I feed for a day or two until the Relief Committee meet. I had a case this morning where a child came to me and told me that she had had no breakfast and Mrs. Dunn Gardiner came in and I at once reported it to her. She will visit the home to-night. They will not be wanting to-morrow. The Country Holiday Fund Secretary happened to be in the room and she made arrangements at once to send the children away for a fortnight. Our managers are always on the spot; they are always with us.

5302. That makes a great difference. The system would not be applicable to an East End or South London School, in the ordinary way?—We have such excellent managers, who help us in every way.

5303. Have you anything to add on any point that we have missed?—I only wanted to say that I do not think

there need be half as much difficulty about feeding the children if we could only get the parents to take some notice of the general health of the children. It seems to me that the neglectful women are the cause of most of the bad feeding. I think that the cookery classes which the children are attending now will do a lot of good in the future. The children are being taught to make good dishes out of a small amount of money, and also how to do the shopping, and girls who have learned how to do that will not see their children starve in the future. It is raising the status of the children.

5304. For how long has that happy change been taking place?—For some time, but it is better organised now.

5305. There has been steady improvement in that direction in the cookery classes in London?—Yes, and I see the improvement in families. In one case a child whose sister left four years ago is quite a different child from the girl who left four years ago. We pass them on to the Domestic Economy Schools and there they will do a great deal of good. The very poorest can gain scholarships for these schools.

5306. (Mr. Walrond.) Would you think it a good thing to use the cookery centre for supplying meals?—Yes. The cookery centre supplies the meal for 1½d., where we have to pay 3d. for an outsider to do it.

5307. Would it not rather destroy the good teaching which you have been laying stress on if you cooked a wholesale meal for a large number of children?—Each child should be taught to do a small amount for a small family. That could all be put together and given out. I think that is the kind of meal they ought to learn.

5308. Would you have a lot of little ranges and a lot of dinners cooked at them?—No, but each preparing a small amount.

5309. (Chairman.) Your numbers are manageable?—Yes.

5310. Ten or twenty children are very different from 100?—Yes.

5311. (Miss Laurence.) It can be done with a small number but not a big number?—That is so.

5312. (Chairman.) Thank you.

ELEVENTH DAY.

Tuesday, 25th July, 1905.

PRESENT.

Mr. H. W. SIMPKINSON, C.B. (in the Chair).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.

The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE.
Mr. R. WALROND.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (Secretary).

Dr. W. G. WILLOUGHBY, called; and Examined.

5313. (Chairman.) You are Medical Officer of Health for the borough of Eastbourne?—Yes.

5314. For how long have you held that office?—For about twelve years.

5315. Since the end of 1902 you have also been medical officer under the education committee?—Yes.

5316. We propose to take your *précis* and put it on the notes as your evidence in chief?—Yes.

(The following *précis* was handed in.)

A.—STAFF.

1. W. G. Willoughby, M.D., London, D.P.H. Appointed school medical officer at the end of 1902.

(a.) Has other duties with local authority as medical officer of health and medical officer of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

(b.) Has no private practice.

(c.) Educational duties have to be carried out with his other work, and no definite amount of time given.

Number of children on books 6,175, with an average attendance of 5,584.

2. No nurses employed.

3. The schools are with the exception of those for 541 children, Church schools, and although there is no other medical supervision much help is given by clergy and district visitors.

B.—ORGANISATION.

1. All schools are visited from time to time by the medical officer, and any children about whom there is any suspicion are examined by the medical officer. He can be sent for at any time by a head teacher for advice on any child or children.

(a.) Especially with a view to preventing spread of infectious disease.

(b.) Children kept at home are reported to the medical officer and inspected and report given to authority.

(c.) No detailed observations have been made yet as to nutrition and general personal condition owing to lack of time for the work.

(d.) Children unable to profit by instruction are reported to medical officer and inspected.

(e.) A special report has been made to the education authority by the medical officer on the defective children of the borough, especially those mentally defective, both as to their condition and as to what can be done for them.

(f.) The same applies to epileptic children.

(g.) Special attention has been given to examination of the eyes, in fact more work has been done in this direction than in any one other.

(h.) Remarkably few children have been found to be deaf by the medical officer. One or two deaf and dumb children have been specially dealt with.

(i.) No attention has been yet given to teeth.

(j.) Children's heads have been frequently inspected by the medical officer. Suspicious cases have been specially picked out for the purpose by the teacher.

3. (a.) Records are not kept of the weights and measures of children. It is hoped to go into this later.

(b.) Records are kept of the notifiable infectious diseases which children have had, but not otherwise.

3. The same organisation extends over the whole area.

4. (a.) Each school is visited about once a month by the medical officer but the number of visits depends on the amount of work required. Sometimes the same school is visited four or five times a week. Occasionally whole afternoons are spent in one particular school, while schools in better class districts are seldom visited.

(b.) There are no nurses appointed to visit schools.

5. The children inspected are those specially selected by the teachers, but the medical officer frequently looks

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over the classes generally and looks out for any children he may wish to further examine.

6. The medical officer has published a small book on and the early easily recognised symptoms of children's diseases, for teachers. He has also given ambulance and nursing lectures to teachers.

7. A Circular is prepared in blank for calling parent's attention to defects requiring remedy in their children. These circulars are sent by the medical officer to the parents direct.

8. Spectacles are provided by private persons without organisation, except that the vicars and district visitors are generally appealed to.

9. No detailed examination of children is made without application for the parents' consent. No objection has ever been made yet to casual examination, but parents have refused to adopt the medical officer's suggestions e.g., as to wearing spectacles or having eyes properly examined.

10. (a) Head teachers call the attention of the school attendance officers and medical officer to prevalence of infectious illness.

(b) Instructions have been given to teachers to enable them to detect symptoms.

(c) When cases of infectious illness occur in a house the head teacher of any school receiving children from that house is at once acquainted with the fact by the medical officer.

C.—Cost.

1. (a) The medical officer receives £50 yearly, and there are practically no other expenses at all, so that a rate of about one-thirtieth of a penny covers the expenditure.

D. 1. This medical inspection of children has been in operation here for 2½ years. It was adopted on the suggestion of the medical officer of health who found in the course of his duties as medical officer of health that if he could advise his authority and head teachers officially it would conduce to the improvement of the health of the children.

2. The system works smoothly and satisfactorily except that there is such a lot to do with 6,175 children that there is no time for the medical officer of health to do as much as he would like, and could usefully do.

The great advantage of the medical officer of health in small districts having the joint appointment is that his ordinary duties and the important duties of school medical officer overlap so. The medical officer of health's constant work concerning infectious illness make his work with the schools in that respect particularly useful.

Another difficulty is lack of means to provide such things as spectacles. In some districts children are occasionally badly fed, but there is not much want of food in Eastbourne. Judging from the small amount of work done in this direction so far it seems that the food is often not of the right kind for growing children. There has been no time yet to go into this thoroughly in detail.

3. It is difficult to say whether the two are cause and effect, but it is a fact that the amount of infectious illness has been much less during the year or two the school medical officer has been at work.

The size and position of desks and other details of arrangement in schools have been improved.

Very many children have had their vision attended to with beneficial results.

The mentally defective children have been examined and grouped, and are about to be dealt with by the authority.

The ability to attend school or not, partially or wholly, of physically defective children is definitely and authoritatively known.

The head teachers can at once obtain authoritative advice on any child's attendance, &c.

5317. I see that you are not in private practice?—No.

5318. Do you attach importance to that, having regard to the due performance of the duty of school medical officer?—Yes. I find that I get on such excellent terms with my brother practitioners that I am able to see their patients without any objection on their part.

5319. You feel that it really very much facilitates your work?—Yes, it does undoubtedly.

5320. Then again as to the combination of duties of medical officer of health and school medical officer, do you consider it important that they should be combined in the same person?—In a small place such as Eastbourne. Yes. It would be impossible if I had twice the number of children. For instance, we have 6,175 on the books, with an average attendance of 5,584 and I can manage the work, but if it got to double that I do not think I could.

5321. I suppose it could be managed with a deputy?—Yes, with assistance, certainly.

5322. Would you consider that where it can be done it is important that the two offices should be combined?—I think so, because they overlap so. I found that I was doing a great deal of the duties before I had the actual appointment of medical officer to the education authority in this way. Whenever I went to inquire into cases of infectious illness, I would be waylaid by the head teacher, and asked questions on eyesight and on ring-worm and all sorts of minor ailments that did not come under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act in any way.

5323. Had there been another medical officer for the school that would not have happened?—I presume not. On the other hand, I should not have got information which has been very valuable to me of so-called minor infectious illnesses, such as whooping cough, measles and other diseases not notified.

5324. You say that much help is given by the clergy and district visitors, although there is no other medical supervision. Would you explain what you refer to there?—We have some excellent parish nurses, who call my attention to defective children, and they work under the clergy of the parishes, particularly in the two largest parishes of the district.

5325. Though you have no nurse under your immediate direction as medical officer, the duties of nursing are to some extent fulfilled by these district nurses?—Yes. I make a point of being at the call of district nurses and keeping in touch with them as medical officer of health and they have been of great use to me with regard to defective children.

5326. Do you ever bring them into the schools?—No, never.

5327. Have you any definite arrangements as to dates for visiting schools?—No, no definite dates, except that just roughly I try to visit every department in the borough once a month, but, as a matter of fact, it amounts to visiting some of the schools three or four times a week and perhaps dropping one school for two months or until I am sent for.

5328. How many schools are there in the borough?—Twenty-four departments, spread over eleven schools.

5329. Those schools are nearly all voluntary schools in Eastbourne?—Yes, with the exception of two departments of one school and a new school which the council is now building.

5330. Would you tell us exactly what you do when you visit a school as medical officer?—I see the head teachers and ask them if they would like to parade any children before me with regard to any matter at all. That is on the ordinary call about once a month. With regard to ophthalmic work I am taking the schools serially, and the teachers pick out for me any child that they have any suspicion of whatever with regard to defective vision. I have gone through some of the cases. When I find time I examine all the children roughly, that is to say, I have test types which I have placed at the proper distances and I roughly examine the vision. With regard to any children whom I find have defects of vision of any sort, so as not to trespass on the province of my brother practitioners, I send the parents of those children a circular, a copy of which I have here. (Handing the same to the Committee.) The same applies to other diseases. That, roughly, is the way in which I work.

5331. This circular is not used solely in connection with sight?—No.

5332. This a general circular which you send when you find any defect?—Yes. I keep a list of those. After that has been out about a week I try to find from the teachers whether any steps have been taken, and so on, from week

to week. The work is very much in its infancy. I have not got very far, but I have some particulars. I find that from 7 to 10 per cent. of the children of every school, so far, have been picked out as having something wrong with their eyes.

5333. Has the initial picking out in that case always been done by the teachers?—It has always been done by the teachers. I have looked along the rows of children, at their books, and at the blackboard, and seen those who were straining and those with inflamed eyes who were using their hands for shade, and I have taken those out in addition.

5334. You have not made a detailed examination of all the children in a class?—No; not those we did not see anything wrong with. We had not time to go definitely through yet. Those the teachers thought were wrong I looked at. I propose to do this fully. I got the appointment in the face of a little difficulty and I must go somewhat slowly. Eastbourne is a very peculiar place. It is a great anti-vaccination place and a great anti-medical man place, and one has difficulties there which might not be met elsewhere.

5335. (Mr. Walrod.) Do the teachers mention children who suffer from headaches and bad eyesight?—Yes. I particularly ask for those. Children who are said to be dull or backward are picked out to be examined for their vision as well.

5336. (Chairman.) Besides the reference as to vision, what else do you do on the visit?—I should generally have a few ring-worm cases, or doubtful cases where something was wrong with their heads shown to me. Dirty children are shown to me. I pick any out. I take the addresses. The sanitary inspector makes a visit to the home and the home generally corresponds to the child. That is the advantage of combining the offices.

5337. Would those children be confined to particular schools generally?—Yes principally. We have our poor quarter, the same as other places. My visits to the west end of the town, near Beachy Head, amount to about once in two months, when I am sent for by the head teacher, but they average once a week with regard to some of the other schools.

5338. Do you do anything with regard to hearing on these visits?—Yes, but I have found very little deafness. I have asked to have deaf children picked out and I have had very few cases indeed. I have had one or two deaf and dumb children whom we are gradually getting to the Brighton and other schools. We have not a school for them in Eastbourne. We have two children left. The children, being delicate, the parents naturally do not wish to let them go, and I have difficulty in persuading them. There are only two, I think, who are not being taught properly.

5339. Have you special reference to backward children in these visits?—Yes. I get the school attendance officers, the medical men, the head teachers and the sanitary inspectors from their knowledge to give me the names of any children they think defective in any way, mentally or physically. I personally visit these children. I ascertained that there were forty mentally defective children in the borough, which amounts to about one in 154 of the school attending age.

5340. Are those cases in which the children should be sent to a special school?—I have made a special report of which this is a copy, to the chairman and members of the Education Committee. I tried to classify them. I found that of the forty, we could probably teach twenty to some good effect.

5341. In the ordinary schools?—In the ordinary schools at present. When the new school is finished my authority is going to let me pick out those that I think can be taught well—slightly mentally deficient children, dull and backward. A special teacher will be got for them. They have agreed to do that. We are very overcrowded at present. We have not a classroom. This will be begun in October according to the present resolution of the committee. I have the children's names, I have got them all classified and ready for the committee.

5342. Up to this time the Eastbourne authority has not put into force the provisions of the Defective and Epileptic Children's Act?—No. In one or two cases

they have sent children to the special schools where the parents have brought it very forcibly before the committee, but not in my time. I know they have one or two children in schools that they are partially paying for but it is not done generally.

5343. They are at residential institutions away?—Yes.

5344. Have you any epileptic children in the district?—Yes, a few. I have not any epileptic children that the teachers cannot deal with at the schools on their own showing. I have found about six and they do not interfere with the remainder of the children. Every now and then they have a fit in school, which upsets a little, but the head teachers in each case say that they are getting them on and would rather that they were not removed. In each case they seem to be doing well without pressure.

5345. As regards children's heads being dirty, have you had many cases numerically?—No, very few. I think that in twelve months a dozen would be the outside number.

5346. What steps do you take when you find the heads dirty?—The sanitary inspector generally calls at the house. I am afraid we mix up the two departments rather more, possibly, that one has legal justification for, but with tact the sanitary inspectors manage. The children are sent back to school when they are clean and a notice is sent to me by the head teacher of any children found to be dirty in their heads and as soon as possible I see them at the homes or at school. If in school hours I call at the school on the chance of the child being there, but as a rule the child is told to stay at home until I have seen it. I think that the mere fact of its being kept at home until some one from the sanitary department has seen it has the desired effect. The children are cleaned.

5347. Has it been found necessary to prosecute the parents of children who are kept away from school because they will not clean them?—No.

5348. You have not moved at all in the direction of an anthropometric examination at the schools?—Not at all.

5349. Is it in contemplation to do so?—Yes.

5350. Has any resolution to that effect been passed?—No, my work is on my own initiative at present.

5351. Do you anticipate any difficulty with parents in that matter?—Parents in Eastbourne, as I mentioned just now, are very difficult to deal with. In the cases of vision where I have already called the attention of parents to children steps are only taken in about 40 per cent. of the cases on the average. The other 60 per cent. of the parents take no notice. We have not gone very far yet.

5352. Do the parents indicate any resentment with regard to having their children examined?—They do not do that so much as they neglect any notice that is sent to them. One or two have objected to even the cursory examination of the eyes and the ears that I have gone in for, but they are very few in number. I can only recall three.

5353. How would those come before you?—Through the head teacher being told to ask the medical officer to mind his own business, or something like that.

5354. Through a message delivered to you, not a call from the parents?—No; I have not had a call at all.

5355. With regard to children who are kept at home would you accept a certificate from a medical man? I presume you would, without question?—Without question.

5356. It is only the cases where there is no medical certificate with which you are concerned?—Yes.

5357. What do you do in those cases?—If the child is said to be so ill that it cannot come out, I go to see it, otherwise it has to come to my office to be seen.

5358. Have you a definite time in each week at which you are to see them?—I can be seen in my office at any time from 10 to 11 in the morning.

5359. Would the number of children you see in that way be considerable?—I should say it would mean about two a week. Leaving out the holidays it would not be as many as a hundred a year. It is two a week in school time.

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5360. You have endeavoured to instruct the teachers in the detection of disease?—Yes, I have given them lectures and I am continuing to do that. I also got a little book out for them on the commoner symptoms, which they have studied (*handing the same to the Committee*).

5361. The cost of medical inspection in Eastbourne seems to be very low?—Extremely low.

5362. £50 altogether?—Yes.

5363. Equal to a rate of $\frac{1}{16}$ of a penny. How did a medical officer come to be appointed?—I found when I went around the schools with regard to infectious illness that there were a great many defective children, and I suggested to the education authority that it ought to be done in the interests of the children. I said I would take on the office if they would take away the office which I had then of police surgeon, because I could not do it all. They really transferred my office from that of police surgeon to that of medical officer of the education authority.

5364. (Dr. Parsons.) Do you think that, as school medical officer, the services of the medical officer of health could be obtained for less money than the services of an independent medical practitioner could?—Yes, I think so. The medical officer of health has already a staff. He has an office and he has his clerks, and therefore he has a lot of work done for him. The salary of £50 is really absurdly small in a way, but he has not any expenses as an ordinary practitioner would have. He can do a lot more work through having clerks and staff and offices already provided for him.

5365. You spoke of the services of nurses being available. Can these be used for the children of the council schools or only for those children at the voluntary schools?—For all the children. They go to their homes and look after them. They treat all in the same way. These nurses have nothing to do with the schools. They do not go into the schools.

5366. They are parish nurses?—I get at them through the parish. They are parish nurses entirely.

5367. Have you ever had occasion to examine the children with respect to vaccination?—It would be useless. We only vaccinate in Eastbourne from 5 to 10 per cent., so that over 90 per cent. of the children are not vaccinated.

5368. Have you had any small pox scare?—We have had, in the last twelve years, about twenty-six cases of smallpox from time to time. They allow me an absolutely free hand in every other respect, and directly a case comes every contact is immediately vaccinated; in fact our only field day for vaccination is when we get a case in the town. Then we get a rush.

5369. You have not examined any children in the schools with reference to that?—No. As the 5 to 10 per cent. are amongst the children of the better class, you would seldom come across a child in Eastbourne in an elementary school who was vaccinated.

5370. Have you come across the class of children referred to in our instructions "who though not defective are from mal-nutrition below the normal standard"?—We get very few of them. There are only two schools in Eastbourne at which I have found children of that sort. We have been able to do something through the parish organizations with respect to feeding.

5371. Is there any feeding of school children carried on in Eastbourne?—No.

5372. There does not seem, from what you say, to be much need of it?—No. You see the proportion of well-to-do people is large, and the organizations of the various religious bodies receive considerable support, and the children are looked after very well in Eastbourne, I think.

5373. (Miss Lawrence.) Would you be in favour of employing nurses in schools?—I do not see exactly how they could be of much help. I have not thought over the question very much, but I cannot see how it would help me a great deal now, because the teachers are very good. As long as the medical man is there I do not see what they could do actually in the school. Outside, in the home, I think they may do a lot.

5374. In many cases they are employed to look after the heads, and treat sores, and things of that sort in school?—If you could use them as agencies for actually treating the patients, certainly it would be very useful indeed. At present we send home children with ring-worm, and send a note that they must consult a medical man which, they probably do not do. They just see a chemist and get something to put on, and remain home much longer than they would if they were properly attended to by a nurse who would call and do the work.

5375. Should the nurse do the work in the school, or follow the child up in the home?—I would follow the child up in the home.

5376. You would, generally speaking, say that the nurses should be employed in actually relieving the cases and not only for the purpose of inspection?—Not only for the purpose of inspection. I find the great difficulty with regard to the question of relief is to get anyone to do anything—to get money for various things, spectacles and so on, that are wanted, and to get the children into homes. In my spare time, being rather interested in actually doing refractions and eye work myself, I have provided spectacles for about thirty-six to forty children, picking out the very worst cases at odd times. We have got their pupils dilated with atropine and gone through the whole affair. Clergy, members of the committee, and all sorts of people have bought the spectacles. The parents do not. Directly one parent hears that someone else has got a pair of spectacles given, it is hopeless in that school to try to get anyone to buy a pair; you have to give them all. It is the same everywhere, I suppose.

5377. (Dr. Parsons.) Do the parents allow them to wear spectacles?—Yes, they are very keen. In the three schools in which we have picked out children, the teachers say that there is a very marked difference in the children—less headaches, and so on.

5378. (Miss Lawrence.) With regard to physically defective children, is any provision made for them, or are they taught in the ordinary schools?—There is no special provision; they are taught in the schools. There are two or three that have lost a limb and one or two that are deformed, and a few that have consumption. I have specially arranged with the teachers as to the amount of work they should do when they come to school and when they shall come to school.

5379. (Mr. Waltrond.) I see you advise on desks and other details of arrangements in schools. Do you advise on the plans for alterations, or new schools?—I do now. Since my appointment we have only had one new school. I have had the plans sent to me of any alterations that were made. When the schools were taken over first at the same time as I was appointed, I went through every school for the local authority.

5380. That would form a regular part of your duties now?—Yes. I found that such simple things as having the light on the left-hand side were in half the schools, quite neglected. The children had the light from anywhere—right in their faces in some cases.

5381. In the existing schools or the proposed schools?—In the existing schools; and in some of the plans sent in for the new schools it was so arranged, but not in the plans finally selected.

5382. (Chairman.) You have a good many old school buildings still in Eastbourne?—We have not very many. We have a few old schools, but they have been improved and made all right. The Duke of Devonshire has a pet one, a very old school. The children are very well looked after and petted there, the light and everything being arranged so perfectly that although it is an old school it is one of the best.

5383. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do you take any notice of how children sit at their desks?—Yes, and I have made measurements.

5384. As to the height of the desks?—Yes, and I have got the desks sorted out. In one school particularly I found the children sitting at desks according to the standard, whether a child was four or five inches higher than the child by its side or not; they were all sitting together. We have done a fair amount in that way. Directly teachers have anything of the sort pointed out, they are only too keen to assist in the work.

5385. (Chairman.) Has your attention been called to children unfit to perform physical exercises with the other children?—Not at school. I have seen children staying in, and have been told that they had weak hearts, or something of the sort. I have confirmed that by listening to the child's chest, and so on; but I have not had a debated case where a parent has wanted to keep a child from physical exercise and the teacher has wanted to give it physical exercise.

5386. Have you been consulted by a teacher as to whether a particular child should be withdrawn from physical exercise?—No, the cases have generally been so marked that I have not.

5387. With regard to the curriculum, have you been consulted as to whether children should be promoted and what particular instruction should be given to them?—No.

5388. With regard to mal-nutrition, has your attention been specially drawn to cases of children whom teachers suppose to be suffering from want of food?—Yes, I have had a fair number of those cases, particularly last winter. These were looked up. I handed the cases over to the Mayor's Committee, and where necessary, they were all dealt with. The Mayor had a special fund.

5389. There is no regular organization in Eastbourne for dealing with children in want of food, as apart from the general provision of charitable relief?—No, that is so. For the last three years there has been a Mayor's Fund especially in the winter, and a permanent committee. I was appointed on that committee as the medical officer of the education authority; so that any of these cases I can immediately get transferred to the committee and get relieved. Although there is no actual organization for children alone, still through being on that committee I can arrange matters.

5390. You think it would not be possible for a child to remain long at any rate in school in want of food?—No, I think not in Eastbourne.

5391. But presumably there are many children who suffer from want of proper food?—Yes, I am sure there are.

5392. I want to take you to your conclusions. You have definitely noticed a diminution in infectious diseases but you are not prepared to say for certain whether it has been caused by inspection of children?—No, our numbers are so small that any statistics in such a short time are practically valueless.

5393. (Dr. Parsons.) They run in cycles. There may be two or three free years and then for two or three years a prevalence?—Yes.

5394. (Chairman.) You cannot at present give us any figures showing the effect of your inspection?—No, I cannot. There are the thirty-six children we have specially given spectacles to apart from those that the parents have attended to. The cases that my friends and I have worked at are all attended to at any rate. The numbers are very small in Eastbourne. I was very diffident about giving evidence. It is experimental and small.

Dr. C. E. BADDELEY, called; and Examined.

5401. (Chairman.) You are Medical Officer to the Education Committee of the Erith Urban District Council?—Yes.

5402. What is the population of the area under the council?—Between 29,000 and 30,000 people.

5403. And the number of schools?—Twenty-three.

5404. With about how many children?—5,989.

5405. Are you also medical officer of health for the urban district?—I am not.

5406. Do you find in practice that that leads to difficulty as between the two officers. Do their provinces overlap?—I do not think so at all.

5407. You have not found in practice that that leads to any difficulty in working?—Not in the least. The

5395. Is there any obvious diminution in the number of dirty heads and verminous cases?—I should not say very much. I have had those more or less under observation for many years. I have always worked with the teachers at the school. I found the duties overlapped very much. As I said, if I called on any other account, they mentioned these cases, and I made a note and either the sanitary inspector or myself would look them up at the houses and put matters right soon. In the case of the very poor, the authority has actually supplied the simple remedies for putting their heads right.

5396. Is it in contemplation to extend the system of medical inspection?—Yes. I am very much interested in it personally. I propose to examine every child, but I am attending to the worst first and doing all I can. Those children who are obviously suffering from the want of medical attention I am picking out, and it is taking all my time at present to deal with those.

5397. Have you anything further that you would like to tell us about as regards what you have done or the effect of what you have done?—No, I think not. The teachers have told me from time to time how much it has helped them to have some one that they can actually refer a case to at once without any trouble, without saying to the child "you must go and see a doctor." They get me to see the child, and they say that all the schools work better for it. With regard to those notices sent to parents, even though they only touch apparently from 30 to 50 per cent., according to the school, still those are very much benefited; so that there is a general improvement altogether, according to the teachers, in the working of the schools, without being able to say definitely. The ophthalmic work which is already done, the arranging of the physically defective children so that they are taught as much as they should be taught, and this class for mentally defective children which is to be started in October, are the most tangible results with regard to effect.

5398. Do you think that the parents are gradually being educated to welcome medical inspection?—I do not think they are very much; but that is a peculiarity of Eastbourne. You would be surprised. It is a curious town from the anti-vaccination feeling. The appointing of a medical officer at the workhouse or anything of the sort is always opposed by a minority. They do not want doctors at all. It is a most extraordinary town.

5399. Have you ever made any attempt to measure and weigh the children, and have you met with objection from the parents?—I think they might object; but I intend to try it. The dilatation of the eyes with atropine in the case of the thirty-six children frightened the parents pretty considerably. I had one or two visits. I had to draw up a circular explaining in detail how long it would last. I got their consent in each case first through the teacher. It would be an assault, of course, to dilate the pupil without permission. I got them all to agree to that with the exception of two children of the same parents. The parents would not have the eyes touched at all. It was bad enough already, they said, and they would not have it made worse.

5400. (Chairman.) Thank you, very much.

only practical point at which we meet is in respect of the notifiable diseases, and I then always take as evidence of clearance for return to school the medical officer's certificate of disinfection of the house, in the case of scarlatina for instance. The diseases with which I am chiefly concerned, whooping cough, measles, and the more trivial complaints do not come under the purview of the medical officer of health at all.

5408. You are also in private practice?—I am.

5409. Do you find that that interferes with the performance of the school medical officer's duties?—The performance of the school duties interferes with the private practice.

5410. I meant rather otherwise than with regard to time. It has been put to us that it is rather advantageous

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Dr. C. E.
Baddeley.
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that the school medical officer should not be in private practice?—Quite so. I think so. I never visit a child who is under the care of another medical practitioner. I always take the other medical practitioner's word for it, if I can get it. Some of them will not put anything in writing, and then I have to take what I can get.

5411. We propose to put your *précis* on the notes as your evidence in chief?—Yes.

The précis is as follows:—

A. 1 (a) Yes. I was appointed to act for the Committee on January 1st, 1905. To visit children and provide certificates as to their fitness to attend school and to make an inspection of the schools three times a year.

(b) Yes.

(c) No specified time.

2. No nurses are provided.

3. None but the teachers.

B. 1. There is no systematic periodic inspection of the school children.

(a) Children suspected of infectious disease are sent home by the teachers and attendance officer.

(b) I visit and inspect children kept at home who are alleged to be unfit to attend school, when not under the care of another medical practitioner.

(c) In inspecting the children in the schools I have noted and reported on their nutrition and general condition.

(d) (e) I report on all such cases as are brought to my notice.

(f) I am about to make an inspection in which special attention will be directed to epileptics.

(g) (h) I made an inspection some months ago in which the condition of the eyes and ears of all children suspected to be defective in these respects were examined. As a result a number of children have been treated at hospitals in London. Many with marked benefit.

(i) I have made no special inspection as regards teeth but the matter is worthy of consideration.

(j) I have made special reports on this.

2. (a) No records of weights and measurements are kept.

(b) I keep a record of infectious disease occurring in each school but not for each individual child.

3. Over the whole district—twenty-three schools—school population, 5,989.

4. (a) I make systematic inspection of each school three times a year and pay visits as may be necessary.

(b) No nurse visits the schools.

5. The children inspected are selected by the teachers as suffering from some defect of health. Some children are brought to me by the parents.

6. Teachers are not instructed but I consider this a matter of great importance and should be willing to undertake it.

7. Yes. Parents are notified by the secretary of the Education Committee.

8. No. But I have advised that the committee should obtain "letters" for special hospitals by subscription or otherwise.

9. No. No such objection has come to my notice.

10. (a) Notification of all cases of suspected infectious disease among the school children is made to me by the attendance officers through the secretary's office.

(b) No.

(c) Yes, by me as a rule but not officially.

(d) No.

11.

C. 1. (a) £50.

(b) Nil.

(c) —

2. £5.

3. £55.

4. One-twelfth of a penny.

D. 1. The system has been in operation for six months only.

5412. On what date were you appointed as school medical officer?—On January 1st, 1905.

5413. But you had had some previous experience in this particular work in Erith?—I was asked to inspect the school children with regard to their eyesight and hearing previously.

5414. We have before us, sent to us by the secretary of the Education Committee, a copy of your Report made in October, 1904?—Yes.

5415. We should propose to print that report in our Appendix if there is no objection?—Certainly.

5416. Would you tell us what the circumstances were which led to your being asked to make that report?—Really I do not know.

5417. It was not owing to any special outbreak of illness, or anything of that kind?—No, I do not think so.

5418. You say that there is no periodic inspection of school children, but I gather that there is a periodic inspection of schools at present under you?—Three times a year; but as a matter of fact it is not systematic.

5419. Do you mean in a sense that they are not visited at particular periods. How do you use the word "systematic" at the moment?—I have to do the best I can and I do not get very much assistance in making them.

5420. Do you find that the attitude of the teachers is not altogether sympathetic?—I think that the teachers are very sympathetic indeed. It is rather the caretaker and the executive of the schools. They do not like to do anything outside of their own duties.

5421. Would that refer more to your inspection of buildings and premises than to that of children?—That is what I am referring to. I have no difficulty with regard to the children. I can inspect them at any time, but I do not systematically inspect all the children in the schools three times a year.

5422. What is your course when you pay a visit of inspection to a school, with regard to inspecting the children?—I inspect the children in their classes, and I ask the respective teachers to draw my attention to any children they may think are out of health. I also pick out any child who strikes me as suffering from any ailment whatever.

5423. You have not so far taken whole classes and examined every child?—In some of the schools I have taken whole classes. For instance, Dr. German, medical officer of health, and myself went through the whole of one school a few weeks ago and inspected the throats of every child in that school on that day *apropos* of scarlatina. There are a great many children in most of the schools who have throat affection. We found many.

5424. That you call special attention to in your report of last October?—Yes. In this particular school at Northumberland Heath there had been constant cases of scarlatina amongst the children. We thought we found one child who was suffering from scarlatina in the school when we went through. I was not very sure about it myself. The medical officer of health thought it was a case.

5425. It would only be under exceptional circumstances that you would inspect all the children?—That is so.

5426. On the occasion of a normal visit you only look at those children to whom your attention is called by the teachers?—Yes.

5427. Or whom you notice as you look along the rows?—Yes.

5428. What do you do in those cases; do you call them out?—I call them out and question them as to their symptoms, where they are old enough. I look at their throats, look at their eyes, look at their hair, and so on.

5429. Is that done in the teacher's room, or in the school room?—It is generally done in the teacher's room.

5430. When you detect anything, what steps are taken with regard to it?—It depends upon what I detect. For instance, if it is merely, as is very often the case, pediculi in the hair, I send a message through the teacher to the child's mother.

5431. Would that be a verbal message?—No, it would be a message in writing from the teacher.

5432. You direct the teacher to send a note?—Yes.

5433. Have you any form which you use for the purpose?—No, we have not.

5434. The form in which the message goes is left to the teacher?—Yes. I think it would be a good thing to have a form.

5435. Do you keep a record in your books that that child has been found with a dirty head and that a notice has been sent to the parent?—I do not. I think the teacher would.

5436. Are any steps taken to your knowledge to see that the ailment is treated?—No.

5437. That child might return to school the next day?—It would not be allowed to return to school until it received a certificate from me.

5438. In case the disease were infectious?—It would be excluded until it received a certificate from me.

5439. Or from a medical practitioner?—Or from a medical practitioner.

5440. In order to obtain that certificate from you, what steps would be taken. Would the child come to see you?—It might either come to see me or send me word to call.

5441. Does that frequently occur in your administration?—Yes. I frequently have children brought to me in fact daily, to certify that they are unfit or to certify that they are fit, to return. I very frequently get requests to visit and certify. For that I have forms.

5442. That is with reference to school attendance. If a child has not a medical certificate and is absent from school, you are called in to see whether the reason is a good one?—Yes. I have just had a difference, or a certain amount of discussion, with the Committee on that point. The Committee made a rule that if a child is absent from school the attendance officer should ask the parent to either send the child to school or furnish a medical certificate from their own medical practitioner or from me. I pointed out to the Committee that I thought this was asking decidedly too much, and that it would only result in the introduction of infectious disease into the schools if it was enforced. As a matter of fact there has been since that happened, a very sharp outbreak of measles in one school; over 200 families have been affected. The Committee have consented now, instead of asking for a medical certificate for one day's absence, not to ask for it until a child has been absent for three clear days. By that time the disease if it were of an infectious nature, would have declared itself. The only result of asking for a certificate after one day's absence is, that some of the parents send the children to school in the early stages of measles or whooping cough, or what not, and you get an epidemic outbreak.

5443. As a matter of fact you have had to give certificates yourself to a good many children?—Yes.

5444. Since the 1st January would it run into hundreds?—It would run to over a thousand.

5445. To over a thousand in the six months?—Yes—of red, blue, or white. I have three colours. The white is, if they are suffering from so and so, an excuse for staying away from school for such a length of period as I mark down. Then they return to school at the end of that period without reference to me. The red one is infectious disease, and they are put off school for so long and are not allowed to return without a certificate. And the blue one means that they are fit to attend school.

5446. You have paid special attention to nutrition, amongst other things?—Yes.

5447. Have you noticed children who are suffering from want of food?—Yes, I have.

5448. And what action would be taken where you found such a case?—No action is taken. I know that the schoolmistress of one infants' school provides her children with meals sometimes; but officially there is no provision made.

5449. There is no voluntary organisation at present in Erith for the provision of meals?—No, there is no organisation whatever. I do not think that there is any extensive shortness of food among the children, and such as there is due to the parents' improvidence rather than to actual poverty.

5450. But where you find one of these cases, what do you do? Do you simply note the fact? Do you report it to the teacher or to the managers?—The teachers report it to me. I never see a child who shows from its physical appearance that it is suffering from chronic

starvation. I do not think that that has come within my view at all; but I have known children who have come to school without their breakfasts.

5451. When you say here that you have reported on the nutrition of children, would you tell us what you refer to?—A great many children are very improperly fed. Their nutrition is not what it ought to be. They get fed upon tea and bread and butter, and that is not a proper diet to bring up a healthy child on.

5452. Your reference is much more to cases of improper feeding than to cases of insufficient feeding?—Yes, than to actual starvation—quite so.

5453. (Dr. Parsons.) Have you met largely with the class of children mentioned in our terms of reference "who though not defective are through malnutrition below the normal standard"?—It depends on the normal standard. There are twenty-three schools in my district and one of these schools is at Crossness, which is the southern outfall of the London sewage. The children attending that school are the best standard of physique of any school in the district.

5454. Are they the children of men earning good wages and spending them well?—They are the children of men employed by the council, and the children of policemen chiefly.

5455. What is the general class of the population of your district? It is a working class, is it not?—Yes, largely. I think you may say that the greater proportion are better class artisans. Undoubtedly, the worst class of children are at Northumberland Heath. That is a suburb of Erith.

5456. The artisans, I understand, are in fairly constant employment, and consequently able, as a rule, to nourish their children properly?—Employment fluctuates. At the present time it is very good, and during the South African War it was very good; everyone was getting large wages, and there was no end of employment, and overtime, and all the rest. Between those two there has been a period of depression.

5457. Some of the men are employed at Woolwich Arsenal, are they not?—Yes, some are. The Arsenal workmen are still being gradually discharged.

5458. You spoke of children suffering from improper feeding. Is anything being done to try to induce the parents to feed them properly? Is any kind of instruction given?—Yes; there are classes for cookery, and classes for domestic economy, and domestic hygiene, I believe.

5459. Those we hope may influence future parents; but is anything done to get at the present parents?—I am afraid not.

5460. (Miss Lawrence.) Have you any opinion as regards the value of nurses being used in schools?—I think that nurses would be of the utmost value; in fact, I think the only possible way of excluding infectious disease from schools is a systematic and periodic inspection of all children by a properly trained person, a nurse for instance. I think that such inspection ought to be at least once a week, and it would be better that it should be twice a week.

5461. Would you suggest that the nurse should only inspect and report; or would you allow her to do simple things for the children, like trying to teach them to clean their heads; and would you let her visit them in their homes?—I should be very chary about how I advised any form of treatment. That is a duty which I think is cast upon the parents. I would suggest that the parents should be made to learn how to do it, but I would put it apart from the school economy. There are certain municipal baths which are mooted in the district, and when, if ever, they materialise, I suggest that a bath house should be constructed for the use of the children, and properly trained attendants provided, and that parents should then be instructed to send their children to be treated at that house for a nominal fee, where they can have their heads properly cleaned, and their bodies properly cleaned.

5462. (Dr. Parsons.) That can be done under the Cleansing of Persons Act, free of charge?—Yes.

5463. (Miss Lawrence.) In the matter of the inspection of children who are kept at home alleged to be unfit to attend school, are there other practitioners whose certifi-

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cats is accepted?—Yes, the certificate of any registered practitioner would be accepted.

5464. You issue a certificate, I suppose, with regard to children coming back?—The point is that the attendance officer was instructed to demand a certificate after one day's absence. It seems rather hard upon a parent to make him or her send for a doctor to get a certificate when the child may be fit to go to school, say, in two days' time, it being only suffering from an ordinary cold; so that I have got the committee to extend the time to three days.

5465. In (d) and (e) you say, "I report on all such cases." To whom do you report?—I report to the committee.

5466. Not to the parents at all?—No, not to the parents. I have no communication with the parents whatever.

5467. Not in any way except through the teachers?—Not in any way unless the parents bring the children to me, as they very frequently do.

5468. I see that in your report you have noted some mentally defective children?—Yes.

5469. Are you making any special recommendation with regard to them?—I am preparing a special report to the committee as to whether there are a sufficient number of mentally deficient and epileptic children to provide a school for. So far as I can see there are not.

5470. And physically defective?—Yes, mentally and physically defective—all sorts.

5471. Taking them all in one?—Yes.

5472. Are the physically defective at present taught in the ordinary schools?—Yes. Some of them are unteachable. I have in my mind's eye a boy whose eyesight is defective. He is suffering from cataract. He has not been to school for three years. The Committee ask me what is to be done with him. The only thing I can say is, "Send him to a blind school." The boy is not blind, but he cannot see sufficiently to read; in fact, he is forbidden by the Moorfields authorities to use his eyes.

5473. (Dr. Parsons.) Cannot he be operated upon?—They are deferring it for some reason or other, or they are said to be deferring it.

5474. (Miss Lawrence.) Do you inspect any children other than those selected by the teachers?—Yes, if I see them, or if the parents bring them to me.

5475. If you see them in the school you pick them out?—Yes.

5476. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Would it be possible to send any clear directions to the parents as to improving the diet of these badly-nourished children?—It would be possible to send directions. Whether they would be carried out is another thing.

5477. Might it not be helpful to them to have some clear statement of the value of different kinds of food?—I think they know.

5478. Would it be possible to send them any clear directions as to cleanliness, and that sort of thing?—Yes. I have no hesitation in saying that the children who suffer from defective nourishment and from neglect of their clothes and persons are not the children of poor people, but the children of people who live on beer chiefly as their diet.

5479. You think that the directions would not be followed?—I am sure of it.

5480. Do you take any notice of the lighting of the schools and the arrangement of the desks, and that sort of thing?—I do.

5481. Do you also take any notice as to the height of desks, and the way in which the children sit?—Yes.

5482. Have you reported to the committee at any time on any of those things?—No, I have not done so. The schools, I may say, as a rule are exceedingly well furnished. Most of the schools in the district are nearly new schools. There is one very large school which I think would compare in equipment with any school in London.

5483. When you say they are well furnished, are they furnished with adjustable desks?—Yes.

5484. Of the same size for a class?—Yes, the same size for a class, but there are different sizes in different classes.

5485. Yes, but in the same class all the children have to sit at desks of the same height. They are not adjustable in that sense?—No, they are not adjustable in that sense.

5486. (Chairman.) Has anything been done at all in the direction of taking anthropometric measurements of the children?—No.

5487. Is that in contemplation?—I have not heard so.

5488. Have you had any complaints from parents with regard to having their children medically inspected at the schools?—No.

5489. Not even when they have been found to be dirty?—I have heard that the teachers have said that the mothers came and said they were very impatient for sending such letters and so on; but personally I have not.

5490. Do you anticipate that there might be such objections if children were weighed and measured?—No, certainly not; there would be no objection to the weighing and measuring.

5491. You do not find among parents any special suspicion where notes are recorded in front of their children?—No.

5492. Have you been asked to advise in cases of children who are not fit to perform physical exercises?—Yes. I have, chiefly in the case of children who are suffering from heart trouble.

5493. Would those cases be brought before you by the teachers?—Yes.

5494. In consequence of their own observations, or at the request of parents?—Chiefly because the parents had objected.

5495. Are you ever asked to advise as to the course of instruction for particular children—as to whether they should be kept back or put on, or whether their lessons should be altered?—No, I have not.

5496. Would you tell us shortly what you think has been the result of the medical inspection so far?—I think that the result has been wholly good so far as I can see. The result of my inspection last autumn of the eyes and throats of the children was, that a number of children were taken to one or other of the London hospitals and provided with spectacles, or had their throats treated or some treatment adopted. A large proportion have received very marked benefit. Then again, I think there has been very marked improvement in the cleanliness of the children, that is to say, in the way of vermin. Now that the mothers begin to find that we will not have any at school unless they are kept clean, and that we shall make them stay away as long as they are dirty, they are beginning to take some trouble to make them clean and more presentable. I think there has been a marked improvement in that way. The teachers coincide with me in that opinion.

5497. Has it been necessary in any case to prosecute parents for not sending their children to school, in consequence of your refusal to admit them owing to dirt?—It has not been done so far. It has been threatened.

5498. As a matter of fact, all cases where this has been detected in the schools have been remedied at home?—I am afraid I cannot say all.

5499. So that there are still some children attending schools who should not be doing so?—Yes, I have no doubt I could go and find pediculi in the heads of 500 children to-day.

5500. Would you go on with your summary of the results?—That has been the chief result. Since I have been medical officer, in addition to the scarlatina which I spoke of, and which is now, I think, owing to a thorough cleansing of the schools, coming to an end, we have had two outbreaks of infectious disease. One was at the beginning of the year, an outbreak of whooping-cough affecting two schools. When I say two schools, I really mean six departments. The other one has been an outbreak of measles also affecting six, just recently. The scarlatina has, I think, been stopped by the cleansing and disinfecting of the school in the ordinary way. The whooping-cough was very largely checked by the use of

a spray of formaldehyde in the class rooms. The same applies in the outbreak of measles, which I hope will be checked now by the holidays.

5501. You feel that the existence of the medical inspection would enable you to check an outbreak of disease much earlier than otherwise?—I think so, decidedly; particularly if I can get the assistance of the committee in carrying out the recommendations. The conservancy of the schools is a most important thing. I am at present in a little difficulty with the committee in that respect. I believe that the means of transmission of these infectious diseases in schools is very largely due to dust. Children come with bronchial secretions, or what not, and they spit on the floor and it is pulverised into dust, and when the caretaker sweeps the floor he sends it all up into the air; it lands everywhere, and the children when they come into school the next day get it on their hands and transfer it to their mouths or their noses; or the windows are opened and the air blows the dust into the atmosphere and it is inhaled by the children. I am sure that that is the cause of the inflamed condition of the throats that one sees so frequently in schools.

5502. Are you able to get the teachers to pick out for you cases in which there are suspicious symptoms present?—Yes, they are very glad to do so.

Dr. J. A. HAYWARD, called in; and Examined.

5509. (Chairman.) You are the medical officer under the Education Committee for the Urban District of Wimbledon?—Yes.

5510. For how long have you held the office?—Since the 1st May, 1904.

5511. Are you also medical officer of health for the district?—No.

5512. Have you found that fact in any way renders your duties as school medical officer difficult?—Not in the least.

5513. There has been no overlapping?—No; I have not come once into controversial questions with the medical officer of health.

5514. Would that largely be due to personal friendship?—Yes, I think so to a certain extent. There are possibilities in which our respective duties might overlap.

5515. You are also in private practice?—Yes.

5516. Do you find that that causes any difficulty in your performance of school duties?—I have not allowed it to do so; but I find it makes my own private work exceedingly hard.

5517. I quite understand that it would take up considerable time. Are there any other difficulties connected with it in the way of your relations to other private practitioners, for instance?—To a certain extent, I think, unless a good deal of tact and balance were exercised on both sides, it might lead to difficulties. There has been only one case of difficulty actually, and that, I think, was due to a misunderstanding. I make it a special point to try to cultivate good relations with the other.

5518. There are possibilities of difficulty?—There are possibilities of difficulty, chiefly because some men are contentious and object to having their patients examined in the school. You may get a better class child in the school, and they think you have no right to interfere with their patients.

5519. Do you give any definite time to your duties as medical officer?—Yes; I have necessarily to examine during school hours. That is most conveniently done in the afternoon, and can only be done between two and half-past four, when the children are in school.

5520. Is that necessarily in the afternoon?—Not absolutely necessarily in the afternoon. It is rather more for my own convenience in the afternoon.

5521. Your duties are indicated in the print which was forwarded to us by the Education Committee?—Yes.

The following paper was handed in.

DUTIES OF MEDICAL OFFICER.

(a) The principal examination and all subsequent examinations and certifying of defective and epileptic

5503. Do you give them special instructions in that matter?—I have given them no special instructions as to how to detect them, but I think that they ought to be specially instructed.

5504. How would you set about those special instructions?—I should have a class to teach them the symptoms of the different diseases and what to look for.

5505. At present there are not even printed directives circulated amongst them?—There is a printed circular from the late medical officer of health.

5506. Have you anything to add to what you have said?—There is one thing that I would like to say, and that is, that the duties of the medical officer of the school to a certain extent must clash with the duties of the school attendance officer. The attendance officer is rather driving the children into school, and the medical officer is rather driving them out. I think as far as possible the two things should be kept wholly and solely distinct. Another thing to which I rather object is, that the attendance officers are rather disposed to hold out the medical officer to the parents in *terrorem*, which ought not to be.

5507. Are the school attendance officers paid in direct relation to the percentage of attendance?—No, I do not think so. I think they are paid a weekly wage.

5508. (Chairman.) Thank you.

children within the district as required by the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899.

(b) The periodical inspection (at least twice a term) of all the schools within the district and of the scholars therein, and particularly with respect to diseases and defects of the eyes and ears. [This does not mean that the medical officer will be required to inspect every child in the schools but only such as may be brought before him by the head teachers or which may, in his opinion require such inspection.]

(c) The examination and certifying of pupil teachers.

(d) The examination of such teachers (prior to engagement) as the managers of the schools may require.

(e) If required in the absence of a satisfactory medical certificate, to advise the school attendance officers in the discharge of their duties with respect to the absence of any child from school so far as such absence may arise from alleged or justifiable illness.

(f) Generally to advise the Education Committee upon such matters as may from time to time arise.

5522. About how many afternoons in the year do you find yourself employed with the school children?—About ninety afternoons between 2 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.

5523. That would be so far as regards the inspection of the children in the schools only?—Plus sanitary appliances and buildings and general hygiene.

5524. There are also certain nurses employed?—Yes, two.

5525. Are they under your direction?—Jointly under my direction and that of the local education authority.

5526. Would you tell us how far those nurses are employed?—They visit each school once a week and go round each class. Any children who are brought forward they examine or, if required, they advise the teachers about any matters that they may consider necessary. Apart from that, if necessary, and if requested to do so by the teacher or myself, they visit the children in their homes and perform simple duties, or teach the parents how to deal with them.

5527. Those duties are contained in this set of rules which we will put on the Notes?—Yes. (The following are the rules.)

URBAN DISTRICT OF WIMBLEDON. EDUCATION COMMITTEE. Rules for the Guidance of Nurses Attending the Schools.

1. The nurse is to attend at each school in her district once a week and sign the attendance book.

2. A list of the children who are absent on account of illness is to be obtained from the head teacher in each department.

3. The head teachers should make it known in the school that in the event of illness of any of the children

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the parents or medical man in attendance can obtain the services of the nurse by application in writing to the school teacher, who will at the same time as the list of absentees is given to the nurse inform her of the names and addresses of the applicants, if any.

4. It will be the duty of the nurse to call at the homes of the applicants, and offer her services, *under the direction of the medical man in attendance*, or if the case does not require the attention of a doctor she may render such help as may be necessary on her own responsibility.

5. If, in her opinion, any case seen at the school would be benefited by her services at the child's home, she is to attend at the home and offer her services or advice to the parents, *under the direction of a medical man, if necessary*.

6. She is to ask at each visit at the school for the medical class book, and if any cases are marked "Nurse" she is to attend at the home and offer her services.

7. At her weekly visit to the school she will inspect any children at the discretion of the head teacher, and will assist by advice as to (1) Management of the case in school (2) Necessity of sending the child home; (3) Temporary exclusion pending the decision of the medical officer, and she will in general assist the teachers in any cases of difficulty or doubt.

8. A weekly list of cases seen "at home" is to be kept by the nurse, and once in every week she is to attend at the house of the medical officer to report on the work done, receive instructions, and produce list of absentees on account of illness.

9. In the event of any illness of a contagious or infectious nature, cases of urgency, or of special difficulty, which come under her notice *at the school*, she is to report thereon at once to the medical officer.

If any such cases come under her notice *at home* visits, the parents should be advised to seek at once the assistance of the regular medical attendant.

10. Under no circumstances may the nurse attend at the home a case of infectious disease.

11. In the performance of her duties it is especially desirable that the nurse should avoid any interference with parental responsibilities or freedom of action; it is particularly the object of the Education Committee that in the case of home attendances the goodwill and compliance of the parents should be enlisted, and careful attention paid to the directions of the family medical attendant.

R. H. SMETHURST BUTTERWORTH,
Clerk.

JOHN A. HAYWARD, M.D.
Medical Officer to the Committee.

5528. Are they both employed full time?—Only one is now. She is entirely in the service of the education authority. The other is a nurse doing district work under a private committee, and they allow her to give a certain amount of time, but she has only two schools to look after.

5529. They both do precisely the same work?—Yes.

5530. The one being confined to two schools and the other doing the rest?—Yes.

5531. Is the one in whole time employment a Queen's Nurse?—Yes.

5532. The system of medical inspection is, amongst other things, specially directed to the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. Would you tell us in what way that part of your work is done?—Up to the present time I have not been able to get the authorities to adopt any special scheme. That is rather where I come into contact with the medical officer of health, and there has been a little delay. The only thing I can do, I think, is to have, in times of epidemic in the schools, a systematic inspection by the teacher of any class where a case of infectious disease has occurred, and she should examine every child for prodromal symptoms. In the case of measles, any child suffering from soreness of the eyes, cold or cough, that child should be excluded from the school until it is certain that it is not measles. I am advising the council with regard to that. It must be done by the teachers. It is almost impossible to have a medical officer to attend every day to examine children in the case of epidemic.

5533. Do you give special instructions to teachers as to detection of infectious disease?—When I was appointed medical officer I found the difficulty was that none of them

knew anything about the symptoms, and I wrote a pamphlet, which has been printed and issued for the use of the teachers. I have a copy of it here if you would like to see it.

5534. Do you give any oral instruction to the teachers on the subject?—Only what I say in my ordinary round of inspection, giving advice when I go to the class-rooms about special points as they may occur. I take that opportunity.

5535. Do you use cases you find in the schools as a demonstration lesson for the teachers?—No; I have been rather careful to avoid doing that, on account of the difficulties experienced with some of the parents on having their children examined in the school. You never know whether you will have a case of that kind or not to deal with. Some of them object very much to the children coming out to be examined.

5536. How has the objection of parents been brought to your notice?—A parent lodged an objection with the committee the other day because I examined a child to see if it had a dirty head. She was called out from the class in the ordinary routine with other children. She had been reported as having it. The child refused to be examined. She said she had instructions from her parents not to allow the doctor to examine her. I did not proceed, of course. She went back to her seat. I reported it to the education authority and they interviewed the parent. The objection of the parent was that he thought that the child had been made a special case of and had been called out more or less for the purpose of showing what a terrible thing it was to have a dirty head. That was not the case. She came out in the ordinary routine, like other children would be to be examined and not for demonstration. It was explained and the matter settled down; but I think that that was the parent's objection, that he thought the child was called out specially to be made an example of.

5537. Has that been the only actual case in which you have heard of objection?—That is the only one during my whole year of inspection reported to the Committee. With regard to demonstrations, I have had it in view that parents might object and I have been rather careful; I have not done it on that account.

5538. What do you do when you visit a school?—The first thing I do when I go into a class-room is generally to ask the teachers if they have anything to point out which is defective in the hygiene of the class-room or of the school. Then I interview the teacher and ask her to bring out any cases which she has noticed since my last inspection which she wishes me to see. Those are supposed to be entered in a special class book which I have had made, in which they keep an account at the school of the cases occurring during the interval which they wish me to see, and in which they make notes about anything which would come into my province. I inspect this book and have the children brought out and I examine them. With regard to those who I think require medical treatment, I write a notification on a special form which is sent to the parents. Each teacher is supposed to keep the class book in order. I then inspect the class generally, that is to say, I stand in front of the class and look at it. If I see any children that squint, or have anything noteworthy I make them come forward. The presence of adenoids or enlarged tonsils may be suspected by the facial expression of a child, and is confirmed by examining the throat and freedom of the nasal passages. In the cases of squint or defective sight, confirmatory evidence is obtained by the use of test types. Many cases are detected in this way which have escaped the notice of the teachers. Then if I have time, I see the way in which they do the breathing exercises prescribed by the new code, and I see if they are breathing too quickly or, as I consider, not efficiently. That is the end of the class inspection, with the exception of this—that with regard to any children who I think require attention at home by the nurse, I make a note opposite the case in the class book on the right hand side, and put N. to it. The nurse at the next weekly visit puts that on her list to visit at home, and the child is visited at home.

5539. The notification which you have filled up as regards the children detected with ailments, are sent

to the parents by the teacher?—They are put in an envelope and the child takes them home to the parents.

5540. They are handed to the child at the time?—They are handed to the child at the time. If the child is too young the note is sent by post or by an older sister or somebody living next door. The teacher guarantees that that notice shall reach the parents.

5541. What steps are taken after that to see that the ailment is treated?—There practically the onus of the authority ceases. If on my next inspection I find the child has not been attended to, the nurse calls and offers to advise the parent what to do, and points out the necessity for not letting the child's sight go wrong without having its eyes examined. She points out the necessity for having its head cleaned, and shows the mother how to do it, or advises her how to do it, and points out the necessity of syringing a child's ears to keep them clean if it has a discharge. If necessary she does it on the spot, or the child attends at her place and she does the necessary thing there.

5542. Is the nurse's visit generally welcome in the home?—Yes, in the vast majority of cases it is very welcome, except in the case of unclean heads. That is the thing that gives most trouble.

5543. Do you at the same time in the case of an unclean head give directions that the child should be excluded until the head is clean?—Yes, in bad cases. On the notification there is a line "attendance may be continued," or "must for the present be discontinued." I cross out the "may be continued" and the child stays away.

5544. Has the result in such cases usually been that the child's head has been attended to?—Generally speaking there has been in the year immense improvement in the general condition of the heads, which were very bad indeed when I began the work; no notice was taken of them at all. Nothing had been done except occasionally by the teachers, and they used not to like to do it because the parent as a rule came up next day and abused them, and they had nobody to fall back upon. Of course it was rather unpleasant for them to be constantly abused by, very often, drunken or careless parents. Now the teachers refer them to the nurse or medical officer, and that relieves them of the onus.

5545. Has it been necessary in any cases to prosecute parents of children?—It has been necessary, but the council have not yet done it. That is a point of great contention between the council and myself at the present time.

5546. In those cases have the children been kept at home?—In each school there are about two or three cases in which there is really absolute neglect. A child comes time after time with a dirty or verminous head; and in spite of the fact that I send a notice and that the nurse attends and that all we can do in the way of pointing out directions is done, the child persistently comes back dirty or the parents keep it away for the whole term. They take that notice as referring to the whole term and make that their excuse. They want the child at home to do work or something, and keep it at home on the least excuse when the school authority excludes it from the school.

5547. So far the school authority has not prosecuted in those cases?—They have not prosecuted in those cases. There is a legal gentleman on the council, and he has very great objection to doing this, and he points out that you cannot exclude a child from school and at the same time institute a prosecution for non-attendance. As an alternative, I suggested that, if they did not like to prosecute, the cases might be put in the hands of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and that they should prosecute.

5548. Do you often refer cases to that society?—Personally I have not referred one in the year. I consider that my duties end with reporting that a case is a hopeless one as regards the parents, and that something more must be done.

5549. Could you tell us about how many children there are in Wimbledon now who are away from school in consequence of such a direction given by yourself?—The probability is that there are a dozen, but there ought to be a great many more.

5550. Many come back who should not be there?—Yes. I am bound only to make examples each time of one or two. If I went round and excluded every child who had a verminous head, I should deplete the schools by about one-fifth. In my report for the year, it is mentioned that in one class which I examined in the Haydon's Road School, out of sixty-eight girls there were thirty who were found to be suffering from verminous heads. Of course, one could not exclude half the class, it would make the work of the Education Committee almost impossible. Only one or two of the worst offenders can be excluded.

5551. When you say on your notice that the attendance at the school must for the present be discontinued, is that taken as a direction by the teacher that the child is not to be admitted?—Yes; it is written in front of the teacher. In the case of a very bad head, or ringworm, the child is at once taken from the class and sent home.

5552. It is only in the very worst cases that you leave that line on the note?—Only in the worst cases—dirty heads, ringworm, or scabies, or infectious disease occurring in the school.

5553. As regards children kept at home on account of alleged illness, what are your duties there?—Those children whom I have not already seen, you mean?

5554. Yes?—In a case in which the authorities cannot get sufficient evidence that the child is being properly attended to, or cannot get a medical certificate, or there is no family doctor, I am requested to examine the child. Only one such case has occurred in the year in which I have personally been requested to examine a child.

5555. It is not a matter of daily occurrence?—No, it is not.

5556. Then as regards nutrition do you pay special attention to children who seem to be suffering in that respect?—Certainly. I pointed that out to all the teachers, and asked them to enter in their class book any child who persistently seemed to be lacking in nutrition or suffering from want of food or coming habitually poorly clad, and failing in class. I have a general term for them. I ask, "Are there any weaklings?" I have explained before, and they all know what I mean by a weakling—a child who seems to be suffering from defective nutrition generally.

5557. Have you noticed any such cases yourself?—Yes. There are undersized children in every class, who are not up to the weight and size for their years. There are some children of nine years of age in the sixth and seventh year old standard. I notice these, and then I send the nurse to inquire into the home conditions. I put "N" here for the nurse to visit, and in my own remarks I put "Visit and inquire home conditions." The next time I come I see the nurse's report which frequently throws light on the matter. "Father drinks," and so on. The remarks in the school book are of course confidential. Established in Wimbledon is a voluntary association, a branch of the Invalid Children's Aid Society, which does most admirable work, and we have got good local subscriptions for it. On my recommendation a bad case where help is needed would be sent away to the seaside, or food would be supplied temporarily. A child may even be supplied with clothing; but it is not given gratis. That is the point: The parents have to pay a proportion of the expenses in every case. Every case is judged on its merits.

5558. Your own personal dealing with the case would cease when you hand it over to that society?—Yes. I send a recommendation only. This is the society's paper.

5559. How many of such cases have you reported since the beginning of the year?—In my report I say, "Since the establishment of this branch in February, 1905," (that is only last February) "ninety applications for assistance have been made by the medical officer and help has been afforded in fifty-four cases, while the remainder are under investigation."

5560. There is no special school agency for providing food for badly fed children in Wimbledon, I think?—No.

5561. You also report on defective and epileptic children?—Yes.

5562. You have, I think, special classes in Wimbledon for mentally defectives?—Yes.

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5563. Have you any special treatment for physically defective?—No.

5564. You also deal at the school with cases of eyes and ears?—Only to examine them, not to go fully into the case. That is quite impossible in the time.

5565. But you detect cases of children who need spectacles?—Yes.

5566. Would they be reported to the same society?—Not if the parents were able to supply the spectacles. I try not to let it be known in the place that they can be got otherwise. I am very careful about that. The nurse investigates each case first for me at home, and reports; and a lady of the society (there are several) undertakes the investigation of the cases, and goes fully into them on the lines of the Charity Organisation Society, and renders help if necessary.

5567. In many cases where you find spectacles necessary they are provided by parents on their receiving a note to the effect that they are wanted?—Yes. Many of the parents come up and voluntarily express themselves to the teachers as extremely glad to have someone to look after the children in the schools in that way, and to notice the things which they themselves would not notice.

5568. Have you done anything towards an anthropometric examination of the children?—I strongly insisted on that at the commencement of my duties, but the council did not see their way definitely to adopt it, on account of the interruption of the work in the schools, and the extra trouble it would entail on the teachers.

5569. So that at present there is no proposal of that kind before you?—The proposal was made a year ago, and negatived by the education authority.

5570. I ought to have asked you about how many children there are in the schools at Wimbledon?—The average attendance on any one day is 5,430. The number of children comes to 6,000.

5571. There are about 6,000 on the rolls?—About 6,000 on the rolls.

5572. And a very growing number?—Certainly a very growing number.

5573. What is the number of schools or departments?—Nine schools.

5574. The cost of medical inspection to the rates is not very large? Your own salary is only 50 guineas, I think?—Perhaps I may make a remark at this stage. I have not said anything to the council about it. Considering the time that I spend on the work, it is absolutely not the least worth my while to do it. I have kept to it for a year because I am interested. In addition to the actual inspection the mere writing of these reports, getting out statistics, attending the Education Committee, seeing the nurses every week, interviewing them, and having the necessary chat with each nurse in the week, has taken up a fifth or a sixth of my whole time in the year.

5575. So that the salary does not in any way represent the work?—No; it does not in any way represent the work. I did not quite know what it entailed before I began, and the first year perhaps has been harder, because of the large number of cases of eyes and ears to examine and so on, organising the work and contending against difficulties. It has taken up a very large proportion of my time the first year. In any case if it is going to be done properly the ordinary routine work would take up an afternoon between 2 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. for 100 days in the year. You may take it at about that. Counting it in hours it would take about 300 hours in the year; and that of course is not paid for *pro rata* at the present time.

5576. What are the salaries of the nurses?—The whole-time nurse has a salary, I think, of £75, and there is a prospect of increase. The nurse who gives partial time receives £14 a year.

5577. And at present that is the only expense to the rates connected with the medical inspection?—Yes.

5578. How much time does the partial-time nurse give to the work?—The two schools are rather far apart, so that the time is largely taken up in going from one to the other. She visits each week. She is half an hour or three-quarters of an hour at each school, and then she

attends the homes, but not many. Her duties are distinctly light.

5579. Would she be paid a proportional part of her salary for the time given?—No, she is paid at the rate of half-a-crown each visit to the school, I think. The salary will not exactly come to half-a-crown each visit for the year, but it is based on that.

5580. Do you think that the present system works smoothly and satisfactorily?—Yes, on the whole it does. There is still a great deal to be done.

5581. I think I might take your answer to the last question, and put it straight on to the shorthand notes. The question is what evidence is there of the beneficial results of inspection, temporary or permanent?—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.

5582. Have you any figures that you can give to us in support of what you say?—I have as regards the cases examined, but not as regards those who have received attention, as it is almost impossible to keep a record. Out of an average attendance of 5,430 in the total of schools 358 cases of defects of sight have been detected in the year, which works out at 6.5 per cent.; 216 affections of the nose, throat and ear, which works out at 4 per cent.; and the total number of notifications sent to parents in the year from the 5,430 is 852, which works out at 15.6 per cent. of the total number of children.

5583. (Dr. Parsons.) You mention that improvement has resulted from operations for enlarged tonsils and adenoid growths. Who performs those operations?—Some of them are performed locally if the doctor who is in attendance on the family undertakes that class of work, but the larger number come up to the London hospitals and are operated on there.

5584. That does not come into the school medical officer's work?—No, I have nothing to do with treatment.

5585. Have you any reason to think that there are many children who though not defective are from malnutrition below the normal standard?—I find it exceedingly difficult to answer that question. I should say that there are not many, but that is relative. In every class there probably would be two or three children whom you might suspect, who look miserable and wretched or listless. The best instance is one that occurred to me to-day. I saw a child whom I recommended for a convalescent home. The Invalid Children's Aid secretary asked me to examine the child. I examined the child; I found out on inquiry that the mother was a widow who had to go to work. She had three children. They came home in the middle of the day when the mother was out. Their food consisted of only tea and bread; they had plenty of it, and she was quite astonished to think that it was not sufficient. She was a little indignant. Their sole diet consisted of bread and tea, with perhaps a little dripping now and then. I said, "What about milk?" I was told that they had only a drop or two of milk to colour the tea, because milk was so expensive. That was her idea of proper diet. The child was getting plenty of food, but food of the wrong kind. That is the difficulty in analysing cases of this sort.

5586. Insufficiently nutritious food?—Insufficiently nutritious food.

5587. What is the class of population among which such cases would occur?—There is a very large poor class population in Wimbledon, chiefly men who work in London. The south part of the district constitutes a kind

of dormitory and they come there to sleep. The only actual employments in Wimbledon are chiefly women's employments. There is a large number of laundries giving employment to women. There is a very poor class of population towards the Tooting side, with very mean streets, and very poor homes indeed.

5588. Is there a scarcity of employment in the winter?—In the winter there is great distress from the lack of employment.

5589. Are there many who are ill nourished because, although the parents have the means to feed them properly, they do not do so through neglect?—Yes, there are some who are well known through the agency of the nurses. In nearly all cases they are drunken parents. In every school there are one or two examples of that. Some of the parents are earning good wages, but the children are insufficiently or improperly fed, on account of drunkenness.

5590. Are those cases, do you consider, for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children?—Some of these cases of bad nutrition are already, on the initiative of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, under consideration, and on their books, so to speak.

5591. But no action has been taken by the education authority?—No.

5592. Has any action been taken by the guardians under the Local Government Board's recent order?—I am not aware of any case.

5593. With regard to the provision of a supply of spectacles—I forget whether you mentioned that?—No society exists for the provision of spectacles, but a branch from the Invalids' Aid Society, to which I have already referred, will, on my recommendation, give a grant to the parents to help them to buy them.

5594. You say that the greatest difficulty arises from the indisposition of the parents to carry out this action which you advise?—I should say that in the majority of cases it is carried out, but in some cases they persistently refuse. Parents will not infrequently say that they would rather have the squint than spectacles, and they prefer the child not to have glasses for the appearance sake. Some of them even say that their child is not deaf when it is deaf; they do not want to take it to the hospital, and so on. Then there is nothing more to be done.

5595. In the case of otorrhœa what would be done. Would that be attended to by the nurses?—The nurse instructs the parents, and if they are unable to she undertakes to do the syringing and cleaning herself at home, or she acts under the doctor to the family.

5596. If they have one?—If they have one. If they have not a doctor, she undertakes the cleaning of the ears in bad cases, if I request it in the class book. She attends and looks after the ears. She cannot do it in all cases.

5597. If it was due to serious disease of the ear, the parent would be recommended to take the child to a hospital?—Yes, in all cases where it is persistent. In cases in which I think there is probably bone trouble or polypus or granulation I not only recommend the nurse to clean but send a notice to say that the child must be taken to a hospital because it requires further treatment.

5598. (Miss Lawrence.) Would you suggest that the nurses should help to select the children or not?—The nurses help in this way: that when they go round a school the teacher says "Do you think that this is a case to show the doctor?" and the nurse says "Yes, show him;" or "No, that is too trivial."

5599. That is often very valuable?—Yes.

5600. Do I understand that they do all the dressing in the homes?—Yes. No treatment is carried out at the school. There is no facility in the school at all.

5601. Is your appointment as medical officer by way of being ratified from year to year?—Yes.

5602. It only lasts for a year?—It only lasts for a year.

5603. What led to the medical inspection being undertaken?—That I hardly know, except that we have at Wimbledon what I consider rather a progressive education authority. It was in the air and they thought that it was a good thing to adopt.

5604. You say that the teachers are instructed to include teeth in their hygienic instructions?—Yes.

5605. Does that include the cleaning of teeth or general care?—Cleaning of teeth, hands, nails, head, clothes and tidiness. I lay the greatest stress on teeth. I frequently in the class ask all children to hold up their hands who have cleaned their teeth in the morning, and read them a little lesson.

5606. Do you find that the instructions which are issued for home treatment are generally carried out; or must they always be followed up by a nurse?—In the majority of cases it is carried out. On my second inspection if it is not carried out I ask the child to come forward. I always look at the old cases. I ask the child if it has been attended to. If it says, no, I send a second notice and ask the parents to be polite enough to send back word why they have not had it attended to. Of course there is no compulsion.

5607. The matter is then left?—The matter is then left; you cannot do more when they send a reason.

5608. Is the nurse one of the Queen's Jubilee Nurses?—The whole-time one is.

5609. Does she work the whole year, or do they change her?—She works the whole year. She is permanent.

5610. Is she supplied by them?—No, she is supplied by a private lady in the place, who is interested in the nursing quarter in South Wimbledon. She is on the Education Committee. There is a South Wimbledon Nursing Association which she runs, and she engages one of their nurses for the Education Committee. They pay the salary.

5611. You have had no complaint of the nurse getting tired of this particular kind of work and wishing to go back to the ordinary nursing?—She finds it very trying.

5612. She does?—Yes, very trying.

5613. I ask you that, because it was represented to us that one of the advantages of having Jubilee Nurses was that they could be changed when the work became monotonous?—I should say that that is a great advantage, but fortunately the nurse there is a very splendid person, and throws herself thoroughly into the work.

5614. Generally speaking, you think it is monotonous work?—It is monotonous work. The unpleasant part of it is the abusive parents. If it were not for them her work would be very pleasant.

5615. (Mr. Walrand.) Is it any part of your duty to inspect the structural conditions of schools?—Yes, I made an extensive inspection of the schools last term, with a view to pointing out defects of ventilation and hygienic arrangements, and so on.

5616. And lighting?—Lighting and heating. I asked for the co-operation of a practical man on the council to go round with me. I had that advantage. We inspected practically every item in the whole of the schools in every room, and we brought out a full report to the council, which was printed, in which we suggested remedies for the various defects.

5617. I suppose that you report on the shape and size and the suitability of desks?—Yes; the desks are very important. Here is a report on the whole of the school buildings in Wimbledon, made by myself and Mr. Woodlands. Special stress was laid by me in that report on the shape of the desks.

5618. Is Mr. Woodlands an architect?—No.

5619. He is a councillor, I see?—He is a foreman carpenter, and a very able man too.

5620. He is an expert in building?—Yes. There are special remarks at the end about desks.

5621. On their influence on the health of the children?—Yes.

5622. (Chairman.) Has your attention ever been called to cases of children who should be withdrawn from physical exercises?—Certainly. The teachers frequently point out children who have been told by the parents not to do the exercises and ask me whether I think that they are fit. I generally find that they are fit. The way in which I work it then is to tell the nurse to visit and explain to the parents that I think physical exercises would make their children stronger if done judiciously. In nearly all cases, the re-

Dr. J. A.
Hayward.
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Dr. J. A. Haywood.

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quest to cease the exercises has been where an illness has occurred some time previously. The child has discontinued the habit ever since. I gently suggest to the parent that it would do the children good. In most cases they allow them to join again.

5623. Do you sometimes instruct teachers to vary the exercises, with a view to particular training?—No, I have not done that: I should like to. My great difficulty in the whole of the inspection and examination is that the ultimate carrying out of everything falls on the teacher. It is all inspecting and very little is done; and it is with the greatest reluctance that one imposes a fresh burden or special work on the teacher; their work being far too much at the present time. You cannot impose fresh burdens on them.

5624. Do you find yourself thoroughly seconded by the teachers?—No, not in all cases. I should say that half the teachers do not at all welcome my visits, and half of them do. The difference is quite remarkable, especially between the women and the men teachers. I should say that two-thirds or three-quarters of the men look upon it as a great bore, but the women, on account of their natural womanly instincts, rather welcome illness, or anything to do with the care of people, and they are rather glad to point out things. They take an interest. I find that my work is almost entirely dependent on the interest the teacher takes in it. If you have a book badly kept, no record of an old case, and what you want done not done and not ready, the work may take an hour to go through it; whereas, if everything is ready, and the classes are ready, you can do the medical part of the work in three or four minutes. It entirely depends upon the teachers. And I say in my report that the most important thing really in carrying out effectively medical inspection of schools is the education of the teachers gradually to take a greater interest in the physical welfare of the children.

5625. (Dr. Parsons.) Do you inspect the non-provided as well as the provided schools?—Yes.

5626. (Chairman.) Have you ever given advice as regards the curriculum to be followed with regard to a particular child as to whether it should be promoted to a higher standard or kept back or excused from certain lessons, or anything of the sort?—Only excused from certain lessons in the case of delicate children. May I give an instance. After a general promotion such as has taken place this week, when classes are moved up, if a child is new to the school or new to the work and you go round the class, the teacher says—"That child is very nervous." You look at the child and you see facial twitching and spasms. Then I advise the teacher to send the child home for the afternoon and not to let it do work at all or anything that makes a tax on its brain, such as mathematics.

5627. Have you anything to add to what you have said?—I think that I have pointed out fully what I think about the whole question of medical inspection in my report to the Education Authority for this year. I will leave that with you. There are two points I would like to lay stress on, and one is, that the Wimbledon Education Authority must make up its mind at once what is to happen in the case of dirty verminous children. If they are going to exclude them, it means at first a considerable diminution in attendance, unless they back up the nurses' efforts by bringing pressure on the parents in the form of a prosecution for neglect or for non-attendance. I am trying to advise them at the present time to exclude children who have any vermin in their hair. My opinion is that if that were done and one or two prosecutions were

instituted for neglect or non-attendance, the standard of cleanliness would enormously rise. Unless you initiate greater cleanliness in the class room to begin with, nothing will ever be done. Someone must take the first step and do it boldly, before greater cleanliness is secured. Some of the parents feel shocked that a doctor has to look at a child at school and send it home because it is dirty, and they take care thereafter to send it clean. There is an improvement there, and that is all right. Then you get down to the lower people, the tenth who do not mind whether the children are verminous or not; and those parents must be prosecuted, or the children must not attend school, otherwise they simply infect all the other children. It is really rather a serious subject for the council. They have to make up their minds what they will do and go through with it. They must leave it alone, or, if they touch it, it must be carried through, and they must be content with diminished attendance for the sake of having greater cleanliness in the class. But it is a very definite and strong policy to take up. It seems a small matter, but it is really very serious. Then with regard to epidemics, a great deal might be done if teachers were taught to look after prodromal symptoms. In cases of infectious disease occurring in a class, that class should be kept separate from others and not allowed to mix in the playground, and any children sent home who showed suspicious symptoms.

5628. (Dr. Parsons.) Is it your experience that epidemics generally begin in a particular class?—Generally in the infant classes. Afterwards they run over the school.

5629. At first they are limited to one class?—Yes. The school is perfectly healthy, and an infant class falls ill and one or two children have measles. That class could not be shut for one or two cases, but it should be considered a special class, and the teachers should examine every child morning and afternoon as it comes in at the door, and its eyes should be looked at. The children could be examined in the corridor. Any child with a cough, even if it is only a suspicion, should be sent home, and kept in quarantine for three or four days until it is ascertained what is the matter. That is all I can do apart from the medical officer of health. Locally at present very little is being done with ear and eye complaints and ringworm; the latter is a terrible thing in a school, and children are absent for months on that account. There ought to be an organised effort by all medical local men to treat some of these minor complaints on the spot. It is absurd that large numbers of our children with small complaints should be going up to the London hospitals. I am trying to get medical men to form an out-patient department for the treatment of children with otitis and commoner defects of sight, and ringworm, where the parents can apply. Dirty heads and questions of hygiene are the most important things. May I mention a curious case that occurred to me?

5630. Certainly?—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.

5631. (Chairman.) We are greatly indebted to you for your very interesting evidence.

Dr. W. HALL, called; and Examined.

Dr. W. Hall. 5632. (Chairman.) You have had considerable experience in providing meals for school children in Leeds?—Yes, 46,000 meals we have given in two years.

5633. Is your experience confined to one school?—Yes.

5634. Would you give us the name of that school?—St. Peter's Square Council School.

5635. What is the number of children in the school?—350.

5636. For how long has the provision of meals been going on there?—For two years next month.

5637. Does the local authority take any part in the organisation?—No.

5638. Is there any other organisation in Leeds for providing meals in schools?—No. There have been occasional provisions but not continuous. In the winter an effort was made to supply food to the children of the unemployed.

5639. That was in connection with a special fund raised by the Lord Mayor?—Yes. It continued for about ten weeks I believe, but that is not now in being and no food has been given since February.

5640. From what class are the children in this St. Peter's school mainly drawn?—The slum children, the poorest in Leeds.

5641. They are drawn from a very low class?—The poorest in Leeds.

5642. As regards the meals themselves, do you obtain payment from the parents to some extent?—Lately we have received a certain sum from about one-third of the parents. May I tell you that these 46,000 meals cost about 2d. per meal. We have reckoned it up. Within the last three months we have fed 100 children continuously with two meals. We fed them during the Christmas, Easter, and Whitsuntide holidays. They have generally had breakfast and dinner. We except the midsummer holidays. We gave up the breakfast at one time on account of difficulty. There was a difficulty in getting the caretakers to attend to us early enough. We are giving breakfast and dinner now. The meals have been continuous for five days a week. On Saturday and Sunday we have not given a meal.

5643. How did you select the children who were to receive the meals?—The schoolmaster did that. We have nothing to do with the selection.

5644. You left the selection entirely in the hands of the schoolmaster?—We left it in the hands of the schoolmaster and he was advised by the attendance officer.

5645. What had you in view in instituting this system?—I was seized three or four years ago with a great desire to commence using humanised milk. I persuaded, after a good deal of trouble, the Corporation to allocate £500 towards the expenses of a depot for humanised milk. I was then given to understand that it must be in the hands of the sanitary inspector and I left it. We then turned our attention to poor board school children. A gentleman whom I nursed in a severe illness made me a present of one hundred guineas and we commenced with sixty children.

5646. Who are "we" in this case. Is it yourself, really?—A philanthropic lady and myself. We were so much struck with the result that we increased the number, in three months, to 100 children. We then went on from 100 to 130. When money was given by the Lord Mayor's Fund they gave us a penny per head and we increased the number to 200 for ten weeks. When we did not receive any assistance from the Lord Mayor we pulled down our number to about 150. Last year we fed from 100 to 150 and the whole of this year we have fed from 90 to 140. I must tell you that three months ago we tried to persuade the parents that they must contribute. We told them that every child cost us one shilling per week, and fifty parents came forward and volunteered to pay 3d. per week each. If they were unable to obtain the 3d. in advance, and curiously enough many of them could not, any child in the school could come to us and receive a breakfast and dinner for 1d. A number of children come and they get a breakfast and a dinner. About fifty pay us 3d. a week in advance; the rest we give a meal to. We give the meal to, probably, fifty. We gave meals to the whole of them in the first instance. The only things we ask for are clean hands, clean faces, and clean plates. Unfortunately they took to licking the plates, so we gave up that part of the order. The children have improved so much in condition that strangers have said they were quite sure that the children never were underfed. The children have grown fat. Like Jeshurun they kicked in the hot weather, so we immediately stopped two meat meals a week. We put them on tea, and bread and margarine, with remarkably good effect. We have promoted them again to the meat. We ceased at the end of this week on account of the holidays. We shall discontinue for four weeks and then begin again. The Education Committee declined to have anything to do with it in the first instance. I got a school from a clergyman in the immediate neighbourhood, and took my children there, and fed them there, but we had not room enough. I went again before the Education Board and

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told them I was giving 1,000 meals a week, and that that would stop on the next Monday unless they found me shelter. That brought the thing to a crisis. We were allowed the infant school connected with St. Peter's Square, and we were allowed the coal cellar under the school. We set to work and made it into a cooking kitchen. We had two poor women out of the neighbourhood. A philanthropic lady has devoted the whole of her time. At twelve o'clock every day we have 100 plates, 100 mugs to contain water, 100 spoons and 100 pieces of beautiful whole-meal malted bread. We do not cook on Sunday. We have thick soup on Monday with cabbage in it. On Tuesday we have pie, meat cut up small, mashed potatoes and haricot beans, and very good bone gravy. On Wednesday we give fish and rice. We give potatoes again and bone gravy again. On Thursday we repeat Tuesday's meal. On Friday we give the most glorious meal of the week—tripe and fried onions. 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 20th. 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. But it is not hunger. That is one point that I have really come up for and want to put before you, if you will excuse me for a moment. It is not a question of hunger at all. A slum stomach is a small stomach. A slum stomach is easily upset. A slum stomach will only require stale food with condiments or pickles. A slum stomach will not bear simple, plain, nutritious food. We had the greatest difficulty to educate the children to take fish. They do not care for anything that has no seasoning. They are not big eaters. They leave their bread. They would not take rice pudding. They would not take any pudding at all in the first instance. We had to cultivate the taste. We put them on rice pudding with jam. If they take the pudding and the jam, and make a clean plate, we feel that we have done well. But they are underfed. It is not a question of hunger. Sir William Anson tells you in the House of Commons that you have 60,000 children in London at the present moment who are underfed. A statement was made by the Rev. Benjamin Waugh, published in the annual statement of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, that the number of underfed children is grossly exaggerated. A statement was made by the Vice-Chairman of what I truly call "The Underfeeding Committee" of the London County Council who states that an underfed child is impossible of education. The whole thing is perfectly ridiculous, I know. I have devoted the last three years of my life to this matter. I am a medical man. Allow me just to put it to you. Fifty-six years ago I commenced my medical life in the slums. For twelve years I lived in the slums. I attended several thousand slum people when their children were born. I became surgeon to the hospital for Women and Children. For years I examined and passed, for factory purposes, 120,000 boys and girls, and from that day to this I have taken the greatest interest in these questions of degeneration. It is quite clear that if these (shall I call them) authorities would actually trouble to obtain expert medical evidence they would know that we, as a profession, are at once able to delineate underfeeding. But more than that it shocked me completely to go over the evidence of the Scotch Commission. You have elaborate evidence by Warner, by Hay, by Mackenzie, and you have a whole host of medical experts who have given evidence before Departmental Committees. Forty years ago Sir William Jenner spoke strongly about this subject. It was all discussed at the Pathological Society twenty-five years ago in London. Twenty years ago it was discussed by Sir Crichton Browne in connection with commercial matters at Bradford. The thing is known, and thoroughly

Dr. W. Hall. known. It is not a question of hunger. I tell you that a slum child is not hungry, and will go without food if he cannot have his stale food, his pickles, liver, and onions and blood made into a sort of pudding. These children are evidently, to any medical expert, underfed. Look at them. You have at once the evidences of it. You have the ill-nourished skin, the ill-nourished hair, the stunted growth, the light weight. Lift up the clothes. When I went amongst them first of all I thought they were flea-bitten all over. Nothing of the sort. They suffer from purpuric petechie. I took the children and I fed them well. At the end of six months there was not a flea-bite. It had all disappeared. But I have another thing to tell you. I set to work to examine 4,000 children. I examined every child. I put every child on a table, I weighed every child, I examined the bones, I examined the mouth, and I examined the teeth. I came across some little children who were Jews. I was very much struck with the appearance of the Jews. I determined to follow the thing farther, and I took the whole of the Jewish children in Leeds—2,000. The experience to me has been marvellous. There is no doubt about it. I examined an equal number of Gentile children, a thousand from the slums, and 500 from the best suburbs, and 500 in the cathedral schools of Ripon. Every child was examined, every child weighed and measured, the teeth examined, and the bones examined. The Jews in the slums of Leeds surpass the whole decidedly. They have not a single purpuric patch about them. Their teeth are better, they are heavier, they are taller, and they are better in every respect, physically. I have nothing to do with their moral or mental development happily, neither do I follow them up to adult age. I never examined a Jew child before so I had no prejudice in the matter. Please remember that. It is striking. They were 2,000 Jewish children between the ages of three and thirteen. I took the statistics. I was accused of partiality in my first 1,500 statistics. I threw them all overboard and took 2,000 more. You shall have the figures before you. Those are the statistics (*handing the same to the Committee*.) There is not the slightest doubt about the veracity of them, and they can be tested any day. I want to put this before you before I discontinue. I was not satisfied with the statistics. I went among these Jewish people; I looked for them. I got to know all about their mode of life. There is no secret in it. It is perfectly clear that, from some cause or another, in some way or other, I do not know how it is, they have the instinct of providing bone-making food for their children. The Jew when he marries a woman is not happy unless she is fat. When she is pregnant (excuse my speaking plainly; I am a medical man, and I am speaking before a Committee who will not wish me to mince matters) he insists on tranquillity. She is not allowed to visit a dram shop or a public-house. She is not allowed to go in for any dissipation. She is well fed. It is a matter of religious principle with the Jew that his wife should be well fed. When the child is born that child must take the breast. 87 per cent. of the Gentile women in the slums of Leeds do not give their children the breast. 90 per cent. of the Jewish mothers do. You have the difference of between 10 per cent. on one side, and nearly 90 per cent. on the other. They give their children the breast. And what happens when they cease to give the breast. It is perfectly marvellous. Go down to the fish market. You will find half a dozen Jewish mothers clubbing together to buy fish by the stone. They buy all the offal fish, the roe, which is rich in fat, and they divide it amongst them. I have cooked for them. Their cooking is remarkable. They soak the food in boiling oil. Their children are soaked in oil; they smell of oil. Jews have oil even in the cakes that they make. If they cannot buy olive oil, which many of them cannot, they use an inferior kind of oil.

5647. (Dr. Parsons.) Cotton-seed oil?—Yes, cotton-seed oil probably. I forget exactly what the inferior oil they use is. They dip their fish into boiling oil in a deep frying pan, having previously covered it over with batter. I was inquiring of an egg merchant who has a very large business in Leeds. I said, "What do you do with the cracked eggs you have?" You must have a large number spoiled," and he replied: "The Jews take them. They have a perfect passion for eggs. They will have eggs. They buy all the eggs they can buy in the market cheaply. They buy all the chickens they can buy after market

hours." They have a passion for soft food. The children are fed on fish every day. And what is the advantage of fish? Somebody said that the proper way to make a child masticate is to give him bone or give him hard crusts. I have been called to children and I have had to perform tracheotomy because the food has gone the wrong way. Fish is a soft food. Let the children's teeth cannot masticate well. They bolt the food, but the stomach can turn it over and deal with fish, especially when it is soaked with oil. They get eggs and lots of fish, you are perhaps not aware that oil, as we know as medical men, is most valuable in cases of rickets. We prescribe it for rickets. There is a mysterious influence in the character of oil producing a transition getting the organic phosphate of lime into the bones by absorption from the system. Be that as it may, one other thing, and then I am done. I am satisfied that a great deal of the want of development, and physical deterioration is due to a condition of the system, very closely allied to what afflicts sailors, on long voyages, who do not obtain anti-scorbutic food. Our slum children are on the verge of scurvy. The Jew has a passion for fresh vegetables. He will have potatoes and fresh vegetables, and there all the elements of bone-making for little children. They do not run the children about; they keep them quiet. They spend two hours a day in the Synagogue and the rest of the day in the school. They are well fed. Go any morning at 11 o'clock to the gates of the Jewish school. In Leeds at all events the Jews are English born—not aliens. You will see a dozen or a score of women with shawls on their heads. If they know you they will bring out a little mug containing broth or tea and milk. They have a cake containing egg, oil and flour, a little brown flour and white flour, and fruit mixed together. Ask them what it is and they tell you it is manna cake. They say it is to remind the children of manna in the wilderness, but it is for nothing of the sort. It is to see their children are fed. "Why do you come now?" They come at half time. "Because I am afraid my child will be anemic. It came without breakfast." It is a question of food entirely. There is the secret. I contend that if the children had a certain modicum of food, especially fresh food containing anti-scorbutic properties a vast amount of under-feeding will pass away. It does not mean much in money. Take a million off the Education Vote. I say you have no right to begin educating a child until it is seven. You begin at three. I see poor little wretches of three years of age in the infant schools. They ought not to learn anything until they are seven, except to be clean and orderly; I can say that as a medical man. Take a million off the Education Vote, and put it into their stomachs. Take working men and go directly for the wage. Fifty of the poorest parents in Leeds have voluntarily come forward and offered one-fourth of the cost. Does not that mean a great deal? We do not want any reference to the Poor Law and all this roundabout process. We want to go direct for the man's wage. In the large factories in Leeds something is taken from the wage every week for the infirmity and certain sick clubs. Why not take a certain amount for the children. I come here as a medical witness and I say that we medical men know all about it. I am quite sure that an underfed child is easily delineated. It is not a question of hunger; not at all.

5648. (Chairman.) Have the children who have received the meal of which you have spoken, been chosen because they were apparently underfed?—Yes, because they were the poorest children there. They were sent to us by the schoolmasters advised by the attendance officer. We fed them five days a week with two meals a day, meat at least every other day and anti-scorbutic food. We have not been so bold as to presume, as the London County Council does, that it is only necessary for twenty-six weeks in the year to supply two meals a week.

5649. You feel that the organisations which feed children once or twice a week are not very valuable?—It is perfectly absurd. I think it is a question of under-feeding. I do not think it is at all a question of hunger. That is quite a different line. You cannot walk in a large manufacturing city or town in the North of England without finding that the majority of men and the majority of women, too, betray evidence of rickets. You have the rickety head, and you have the bow-legs in the men.

With regard to the women they turn their ankles down and there is a strong suspicion of their knees being turned in. Both men and women are mouth-breathers. They have lost the power of breathing through the nose. Why? Because they have vaulted palates and the nasal chamber is diminished. They have the nasal dent. I went down to the crypt under Hythe Church. There are several hundred skeletons there. I set to work and examined 100 skulls and 100 long-bones and I did not find half-a-dozen cases of rickets. I made inquiries from the curator of the Hunterian Museum of the College of Surgeons. He says that they have few signs of rickets in the bones and they have upwards of a thousand skulls. Therefore, it did not exist 100 years ago. Why? Because people were fed on oatmeal pudding and milk and fresh vegetables. That is why. There are hundreds of thousands of men and women in this country, who are walking about at the present time who have bad teeth, and anterior protrusion of the upper jaw; they are mouth-breathers; they have crooked legs. It is entirely due to want of bone-making food which should have been given to them before birth, during infancy, and during childhood. You are perhaps aware that the skeleton is made before the child is born. You are perhaps aware that all the temporary teeth and most of the

permanent teeth are made before the child is born. Dr. W. Hall. How can they be made if the woman does not possess bone-forming material to give to the infant? It cannot be racial or hereditary. You cannot have bone and flesh unless you have something to make it with. You have the example before you.

5650. It is most interesting, only we are getting a little outside our reference at the present moment?—It is perfectly true. I have no interest; I am told I am a philanthropist. I am nothing of the sort. If by converting these children into pills I could discover something for the good of the human race I would put them through the machine to-morrow. Philanthropist! The lady who has devoted herself to it is a philanthropist. It has cost her money and it has cost her infinite labour.

5651. You are quite satisfied that the effect has been enormously beneficial to the children physically?—Yes. The question of hunger, I think, is perfect piffle. It is under-feeding.

5652. Do you ever hear anything from the teachers about it?—Yes; they are becoming sympathetic.

5653. Do not they find that the children are better able to profit by the education which they give?—Yes.

TWELFTH DAY.

Friday, 28th July, 1905.

PRESENT.

Mr. H. W. SIMPKINSON, C.B. (Chairman).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.

The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE.
Mr. R. WALBROND.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (Secretary).

Miss M. DENDY, called in; and Examined.

5654. (Chairman.) You are a member of the Manchester Education Committee?—Yes.

5655. And vice-chairman of the sub-committee for the Feeding of Destitute Children?—Yes.

5656. You have given very much time to the study of afflicted children, I understand?—Yes. For the last ten years I have done almost nothing else, excepting the direct educational work.

5657. And you are very familiar with the life of the population of Manchester?—Yes, I think I may say very familiar. For the last forty years I have been familiar with the life of the population of Manchester and the suburbs, but more particularly in Manchester for the last fifteen years. I have known intimately the conditions of the life of the very poor.

5658. We propose to take your *précis* as your evidence in chief and put it on the shorthand notes?—Certainly. The *précis* is as follows.

A. 1. Agencies are not sufficiently centralised. There is very much over-lapping. Distress and pauperism are thereby greatly increased. Very large sums are expended. An effort is being made to diminish this evil.

4 (a) Great care should be taken not to admit that any parent is permanently unable to provide for his children.

(b) Provision should be made for children whose parents are ill or out of work. When the mother is ill a penny dinner would be a great boon.

(c) In the case of children whose parents could provide for them and do not, power should be given to feed the child and prosecute the father. This would dispose of a great number of the cases.

B. (3) Three half-pence.

D. (1) (a) Special provision is not made for "retarded children" as apart from defective children. Such provision is made in Mannheim. There is risk of too much differentiation. It would be a mistake and a very costly one, to create yet another "class" of school children. Children are rarely mentally affected by underfeeding.

They suffer from mal-nutrition owing to improper food. A child may die of starvation with its stomach full of food. Severe indigestion causes head-ache, pallor and lethargy. Children suffer (in these days) more from want of sleep than want of food.

They are also much injured by the conditions under which they sleep.

D. 1. (b) Provision is made for children mentally defective. These pay for their meals. (See Dr. Ashby's Report).

Provision is being made in a residential school for the physically defective who cannot attend an ordinary school.

(c) (d) Blind and deaf children go to institutions.

Suggestions.

1. It is impossible to deal with children without producing an effect upon their parents.

2. The child is the product of the last generation and the producer of the next. Great harm has already been done by charitable persons who have tried to deal with children as a race apart. Parents have been taught to neglect their children, and children that when they marry (often at seventeen) their children will be provided for by charitable agencies.

Miss M.
Dendy.
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Miss M.
Dendy.
28 July, 1905.

3. Great care should be taken that help given to children does not act so as to make their home-conditions worse.
4. Home conditions are at the root of the bodily suffering of children. Improper food taken at irregular hours, lack of sleep and dirt have often done irreparable mischief before the child is three years old. To these may be added great indulgence and lack of discipline.

5. Any agency for helping the children which relieves the parents of responsibility must make the children's condition worse. Not cruelty, but carelessness and stupidity are the causes of neglect. It is a common thing for each member of a family to be given a penny to buy its own meal ready cooked and the money is worse than wasted.

6. It is a mistake to suppose that all children's ailments, mental and bodily, are due to lack of food. If they were, conditions would be much better, in proportion, among the rich. But mental weakness is as prevalent among the upper classes as among the lower, and bodily suffering is the result of dissipation and indulgence for children in every rank of life.

7. Our first aim should be to make parents take care of their own children.

8. In industrial districts, where women are at work after marriage, the middle-day meal is often a great difficulty. Also there will always be children whose parents either cannot or will not provide for them.

9. Children's restaurants would meet the needs of these children. It should be optional for any parent to apply for leave to send his child to a restaurant and to purchase tickets. If children are proved to be suffering from hunger they should be fed by order. If the parents are wilfully neglectful they should be prosecuted. If the parents are not to blame, it should not be known that the children are in receipt of charity.

10. Experience has shown (special schools) that with perseverance almost all parents, however poor, can and will pay 1d. for their children's dinner.

11. Charitable agencies cannot deal with the question satisfactorily. They will not combine and there will be overlapping.

12. Education Authorities know the people best, but if they do the work, they should have power to build children's eating-houses and to hire women to cook and clean. Schoolrooms should not be used for meals, nor should teachers serve them. Such a scheme need not be costly.

13. Great care will be needed in the working of any scheme since there will be a tendency to qualify as recipients of help. On the other hand, little harm, if any is done by help which is paid for, even though the full cost be not paid.

5659. We have heard from Mr. Wyatt an account of the system hitherto pursued in Manchester for providing meals for school children. Have you any special criticisms to make on that system?—I think that for such a system it was administered as well as it possibly could be; but it is a system with which I totally disagree in principle. That is to say, as Mr. Wyatt would inform you it was a system by which a certain number of children in Manchester selected according to a poverty scale (he would give you the figures, I know) were fed by a charitable agency under the direction of the officers of the Education Committee. The money was raised up till last year, entirely by charitable subscriptions, jumble sales, sales of old clothes and things of that description. The meals were served in the schools, and consisting of a midday meal of bread and soup. Up to last year this was carried on. Then it became imperative the winter before last to include the voluntary schools. Two voluntary schools in Manchester refused the assistance. One school dealing with a very large number of poor children said that they had always got through the winter without any such pauperising agency and they did not think there was any necessity for it. The Jews in Manchester pay for a very large number of their children.

5660. As I understand, the system does not apply to every school?—No.

5661. The schools which are to receive the meals are selected by the Committee?—Yes, they are selected by the Committee, and they are in certain poor districts of the town.

5662. Were the voluntary schools which refused to come in situated in the poor districts of the town?—One was. There was only one Church of England School that refused assistance. The rector wrote a very remarkable letter and very much to the point. He said that they had been able to deal with their own poor and hoped to be still able to do so. I have not the letter; I have no particulars. It also came to my knowledge through members of the Jewish Board of Guardians who were interested in the Jewish poor, that for years they had been supplying meals and getting a large percentage of payments. They accepted the meals but on condition that they should still go on getting payments where it was possible.

5663. As I understand, one part of the system which was in force last winter was that there should be facilities for receiving payment from parents?—Yes. The fact is that the Education Committee at the beginning of the winter, owing to the exertions of some of us who care very much about this matter, passed a resolution abolishing free meals, but affirming the principle that it was a good thing to provide cheap meals, and that it would be desirable if possible to provide meals at such a rate that the children could buy them. At the first outset, a large number of children paid for these meals. We took in all £78 last winter in penny dinners. Then came the cry of extraordinary poverty, and then came the Lord Mayor's Fund, and practically the hand of the Education Committee was forced. We could do nothing but go on supplying the meals on the same principle that they had been supplied on hitherto, excepting that a much more rigid selection was observed last winter. In spite of the extra poverty, only half the number of free meals were given that were given in the preceding winter, and no complaint was made that any of the children had suffered.

5664. Did the number of free meals last winter fall very much below the number given in the preceding winter?—It fell by half, within a few.

5665. That you attribute to the close working of a poverty scale?—To the close working of the poverty scale, and the fact that the chairman of our committee, Sir James Hov, had set on foot a sort of monthly conference of all charitable agencies and was calling them together not with a view of distributing more charity, but of distributing less. Month by month we have been meeting. Our meetings have not yet ceased; I do not suppose they will cease. In this way various agencies were able to bring forward their cases and we were able, to a certain extent, though not to nearly a proper extent, to set off one thing against another. The poverty scale was very rigidly administered and we have had no complaints of underfeeding. We had no complaint of ill-usage. One complaint was brought to us. For instance, the Salvation Army produced at once a list of cases excluded by the poverty scale, and those immediately received additional attention, with the result that in every case it was proved that these people were frauds, that they were getting an ample supply of money, and that the supplies they had been drawing from the Salvation Army were wholly superfluous.

5666. Has the Salvation Army a system of breakfasts in Manchester?—It seems to me that they have a system of every kind of meal at all hours of the day. At one of the meetings the Salvation Army officer announced that they were feeding 1,500 every night without any inquiry whatever. The Wood Street Mission was feeding 1,000 every night without any inquiry.

5667. I gather that the Salvation Army was almost the only agency of importance which did not join in the joint conference?—They sent a representative to our conference, but they did not quite fall in with our views, nor did the Wood Street Mission, which is another agency of great importance. We have very great hope that we shall do a good deal more next winter in the direction of organising these various charities and preventing waste and pauperisation. For that reason I am anxious to carefully express myself to-day.

5668. The system of a joint conference is still in full force?—Still in full force. The conference to which I referred was more of an official conference, in which the three boards of guardians and the Education Committee met to discuss the Order from the Local Government Board about feeding.

5669. Mr. Wyatt specially put to us when he was here that it was about to take place?—It has taken place.

5670. Are you in a position to tell us anything of the result of that conference?—No, I think not. I think perhaps it would be likely to make against our arriving at satisfactory conclusions if I said much. I need not point out that that Order has put an entirely different complexion on the whole work, probably, of this Committee—certainly on our work.

5671. Do you feel that the effect will be to check the willingness of persons to contribute to the voluntary agency for meals?—Certainly. Amongst other things I may say definitely that the Education Committee does not feel that it would be desirable henceforth to call upon the teachers for any voluntary help in distributing meals. The teachers could not do it to the extent that is demanded by this Order, and it has never been a desirable plan that the teachers should do it. It has been a messy arrangement giving soup in schools on desks. It has been undesirable from many points of view, and now that the thing is legally provided for we need not trouble ourselves to that extent, although we are troubling ourselves very much indeed about it.

5672. If properly managed do you consider that a system of cheap meals which would be paid for at full cost by parents, could be carried out?—I think it could be carried out if people would realise what a very easy thing it would be to do. That is what I hope we may arrive at. You see it need not be difficult. We have three schools in Manchester where mentally defective children are dealt with; and all through the period of the greatest distress these children have been paying for their meals. We have had no difficulty at all. When Hague Street special school was opened, it was necessary, because many of the children had come from a distance, to keep them at school all day. We could not send them home to dinner. Then came the question of dinners, and we had to provide dinners. It was suggested that they should all be put on the free meals list and that money should be taken out of the free meals fund. I protested. I asked that we might try what we could do. Hague Street is the poorest centre, but 75 per cent. of the children pay regularly for their dinners, and the other 25 per cent. pay irregularly. There are very few bad debts. At Harpurhey Hall, where the children are of a slightly better class, they pay 1½d. for their dinners, and there are no bad debts.

5673. What is done where the children's parents are in a position to pay and will not pay?—We have no power.

5674. Is the child fed, or is the child sent home in such a case?—You mean at the special school?

5675. Yes, at the special school?—We do not, I am happy to say, meet with those cases. One occurs to me. It is the only case in which I know for certain that there is what you may call wilful neglect. The parent was absolutely able to pay. The child was coming to school without breakfast. We reported the case to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, put them in motion, and the parent was forced to feed the child. Thereafter the child had its breakfast and brought its penny for a midday meal. That kind of thing is a little cumbersome, but still that is what we did.

5676. Have you frequently had recourse to that Society?—Not on the question of feeding. We have on the question of general neglect and lack of cleanliness, and so on.

5677. Have you found that the mere visit of the inspector often produced the effect which you wished, without prosecution?—Yes. In this particular case there was no prosecution, but we were able to secure proper attention for the child.

5678. Speaking generally, would you say that the class from which the mentally defective children are drawn is a poorer or lower class than that from which the ordinary child would come in a public elementary school?—No.

5679. The proportion of children there who would require free meals would not be higher than that in the other schools, which, after all, seems to be only 2½ per cent. in Manchester?—It is only higher at Hague Street,

because of the difficulty of bringing children from considerable distances to the school. It is the centre that serves a wide district. The children, being mentally defective cannot be sent home in the middle of the day and brought back again; and for that reason that particular school, and Harpurhey, demand food in the middle of the day. At the third centre, Embden Street, the children all live in the immediate neighbourhood and there is only occasion to provide for very few in the middle of the day. Generally speaking, these children are drawn quite equally from every class of society. There is no difference.

5680. I want to know whether this is really a guide to us, that the need can be met by a meal for which the parents should pay in full?—My own personal opinion is that the need could be met by a meal for which the parents should pay, perhaps not quite in full but, say three-quarters of the cost. In cases of extreme need some authority should have power to give a ticket to a child, and the child should not know in any way whether it is distinguished or not from the others.

5681. Do you think that in practice it is possible to keep that a secret?—I think it would be quite possible if we had what might be known as school restaurants.

5682. Would you indicate to us the lines on which you would work a school restaurant?—The poorest of our schools in Manchester might, as it has been said, be enclosed in a ring fence. 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 would like to see put in force a 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.

5683. Such an experiment could be tried, even without an alteration of the law?—Could it?

5684. By voluntary effort?—There you have it. That is just the question. Voluntary effort spoils all our plans.

5685. We are absolutely confined in our Reference to the question of whether relief could be better organised without any charge upon public funds, so I fear we must not pursue this particular subject further?—You see side by side with this, we get an Order from the Local Government Board that the children are to be fed out of the rates. It seems to me that the two things are contradictory. If we could arrive at a conclusion by which the Boards of Guardians should put up restaurants and "foot the bill," as it has been expressed, and the Education Committee should administer the work, the difficulty would be solved, and I believe it might be made, by careful administration, a diminishing instead of an increasing difficulty. Hitherto it has been an increasing difficulty, and I am perfectly sure that it has been an increasing difficulty because of voluntary effort. Let me tell you what it has come to in Manchester. I have a letter here from a gentleman who has taken an exceedingly great deal of trouble in this direction. By this time next year there will be much

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more information available. He is making a charity map of Manchester, or getting it made, and he says, "The information I have obtained regarding the giving of charity proves that a considerable number of organisations were in their zeal giving assistance in the same district and to the same people during the past winter. To illustrate this, let me say that in the neighbourhood as follows, twenty-five charitable organisations were at work all overlapping one another, that is, from the River Medlock to Fairfield Street, London Road, Store Street and Beswick Street." Speaking personally to me, he expressed it that they were pouring in soup and money and clothes and bread. We find it difficult to induce anyone to be the first to give up doing this. I think that the root of the whole trouble is in the giving of charity, not in the withholding of it.

5686. Would you allow any child to come to a dinner at your restaurant who brought the money?—I would in Manchester, because I think in Manchester the conditions are a little peculiar, with regard to women's labour. A great number of women are at work and have no leisure to prepare a meal, and what happens is, that even in very well-to-do working families, each member of the family is given a penny and told to go out and get its meal. If a child feeds on tinned salmon and chips, it looks as badly nourished as any child in the school, although it may have plenty of food. I know of mothers who would gladly give their child the restaurant penny and send it to a wholesome dinner if they could. In Manchester that is a difficulty which will always be there; because while the cotton industry is what it is, large numbers of women, and married women too, will be employed. I consider it a great misfortune, but there it is. On the other hand, occasionally women are at home and are for some reason or other bedfast and cannot prepare a meal in the middle of the day; and again there comes in this inevitable fish and chips. The money is to a great extent wasted. I would like to be able to send such children to the school restaurant and for there to be absolutely no taint about it.

5687. As a matter of fact, during last winter, although a 1d. dinner was open it was very little used by such parents as you have been speaking of?—No; because you see from my point of view, though undoubtedly many were below the poverty scale, as regards others who were above, as soon as it was found that the dinners were given free, there was no object whatever in the people attempting to get 1d. dinners. Why should they pay their 1d. when they could get them free? A little more exertion and a little more self-denial, more particularly on the part of the fathers, would have enabled the 1d. to be forthcoming; but as the child could have its dinner for nothing, why should it not?

5688. That would apply to the parents who come within the poverty scale?—Yes, certainly.

5689. What was done as regards parents a little higher or just outside, of whom no doubt there were a great many?—In that case the children were not fed by the Education Committee.

5690. But what was it that prevented the parents in such cases from sending the children with the 1d. to the school dinner?—Well, you see there again the child does not prefer the wholesome dinner. The child prefers the tasty tit-bits which it is accustomed to buying for itself in the shop.

5691. That would still apply even if there were a school restaurant? Not when we had the power to enforce medical inspection and to say that such and such child had been imperfectly nourished, and it must be attended to or the parent would get into trouble.

5692. You would have a system of compulsory attendance to some extent?—I should have a system of compulsory nourishment certainly, and if parents would not take the trouble or could not find the way to nourish them at home, I would compel attendance at the school restaurant and send the bill in to the father.

5693. Would there be a large voluntary attendance at such school restaurants?—In a little while. It is largely a question of fashion. At the special school we found at first it needed a considerable effort to induce the teachers to take a hard-hearted view, and then to induce the

parents to see that it was an absolute necessity that they should pay; but now it has gone on for three years. It is quite a typical school, except that the parents being often feeble-minded are of rather a lower grade than ordinary parents. It is a question of administration.

5694. The number of children in that school whose parents would be entitled, even under your present scale, to take advantage of a free meal, would be small?—No; on the contrary, a great number would have come under it, but we never applied it there. It has been interesting to me, all this winter, to know that all these extremely poor people at Hague Street were finding the money all through the great distress, and finding it without the least difficulty because they were never offered the option of free meals.

5695. Are there any places in Manchester at which children can get a wholesome dinner for 1d.?—Not outside the schools.

5696. We heard of an interesting case at Liverpool, where a woman does quite a large trade in wholesome 1d. dinners?—There is nothing of the kind in Manchester outside the schools. There is a little school at Siddington in Cheshire, where all the children pay; but in Manchester, excepting in the schools, there is nothing. 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. 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 spend it in an unwholesome 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.

5697. You would not feel any dread of disturbing the home meal by such a restaurant?—I am always in dread of interfering with family life. In Manchester, as I say, owing to the conditions of labour, I think things are a little different from what they would be held to be in London. You see the trade of Manchester largely depends upon the women. The old-fashioned habit in Manchester in a respectable well-to-do working class family was, that the mother stayed at home after she was married and that she practically spent the whole earnings of the family until each one married. They were all brought to her and each had so much back for pocket-money. I am sorry to say that the fashion has changed, and to a very great extent every member of the family provides his own dinner and buys it cooked at the nearest cheap shop. On Saturdays they cook. They have an enormous supper on Saturday night. On Sunday they have the meal cold. On Monday there will be something left. On Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the children have their pennies and go to the shop; and naturally enough they look underfed.

5698. (Miss Lawrence.) In the special school how do you arrange the dinners?—We have an extra attendant who is rated as a teacher but is really an unqualified teacher.

5699. Is this managed by the Education Authority?—Yes.

5700. Do they pay the cook?—We pay the school attendant and the extra teacher, who is not qualified as a high-class teacher and who manages the children's baths, and so forth. They do what the children do not do themselves. If they happen to be a few shillings out at the end of the month, it is made up from the free meals fund. It has nothing to do with the Education Committee. They only use its officials. It is a semi-official thing. There is a good caretaker at this school. We have to have a specially good one, and there is the teacher who looks after the children's personal requirements, and

teacher them to wash themselves, and so on. At twelve o'clock the children themselves get out the portable table and trestles, lay the table and get the meal practically served. Sometimes they more than half cook it.

5701. What time do they have the meal?—Between twelve and one.

5702. Do the teachers stay all the time?—Not all the teachers. They take it in turn to stay and superintend.

5703. This attendant or unqualified teacher is paid by the Education Committee?—Yes, she is paid. She is on the books as a teacher.

5704. So it is known that she helps in the serving of the dinner and cooking?—Practically all the teachers do that.

5705. Every one?—Yes, even the head teacher. It has become the ordinary thing.

5706. Who is responsible for the expenditure. Who does the housekeeping, so to speak?—The head teacher is responsible for expenditure. She keeps a dinner book, and keeps it very carefully; I constantly see it when I go. If at the end of a month the child's parents have not paid, she writes a very polite note, being very careful not to say "Dear Madam"—we found that that was construed as "Dear Madman," and that was construed as meaning the mother of a mad child. We have to be very careful. Now it is always "Dear Mrs. So-and-So—Your child's dinners have not been paid for. We shall be obliged if you will send the money on Monday." The head teacher marks off the children who have paid. She usually recovers a considerable amount.

5707. In the matter of the purchase of material, who is responsible—the head-teacher or the caretaker?—The caretaker purchases the material.

5708. Is the money given out to her by the head teacher?—Yes.

5709. About what number of children sit down every day?—About sixty, taking one day with another. 90 per cent. of the scholars attend, and we have now, I think, 70 scholars.

5710. Practically all of those pay?—75 per cent. pay; three-fourths of them send daily. Dr. Ashby got exact particulars for his Report. He says "At Hague Street School for some time past a daily dinner has been organized by Miss FitzGeorge" (that is the head teacher) "and her assistants, which is attended by about 90 per cent. of the scholars. There is no free list, and three-fourths of the parents send their pennies daily; the rest are apt to get behind with their payments, but pay sooner or later. One penny covers the cost of a good dinner for each child but not of fire or of the cook" (the cook being the caretaker) "The scholars arrange the tables, set the dinner and wash up. Some of the girls prepare the dinner and assist in the cooking. Apart from the value of a good meal once a day, the training afforded for both boys and girls is most excellent."

5711. You agree with that?—I do, absolutely.

5712. Have you ever gone into the question of whether these dinners could be provided from the cookery centres?—That has been under consideration, and is now under consideration in Manchester, but I am sorry to say that our cookery centres in Manchester have not been at all in a satisfactory condition, excepting in the newer schools. Of late years we have had to take over a great number of voluntary schools, which are in a deplorable condition, and we have not any where attached to the cooking centres dining halls. It has been suggested that the Education Committee might provide enough cookery centres and enough dining halls. It has to be pointed out that we have no authority to spend money on dining halls.

5713. Have you formed any opinion yourself as to whether the syllabus for the instruction of cookery could be so arranged without any prejudicial effect to the children learning, for the provision of these dinners?—The difficulty seems to me to come in with the rates question again. We cannot build halls.

5714. You think it entirely depends on the accommodation?—I think it entirely depends on the accommodation. I do not think it would interfere at all. I think that the cookery lesson could be combined with providing the dinner, perfectly well; but the question of service is quite a different matter. Our schools after

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the midday meal in the winter, especially those which happen to be in the poor districts, are in a deplorable condition. It is not nice at all. But if it could be arranged that the guardians should put up the restaurants and allow us to administer them, I think that would be ideal.

5715. What is the character of the dinner provided in the special schools now?—Only soup and bread.

5716. Always soup and bread?—Yes, because we are dependent on the school boiler and cannot provide more.

5717. I am referring to the special school?—It is a very varied meal indeed. The teacher varies it without a regular set menu, because the children find out on which day there will be their favourite meal, and to dodge them she varies it. There are three kinds of stew, meat with onions, meat with potatoes, meat with mixed vegetables, and several kinds of puddings at intervals, and several kinds of soup.

5718. Have you ever given them fish?—No, not there; there is a little difficulty about purchasing it. I think it would be a good thing if they could have it; but there is a little difficulty and a great prejudice.

5719. You were saying that in the ordinary schools only soup and bread is given?—Only soup and bread. An attempt has been made to vary the meal with cocoa and bread and jam, but not to any considerable extent. I think myself that it might be varied with very great advantage. I do not think that soup and bread is altogether an ideal thing.

5720. Have you any strong opinion as to the value of breakfasts, as against dinners, or dinners as against breakfasts?—I should say that dinners would be far better. I feel pretty sure in my own mind that very few children come to school without breakfast. That it is a most unholy mess they get, I admit. When I have been working with Dr. Ashby examining, I have made a point of asking large numbers of children what they have had. Out of one hundred children I have found only one who had not had breakfast—the child whose parents were referred to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. They eat most odd things, cheese and tea, cheese and jam, always tea, and a variety of queer things of that kind. I am sure that if the breakfasts were provided at the school, it would only mean that the parent would not provide the dinner; and I am sure that where children come to school without breakfast it is laziness rather than cruelty or lack of food, as a rule. The breakfast is in the house, but the children being up until twelve at night, naturally are not up in time to get breakfast. They go with a bit in their hand, as they express it. It was said, I remember, by somebody who wrote to the *Manchester Guardian* about the feeding of school children, that they were in a deplorable condition because they only got coffee and bread. He had been asking questions. He did not realise that when a Lancashire child says it has had plain bread, it always means bread and butter, as distinguished from cake. If at a Sunday school treat, a child says that it has had plain bread, it means bread and butter, not dry bread. In the same way, most wild statements have been made about under-feeding. That there is a vast amount of improper feeding I am sure.

5721. In the ordinary schools, do the teachers take any part in the serving of dinners?—Hitherto they have served the free meals entirely.

5722. Does that involve more than two or three staying during the dinner-hour?—It depends on the number served in the particular school, and also on the zeal of the teachers in the school.

5723. Do you know whether there is any objection on the part of the teachers to doing the work. Have you had any complaints?—No; there is no objection so long as they are absolutely free. They say that if it is as a charity they are willing to help, but if it is a question of payment, they did not see why they should. They set their faces against free meals where they can be avoided. I have had several conversations with teachers who agree with me that a penny dinner would be far better. I heard of a teacher who, the other day, saw a child for whom he had been patiently labouring all the week, thrust out from its home with a bad word, and "Get off with you to school. They have much more time to see to you than I have. I shall not give you breakfast."

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It went to school without, because the mother was quite certain that it would get a meal at school.

5724. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) At what time do the parents go to work at the mills?—As a rule it is about six in the morning, which means leaving at half-past five to a quarter to six. The distance is not usually very great.

5725. Then they cannot give the children breakfast?—If they have children they go back home to breakfast before the children go to school, speaking widely. I do not know all these people. As a rule the mothers go home to breakfast. There is no time for proper breakfast. It is much easier to make tea and cut a piece of bread, and that is why it is that bread and butter or bread and jam are more often given than anything else.

5726. Would not the need for a restaurant, so that they might have a proper meal, apply to breakfast almost as much as to dinner?—It is a serious question to take away everything from the mothers that they should do for their children.

5727. Very. But we are thinking now of the nutrition of children?—Would it be proposed for example to feed these children through the holidays?

5728. I was going to ask you whether they would not want it all the year round?—If children need to be fed in the winter they need to be fed in the summer and in the holidays, and that is why I want anything that can be done to be carefully guarded. In Manchester there is no doubt the children are infinitely better looked after and cared for than they were thirty years ago.

5729. That is to say, by their parents?—Yes. There has been very great risk, in the last four or five years of making matters very much worse for them because so much has been done by outside agencies.

5730. The free meals have been going on for longer than four or five years?—Yes, and increasing year by year. Every religious agency in the town has been doing the same thing, not only the Educational Committee.

5731. My point was whether if you give them a proper nutritious dinner they ought not also to have breakfast. By that means you are, as you say, undermining the family; but if the parent really has to go to work is it not inevitable?—I understand that this Committee is considering the question of medical inspection. Supposing the doctor says "This child is suffering from mal-nutrition" is it neglect or is it improper food? It is not a difficult thing for children to be simply fed in the morning. Porridge can be made over-night, and there is no wholesomer or nicer breakfast if it is properly prepared; and children having porridge for breakfast never suffer in this way. I believe that the infant mortality in Scotland is considerably less than in England because most of the children go straight to porridge from the mother.

5732. (Dr. Parsons.) It is not so now, unfortunately, as I understand?—It was a few years ago.

5733. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Would it not help the running of a restaurant on self-supporting lines, to provide porridge there?—Why should you, when the mother can very well do it?

5734. You think that she can?—Yes. It can be steeped over night. If that is done it does not require more than five minutes' cooking in the morning; and served with sugar and milk, or treacle, there is an appetising meal prepared in five minutes at very low cost.

5735. Can the parents get the sugar, milk, and treacle?—I think they can.

5736. Is not there a question of the expense of lighting the fire, and that kind of thing?—Lancashire people will have a fire whether or no. All through the summer you will find that they have a fire in the grate. Coal is not such a serious obstacle with us as it is here. I would not wish to be understood to say that there are not poor people who cannot provide it, but I do think that the number is less than people suppose.

5737. You said that the number had been diminished by the strict application of this poverty scale. Do you think that you got good information when you were getting the poverty scale drawn up?—I think we got excellent information.

5738. You really knew what the wages were?—Yes, but we did not know what the scarcity was.

5739. How did you find out the wages?—The school attendance officers did the work, and they checked the report of the family against the report of the employers.

5740. Did the employers help?—Yes. I think as far as wages go, it was probably as accurately done as it could be done. The factor that no body can arrive at is the amount that is coming in to the family through miscellaneous help from outside.

5741. You spoke of some of the parents being in absolute poverty. Those you would give tickets to?—Those I would give tickets to for a time. I would never assume that any parent would absolutely be in poverty indefinitely.

5742. What would constitute absolute poverty? Would you take a parent who does not work?—Our poverty scale is a fairly low one; I forget what it is. I did not bring the figures because I knew that you had them.

5743. Would you help the child of a parent who was lazy?—With regard to a parent who did not work, the suggestion is that the parent who did not work because he was lazy, or the parent who spent all he made in beer and tobacco, should be got at by the law, and that the bill should be sent in to him and that he should be prosecuted. You see, when we send a child to the day industrial school because of neglect of the parent, we get so much a week out of the parent for the child's sustenance.

5744. Do you get it from the majority of the parents?—We do very well indeed. There are bad debts naturally to be knocked off.

5745. With regard to the school where the rector dealt with his own people, did he have a soup kitchen, or what did he do?—I do not know exactly what he did. I will not give his name without his permission, but I will send his name later if you would like it.

5746. I was wondering whether it is worked in the same careful way as the other schools?—He has been extremely careful I know. He wrote us a very able letter explaining his grounds for objection to the scheme, and told us very much the same thing that some of us had been putting forward for a long time; that there was great risk of inducing these people to qualify for relief.

5747. It might happen that in the case of a given school a rector might prefer to deal with his own people because he did not agree with our scheme?—That was not so in this case. He did not agree with free meals.

5748. But it might have happened?—It might have happened. As a rule voluntary schools have been very glad to receive the help.

5749. How many do you think could be fed from the cookery centres if they were used?—I do not think the cookery centres would be adequate for more than from thirty to fifty meals. That would not meet the need, or it would meet it in an extremely expensive way. If we could put down one restaurant in Manchester where we might provide 500 meals and supply five schools, it would be cheaper.

5750. With regard to cookery centres, there would not be a sufficient number probably in the poorest part of Manchester. There would not be many in the central part of Manchester?—No. We are elaborating the cookery centres.

5751. (Dr. Parsons.) You suggested porridge. Will Manchester children eat porridge? We have evidence that London children will not?—Theoretically Lancashire children will not, but practically when you choose to give it to them, they will. I have the administration of a school where I now have fifty-four children. I lay down exactly what they are to eat and what they are not to eat. In regard to most of the children, when they have been made over to my care, the mother, or somebody, has said, "They will not eat porridge or bread and milk." But they all have porridge, or bread and milk, on alternate mornings with absolute regularity now. There is only one exception, a little child with a deformed mouth, which makes it difficult for it to swallow. In Manchester the parents do not attempt to give the children anything that they do not like. They give them "a bit of every-

thing as we takes ourselves." I suggest that it is an unwholesome diet for a child if it happens to be meat pies and ginger beer, for instance. There is nothing wicked about it, but still it is scarcely wholesome. The parent says "He fancies it. I cannot make him take anything he does not fancy." At Hague Street we had that difficulty. Now, the teacher conceals from the children what there is to be for dinner. They eat the unpopular dinner because there is nothing to supply its place.

5752. You said that fish was not popular. In London fried fish and chips is a very common dinner we have been told?—Yes, but that is scarcely ideal. At our residential defective school the children have boiled fish and vegetables. There was rebellion at first, but they all eat it now and like it. They clear their plates and want more. It is a question of habit.

5753. With regard to your plan of school restaurants, would you consider it preferable that they should be provided by the guardians for classes one and three, which according to the recent order it is the duty of the guardians to see to, and be utilised by the voluntary school committee for class two; or that they should be provided by the voluntary agency and be utilised by the guardians for classes one and three?—I do not think that now there will be any possibility of getting the voluntary agencies to provide them. The Education Committee has no power, I understand, to spend a penny on the feeding of children, but there is a good deal of good will. The guardians are ordered to provide for the feeding of children. We do not want them to become little paupers, and yet there is no getting away from the fact, as we were saying the other day, that if the guardians pay the bill the parents of everyone of the children are liable to be struck off the list of voters. It is maintenance. There are several unjust things with regard to that. It is regarded as maintenance when a feeble-minded or lunatic child is taken from its parents and sent to the Pauper Asylum, which is very often the only refuge. The parent of the child is immediately struck off the list even if he pays the full cost of the maintenance. This applies here. It does not matter whether nominally the Education Committee takes the food and takes it to the child or not; it is still paid for by the board of guardians.

5754. If the guardians merely act as channels for voluntary agencies, that difficulty is got over?—You see there is no voluntary agency that can undertake it. It is certain that in Manchester this thing will not be done any more by voluntary agency, except in the case of the miscellaneous charities which are spread all over the town and which we are trying to diminish and organise. The Free Meals Fund, which has been administered through the school board office is will not continue any longer. It cannot do so now. For one thing the matter has grown out of all proportion.

5755. With regard to your suggestion of a school restaurant, you propose that tickets should be purchasable at some thing short of the full cost of the meal?—Yes. Where necessary I think that would be very desirable. Supposing that the meal costs a penny, and there is a mother laid aside ill, and she has five children going to school, 5d. a day is a large sum. You might very well in such a case allow that the five meals should be provided for 3d. All that would be a question of careful administration. The point with me is not so much that the full cost of the meal should be paid, as that people should not enjoy what they are making no sacrifice whatever for.

5756. I gather that you propose that although the meals might cost more than a penny, the parents should be asked to pay only a penny. Who is to make up the difference?—That again is a question, is it not, for administration. That is my feeling. I do not think that without a condition of almost heavenly agreement you will ever get voluntary associations to do this work.

5757. The question is, should any parent, however good his means may be, be able to get more than a penny-worth for his penny?—No. My feeling is that a penny could very well be made to cover the cost where as many as 300 or 400 children are dealt with. With regard to that, I rather meant that the meal should be supplied at under a penny to those that could not afford the whole penny. I think a penny is enough.

5758. You were speaking also of the custom that prevailed of mothers giving their children a penny to get

a meal; and it was suggested that if they were given this penny they would still prefer to buy tinned salmon and chips rather than get the wholesome meal provided at school. Would it be possible to sell parents books of tickets, possibly at a slightly reduced cost, so that instead of giving children pennies they could give them tickets for the restaurant?—That is a very valuable suggestion, and could be carried out, I think. At the Municipal Secondary School that is done. The children are provided with tickets and pay for them. That would be a very valuable plan. A reduction might be made. When the parent had got a book of tickets he would take very good care that the child used the tickets instead of wasting his pennies. I think that an excellent suggestion.

5759. (Mr. Watford.) If you had this system of supplying books of tickets, would you have any objection to the system of providing meals being extended without any limit?—I think regard should be had to the neighbourhood; that is to say, I am told by experts in London that it would interfere very mischievously with family life if the midday meal in many cases were provided, even at a cost. As I say, in Manchester the meal is not in the house. It is a question whether you will have a wholesome meal outside the house or an unwholesome.

5760. Even where it is possible to provide a meal for children, in many cases I suppose it is practically impossible that the parents should provide a wholesome meal?—I do not think so.

5761. Suitable for young children?—I had a rather curious experience some years ago myself. The father of a child in whom I was very much interested broke both arms. A little fund was raised for the mother, from 12s. to 14s. a week, to feed the family, and pay the rent. I found that to give her that to keep the house going was absolutely useless; it was all spent in two days. I taught the mother how to cook the food. I bought it; and I did not know before how much food you could get for 14s. a week, with rent at 3s. There was no clothing included. I found it was possible to feed the children very well indeed for that sum. I kept the family of six children and father and mother on that.

5762. Were your suggestions adopted by the parents afterwards?—Yes, after much persistence, much hammering away at the mother, assuring her that rice pudding made with milk was a thoroughly wholesome thing, and so on. I was doing this for nine months. How long it was kept up afterwards I do not know.

5763. A witness we had here the other day was very strongly of opinion that there were very few cases of actual underfeeding?—That is so, I am sure.

5764. And that there was a very great amount of improper feeding?—Yes.

5765. Partly through ignorance and partly, as I gather, from his evidence, that what suited the parents to eat did not suit the child to eat. Can you expect parents in that class of life to provide a separate meal for the children?—I do not think it necessary. I think that what suits the child may perfectly well be made to suit the parent. That is the other point of view. I have no special experience of London, but certainly in Manchester the tendency arising out of the hot atmosphere and the pressure of work is to go for tasty meals. A piece of fried steak is an exceedingly expensive article of diet, and they will have the best, so that at one meal is used up what should last for days and days. By degrees this sort of thing can be corrected. The Ladies Health Society of Manchester, which I daresay you have heard of, is managing these things to a very great extent, but it cannot be done all at once. To take the work out of the mothers' hands is relieving them of responsibility. They will not level up if we leave them no motive for levelling up. No Jew is ever underfed. You never find Jew children underfed. We have thousands of Jews in Manchester. The care of the Jewish mother for the child is great. My friend, Dr. Ashby, who is head of the Children's Hospital, tells me that if he gives directions to a Christian mother how to take care of the child, she only half listens, and never, or very rarely, carries them out; but the Jewish mothers will come back and again to make quite sure that they have understood what has been said. They cook the food wholesomely for the children and take care that they eat it in a cleanly way. If we take it out of the Christian mothers' hands they will simply go down; they will not get better.

Miss M.
Dendy.

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Miss M.
Dendy.

5766. You do not think that seeing their children flourish on rice pudding and pea soup will be a spur to them to change their own methods of cooking?—They will not trouble how it is done at the schools.

5767. They will see whether the child has improved in appearance by what it gets at school?—They may, or they may not. This is a question of individual effort and of arriving at these people one by one and levelling them up. I was afraid when I came that what I had to say might not quite fall in with the views of the Committee; but I have very strong views about this subject.

5768. You think that the disadvantages of providing meals on a wholesale scale for children outweigh the advantages?—Yes, I do. To secure the mid-day meal at a school restaurant, for children whose mothers are of necessity at work, or for the children of widowers, who are perhaps the most deplorably uncomfortable class of all, is a very good thing. I think if that could be done we might arrive at very good results. In Nuremberg in the winter, all children can get a free meal if they like to ask for it. I made enquiry when I was there. That is the only system of poor relief in the town. They have no workhouses. There are about seven old men in an almshouse, and excepting that and the meals for children there is no poor relief given. The whole question of giving relief to children becomes actually a question of out-relief to parents and if the guardians and charitable people are both giving out-relief, we are gradually approaching the state of things that existed before the present poor law commenced. It must inevitably have the result of lowering wages, because it will be taken into consideration. I think that it will do harm all round.

5769. (Chairman.) I gather that on the whole you would restrict the entrance of children to these restaurants if you had them?—Yes.

5770. You would endeavour to restrict them to the classes whose parents could not, owing to various reasons, provide at home?—Yes, I would very, very rigidly.

5771. (Dr. Parsons.) Would it be possible to have in the restaurant a penny meal and a twopenny meal, a better one for those who could afford it?—It would be a pity. A quite sufficiently good meal can be provided for a penny, a varied meal. The simpler the child's food is the better. You can give one day, bread and jam and cocoa; another day, Irish stew and bread; and another day, suet pudding and treacle. These things all cost very little to provide.

5772. (Chairman.) Our reference also extends to the subject of medical inspection as at present carried out. Is there anything you would like to say on that subject?—Only that I think that in most large districts the thing is properly done already. Supposing we were to establish a system, as has been suggested, of seeing every child every day, I do not think that the condition of the children would be any better. As has been pointed out to me by my medical friends, you may see a child in the morning and it may show no signs of measles, though in the afternoon it may be spreading the complaint. You have not arrived at what is principally aimed at, namely, the prevention of the dissemination of disease. Again, the introducing of nurses into a school I think is mischievous,

as making the parents more neglectful. In Manchester, if we come across a badly neglected child, or a child with running ears or sore eyes, we take note of it. I see the children in the special school with Dr. Ashby. When we find such a case the district nurse shows the mother how it is to be attended to, and if that is not done we make a fuss.

5773. (Mr. Walrond.) You would not have nurses treating children in school?—No, certainly not. It has a most unfortunate effect. Moderately careful teachers can do very well indeed, and I think it is a pity to multiply officers.

5774. (Dr. Parsons.) Generally speaking you think it better to get people to do things for themselves than to do things for them at the public cost or by charity?—Very much better.

5775. (Chairman.) You are satisfied on the whole that the present system of medical inspection in Manchester is adequate?—Yes, it is adequate as far as it goes. Dr. Ashby takes all the special children, cripple or mentally defective, Dr. Ritchie takes the general medical inspection of the schools, and I think it is possible that with the population increasing as it is he may have to have more help. But the question has not come before the Education Committee. Beyond that I think the work is well done and that what is done is quite adequate. I may say that already Dr. Ritchie has examined, I believe, all the children on the question of eyesight and prepared a report recommending spectacles.

5776. There is no mention in the report of the individual examination of any children?—Dr. Ritchie has prepared a most careful report as to those who are suffering from malnutrition and why they are suffering from malnutrition, and so forth. He has examined thousands and thousands of children. He is exceedingly keen about his work and has done a great deal in that way. If I might say a word, I think that a very great risk in all these questions, especially in the question of physical deterioration and mental defect, is the tendency to refer all the troubles to one specific cause. Some people will say it is all consumption, others will say it is all drink, and others will say it is all underfeeding, and so forth. As a matter of fact it is a question of heredity. A feeble constitution often goes with a feeble mind. For instance, if mental defect were due to malnutrition, we would not find the mentally defective in the same proportion amongst the well-to-do; but they are quite as bad amongst the well-to-do as they are amongst the very poor. That applies all the way round. It is a matter of people's characters, and you cannot judge characters by the hundred.

5777. You would not, I gather, admit that there is any actual class of children such as described in our reference who though not defective are from malnutrition below the normal standard?—No.

5778. Or rather, there is such a class, but that it may arise from all kinds of causes?—Yes. I am very much afraid of our doing anything which will cause parents to rely less on themselves and more upon others.

5779. (Chairman.) We are indebted to you.

THIRTEENTH DAY.

Tuesday, 1st August, 1905.

PRESENT.

Mr. H. W. SIMPSON, C.B. (in the Chair).

Dr. H. FRANKLIN PARSONS, M.D.
Mr. CYRIL JACKSON.

The Hon. MAUDE LAWRENCE.
Mr. R. WALROND.

Mr. E. H. PELHAM (Secretary).

Mr. C. D. LINDSEY, called; and Examined.

5780. (Chairman.) You are honorary secretary of the Brighton Free Meal Society?—Yes.

5781. For how long has that society been in existence?—In its present form it commenced last November, but it was really an enlarged form of work which had been carried on on a small scale for the last five years.

5782. Is that the only agency of the kind in Brighton?—It is the only agency of the kind. There are three cases of slight overlapping, one the case of two clergymen who prefer to have breakfast for their own children in their own schools. In one of these cases there is slight overlapping. They feed some of the children in the elementary day schools who do not belong to their own church. There are also dinners given in connection with a mission hall in the town. That covers all the overlapping that exists.

5783. Would there be any overlapping in the case of breakfasts?—Perhaps five or six. I only found traces of it in one or two cases.

5784. The existence of the second agency is well known to you and you are therefore on the look out?—Yes. Both of these clergymen are on our committee.

5785. How is your society worked. Have you a committee?—A large committee. It is a committee which is representative practically of every interest in the town connected with children. It really arose when the small agency approached the mayor and asked if something could not be done on a larger scale. He called a conference of those who were connected with the work among the children, representatives of the Education Committee and so forth. A large committee was formed which is very representative of the town.

5786. That large committee, I suppose, does not do the work of the society. Is there an executive committee?—Yes an executive of six was appointed.

5787. Five members of the General Committee?—Five members of the General Committee.

5788. With yourself as honorary secretary?—Yes, with myself as honorary secretary.

5789. Does that small executive committee meet frequently?—Yes. Practically we were actually meeting about once every three weeks or once a fortnight.

5790. Have you any body of visitors attached to the society?—For making investigations do you mean?

5791. Yes?—No; we have no special visitors. There are three sets of helpers. The investigations are made by ladies of the Charity Organisation Society who undertake a very splendid work in that way, and by the officers connected with the Sanitary Office. The medical officer is very keenly interested in our work and one of our best workers. He kindly offered the services of his staff of about a dozen, to help in the investigations. The police also help; our own chief constable offered some of his men for part of the work because we were over-burdened with investigations.

5792. Who determines which particular officer shall take a particular case?—The nominations come in from the schools and the schools represent, practically, localities. They are grouped together in that way.

5793. Would you attach the policemen to one, the sanitary officer to another, and so on?—No, they would be taken in groups. At the end of each week I have the nomination forms with the names and addresses of children whom the head teachers consider should have the breakfasts. I send out copies of the cards which are made out for each family. Those are sent to the sanitary office or chief constable or the Charity Organisation Society, and they make the investigation according to that.

5794. But how do you settle as to which of those various agencies you shall send a particular card?—Considering they are voluntary agencies I do not want to overwork any of them. If I find the ladies of the Charity Organisation Society are getting over-burdened, if the secretary complains that they have more than they can do, I pass the work on to the Sanitary Office, and to the police as a last resource.

5795. What has been the attitude of the Education Committee in the matter?—Entirely sympathetic. Something like seven of the members are on the General Committee and, in addition to that, they passed a very wide resolution giving us the free use of the schools, and lighting and firing, and every possible help in carrying on the breakfasts.

5796. Have they taken any part in the appeal for money?—No; that was made by the mayor who was treasurer of our fund. They took no official part in that.

5797. The appeal was made solely in the name of the mayor?—Yes, on behalf of the town. It is reckoned to be a town organization. All the committee meetings are held at the Town Hall.

5798. On what date was the appeal made?—The first appeal was made towards the end of November, if I remember rightly, and the second appeal was made in January, when our funds began to run rather low.

5799. The response to that appeal was adequate for the work which you were doing?—It was just adequate for what we had to do.

5800. I see that your meals are all given free; was that matter considered and discussed at the beginning of the winter?—Yes, it was discussed whether the parents should be asked to pay something towards it. It was felt that there was a difficulty in making two classes of recipients, that there might be a good deal of ill-feeling between the children in the schools if some were paying for the meals and some were having them absolutely free.

5801. Was the result of that that the children who would have been able to pay received them free, or were they excluded?—We set up a test of our own. We have no knowledge of those who are able to pay, really.

5802. Has your endeavour been to admit only those who could not pay?—Yes, only those where it was absolutely necessary. We set up a test.

5803. Will you tell us a little more about the method of selecting the children?—The nominations were made by the different teachers and sent in to me on long sheets

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Lindsey.

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with names and address. These cards were filled up by the various inquiry agents (handing the same to the Committee.) The rental of the house and the amount of rent paid by lodgers were ascertained to get at the net rent which the family were paying. The conditions of cleanliness and poverty were noted. "Occupation of the father," "wages," "If in work," "Occupation of mother," "wages," "If in work," "Occupation of any other members of family," "Wages," "If in work," "Number and ages of children," "Probable cause of poverty," "If case recommended for continuance of breakfasts; and for how long," "If case recommended for (a) advice or admonition as to management," "(b) Further investigations as to drinking habits or otherwise," "Date of home inquiry." Then follows the signature of the officer making the inquiry.

5804. (Mr. Walrond.) What does "advice or admonition as to management" mean?—Where the home was badly managed it was a question whether we should send one of our committee to give special advice, or almost warning, in fact. I do not know that it was acted on. This was purely experimental in the beginning and I cannot say that it was carried out in every detail.

5805. (Chairman.) This is signed by an officer who would be acting for one of those three organisations you have told us of?—Yes. I went through the cards with Dr. Newsholme, the medical officer, who is the representative of the Executive Committee in the matter. We classified them according to a list drawn up.

5806. I have a copy of the Return which you made. We will put it on the evidence?—Certainly.

The Return is as follows:—

	Children of	Per cent.
Uses recommended.	Widows or deserted wives - 104	13
	Parents in receipt of parish relief - 16	2
	Father out of work and no subsidiary earnings - 125	15
	Father out of work, insufficient subsidiary earnings - 126	15
	Total earnings of family insufficient owing to irregular work or low wages - 175	21
Uses not recommended.	Parents did not need the breakfasts for their children - 182	22
	Parents declined the breakfasts for their children - 107	12

5807. When the teachers sent in their list originally were the children put on on their application or that of their parents?—In a case of great necessity we put them on for a week without any investigation. They all had it for a week practically. At the end of the week they were put on for a fixed time—a month, two months, or three months, according to the necessity of the case, or they were refused.

5808. I meant did the children apply initially, to be put on or did the teachers select the children without application?—We could not tell the head teachers how they were to proceed exactly. That was left to their own discretion. In some cases they asked for applications, in other schools they cross-examined the children. In one school the teacher did it in my presence. She enquired what the child had had for breakfast that morning and dinner the previous day, and went carefully into each case instead of allowing indiscriminate applications. Some of the nominations were very loosely sent in.

5809. (Dr. Parsons.) Did they ask the children who had not had breakfasts to hold up their hands, and then cross-examine them as to why; whether the father had work, and so on.

5810. (Chairman.) The first list was by no means satisfactory?—No. It varied according to the school. Some teachers were much more generous than others and

wanted every child to have breakfast. Others were much more careful.

5811. It depended upon the idiosyncracies of the teachers in the first instance?—Yes.

5812. With regard to the table of the cases you have given us, would it contain all the cases originally sent in by the teachers?—Yes. There are twenty or thirty additional ones which do not appear in the table, but it covers practically the whole of the work.

5813. In your return you say 835 cases of destitute families, representing between 12,000 and 13,000 children, were enquired into and classified?—I meant it to be 1,200. This is a low estimate, it should be higher than this.

5814. 12,000 is clearly a mistake?—Yes, that is clearly a mistake.

5815. I thought so, because it is very different from anything we have had yet. We may take it at about 2,000 roughly?—About 2,000 roughly. There are about 2,000 in the schools of Brighton—19,752, according to a return I obtained yesterday.

5816. How many schools?—Thirty-three.

5817. Were these inquiries made in every school?—The forms were sent to every school but we only had returns of needy children from relatively a few schools.

5818. You did not begin by classifying schools as "necessitous" and "non-necessitous" and excluding those schools altogether which you classified as "non-necessitous"?—No. We take certain schools as necessitous and work from those as centres. If the other schools sent in nominations we drafted the children to places where meals were being supplied if the schools had no centres of their own.

5819. In no case would a necessitous child be excluded from a meal because it was in a non-necessitous school?—No.

5820. For how long are children kept on the feeding list?—For a month, two months, or three months.

5821. Is there a fresh investigation made at the end of that period?—Yes. A fresh visit is made to the home, and the case is looked at again.

5822. Did the children who were put on the lists attend the breakfasts with regularity?—Yes, I believe there was a very high average of attendance, but I did not keep a record. That was kept by the teachers in the schools.

5823. Did you require them to keep a register of attendances at breakfast of children on the lists?—I did not ask for that, but in a great many cases, practically all, I know the attendance was registered.

5824. Did you ever hear of any cases where a child was taken off because, evidently from slackness of attendance, the matter was not one of importance?—You mean, did the teacher take the case off?

5825. Yes?—It was not brought to my knowledge, but the teacher would do it without referring to me, I take it.

5826. Was the attendance worse or better on cold mornings?—The colder the weather the more children would turn out.

5827. From another witness from another town we had the contrary statement—that on the worse mornings the children would not get out of bed?—That is curious.

5828. You say the opposite without any hesitation?—Yes. My own experience is that on bad mornings you get a bigger attendance.

5829. Why did you determine to have breakfast and not dinner?—There was a good deal of difficulty as regards machinery in connection with dinner, because of the difficulty of cooking in the schools. Brighton is a rather widely spread town and some of the teachers had very strong objection to any cooking taking place near their teaching rooms, and to meals being given in rooms in which children were taught in the afternoon. There are a good many practical difficulties in that way.

5830. Was it easier to provide breakfast in the morning than dinner in the middle of the day?—The machinery was undoubtedly easier.

5831. What was the machinery?—The caretaker would get the breakfast ready. My part is to order the food

present to the different schools. The caretaker would heat the milk and put the mugs in the gymnasium, or wherever it was to be held. The teachers would have a rota and come earlier (half-past eight) and distribute the food to the children. The caretaker would do the washing up. He was given a gratuity—a sovereign—for the session of three months—not really adequate payment.

5832. What was the largest number present at any particular centre on a busy morning?—The maximum would be about 137 at the largest centre. That was Circus Street.

5833. Would the children all sit down together?—Yes, they all sat round the school hall. Where there was no hall they had the use of the class rooms.

5834. Did the children come punctually?—I think so, but some were late.

5835. Was difficulty found in getting the room ready for school?—I do not think so. I never heard of the difficulty. In fact the headmaster of one school said that the children came much better when the breakfasts were on. They were able to get them there to time much better. That was from the school point of view.

5836. Did the teachers co-operate willingly with you?—Very willingly indeed. Some were more enthusiastic than others, but, broadly speaking, they rendered splendid and willing service.

5837. About how many days a week would a teacher be called upon to help?—According to the rota which I remember most distinctly it was once a fortnight that the teachers were called on, or once in ten days. It was a large school. Some of the head teachers who were much more interested in it would attend day after day.

5838. What was the meal supplied?—Half a pint of hot milk and a four-ounce roll with currants in it, slightly sweetened. If the children were particularly hungry they were allowed to have another half roll.

5839. Was the milk undiluted, or milk and water?—Absolutely undiluted. In one school they insisted on having sugar in it. They had a peculiar taste.

5840. For how long did the supply of breakfasts last?—It commenced on November 28th and went right on to March the 6th; practically, fifteen weeks.

5841. Including the Christmas holidays?—Yes. During the Christmas holidays the breakfasts were held at the Corn Exchange in the centre of Brighton. In order to take the burden off the teachers during the holiday times it was arranged for a voluntary staff of workers to undertake to manage the meals in the holiday fortnight. The meals were not given on Christmas Day.

5842. That was the only centre then?—That was the only centre then. Some of the children could not come so far. The average attendance went down somewhat because the infants could not travel the distance in the bad weather.

5843. In your opinion is there the same need in the Christmas holidays as at other times?—Yes, but not, of course, immediately near Christmas I think. We commenced two days after Christmas.

5844. No doubt there was a good deal of other charity going during the Christmas holiday?—Yes, a good deal goes into the homes that week.

5845. Why did you stop altogether in March?—For one reason our funds were run out; and in the beginning of March the weather generally lightens, work becomes more abundant and need is not so pressing.

5846. Were there fewer children attending the breakfasts when you left off than at the busy time?—We found it possible to reduce the numbers in some of the schools, but not very largely.

5847. About how many were there on the list when you ceased giving a supply?—The number was 817 as the maximum—at the end of February—in the last week it was reduced to 613.

5848. There was still a large number on the list then when you left off?—Yes. Of course you could go on for a very long time with some children.

5849. You have made certain suggestions in your short *précis*. The first is co-operation with guardians under the new Local Government Board order. Have any steps yet been taken in Brighton to put that order

into force?—I understand that the Brighton Guardians have had the order before them and have moved that it lie on the table. I also understand that they passed a resolution saying that the duty of feeding the children should be thrown on the Education Committee. It was brought up on the Education Committee. A small sub-committee was appointed to go into it. They asked me to attend the meeting. At that meeting the sub-committee decided to ask the guardians to meet them in conference to see if any practical working scheme could be framed for dealing with the question.

5850. We may take it that the matter is pending, and is under consideration in Brighton?—Yes. The question is, of course, whether the guardians can be induced to do anything in the matter.

5851. Have you ever heard it suggested that the issue of the Local Government Board order will render it difficult to get voluntary help?—It has been suggested by one or two members of my committee. It is experimental. If we cannot get voluntary help to co-operate with the guardians we must try some other scheme, but I think it well worth trying to work in connection with the guardians.

5852. You suggest a system of school restaurants for scholars who can pay a small sum. Has any attempt ever been made in Brighton to supply a cheap meal at cost price, for children?—I have no knowledge of any scheme. The subject of school restaurants was brought up at the beginning of this year in our committee, and the committee were very divided on the subject. The whole thing was put off until September when the demand for cheap food in the schools, if there is going to be a demand, will be greater. In one school there is an open space near the playground, very well suited for a small restaurant, or whatever you may call it, and that may come into being. If it does come into being it will be apart from the free breakfast work. The money will be specially earmarked for the work and the funds given for the breakfasts will not be spent for that in any way.

5853. I suppose that the meal supplied would be dinner?—It would be a mid-day meal. It would be like a tuck shop in the case of a big public school. It is to meet the case of mothers going out to work.

5854. Are there many cases of that kind in Brighton?—A great many. There is no large industry apart from railway work. There is a good deal of laundry-work for big hotels and lodging houses. Women can always get work. The mothers go out to work when the fathers fall on evil times, and children are sent out in the middle of the day with a penny or a half penny to get what they can.

5855. Is there any shop or restaurant in Brighton at which children can get a wholesome meal for a penny?—I should say not.

5856. What do they generally do with the penny or half-penny?—It is very problematical. The sweet-stuff shop usually sees a good deal of it.

5857. Do many not go home in the middle of the day?—Many of them run about the playground. One headmaster insisted that dinner would be far better for children than breakfast. He said it was a trouble for him to see boys running about in the playground when others had a midday meal and he knew that they had nothing.

5858. Would those be children who had had breakfast?—Yes. This was after the beginning of the breakfasts.

5859. You cannot give us information as to the chances of success of a school restaurant?—No, I cannot do that. There is no data to go upon. It must be purely experimental in the beginning.

5860. Would you propose that all the children attending the school restaurant should pay for their meals, or would you admit children with tickets given to them on account of poverty?—It should be primarily self-supporting on business lines, and children alone who can pay, should be admitted. It would be very unwise, I think, to mix it up with a charitable scheme.

5861. You suggest, thirdly, that a system of weighing should be introduced to determine cases of under-feeding. Has the medical officer taken any part in determining what children in Brighton should receive these breakfasts? He made a good many investigations, but not by per-

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sonally interviewing the children. We have involved a tremendous amount of work, although it is the only scientific means of actually determining who is under-fed.

5862. A child improperly fed might be indistinguishable in weight from one underfed, and you have to go beyond the weighing machine to find out?—You would have to have supplementary medical examination in some cases of underweight.

5863. The medical officer speaks very warmly, in his last report, of the work of your society in Brighton?—Yes; he is very interested in it.

5864. (Dr. Parsons.) How many days a week have the breakfasts been supplied?—On five days—on every school day.

5865. Not on Saturdays?—Not on Saturdays or Sundays.

5866. With regard to the school restaurant, would it be possible, supposing that the movement were started, to issue tickets in books sold to the parents, so that instead of the children bringing a penny to pay for the meal, which penny they might spend at the sweet shop, as you suggest, and not on a wholesome meal, the ticket would be exchanged for the meal?—The idea was that the head teacher should have a book of tickets and supply the parents, thus preventing the money being applied to improper uses.

5867. If that were done could not the tickets be given free to the children on the free list?—That would be possible, but it might lead to ill feeling.

5868. But the children would not necessarily know which had had the tickets given free and which had not?—Any private philanthropist could buy tickets and give them away, but as part of an organised system I think there would be difficulty.

5869. I thought that if the tickets were the same it would be difficult to tell whether the tickets were bought or given?—Children talk a good deal among themselves and they would find out the source of the ticket—whether paid for by the parents or not.

5870. Even if they did, would not that be useful as a check on those getting free tickets who were not in a position to require them?—I think so, and I do not see any special difficulty, but at the beginning I think it would be better to avoid any confusion and to supply only those who had the money to pay.

5871. Do you think that the breakfasts afford sufficient variety?—No; from one point of view they do not, but you have to think of what you can do in the school at that particular time in the morning, and to be guided and governed by that. Practically, speaking it is not really feeding the underfed children. It is only helping to do a little for them before they enter on their day's work. That is what it amounts to. To be properly fed they must have two meals, and possibly three.

5872. From the school point of view as regards rendering the children fit to receive instruction is there advantage in breakfast over dinner, or vice versa?—That is a point on which the medical evidence rather differs. Some authorities say breakfast and some say a mid-day meal. I think our medical officer, Dr. Newsholme, laid emphasis on breakfast.

5873. The reason for adopting breakfast rather than dinner was that it was more easily supplied?—Yes, that was one of the reasons that influenced us.

5874. Does not the difficulty about getting the rooms in order after the meals or the school session apply in the case of breakfast as well as dinner?—No. They only have milk in a mug and a bun is handed to them. The crumbs are not very great. One of the monitors or pupil teachers sees that the room is made tidy. I have not heard any complaints from teachers on that ground; in fact they have spoken rather favourably of the ease with which the rooms are put in order.

5875. (Miss Lawrence.) Did you use the school attendance officers for inquiries?—We wanted to ask the attendance officers to make these inquiries, but they absolutely resented it. They were feeling rather sore that their numbers had been reduced and when we asked them they said that they were over-burdened and overworked, and could not possibly do it. If I take the cards round for specific information about cases, they will tell me everything I want to know, but they will not undertake

the investigation, although we wished at the beginning to place the duty upon them.

5876. Do you work with the guardians at all?—Very little. We have information from the guardians, but not any actual investigation work. They have their own work and they also would object, I am sure, to any extra work.

5877. Do the children come from very poor surroundings. Have you poverty in Brighton?—We have a great mass of poverty in Brighton. It is a pleasure resort, and there is a great deal of casual labour. Men can pick up a living on the beach in hundreds of ways and get along fairly well in the summer, but in the winter they are thrown out of employment and have nothing coming into the house, and they have to wait until summer comes along again. The result is that you get a great mass of poverty which occurs winter after winter.

5878. What proportion of the children in the schools are actually fed by your society?—Something like 10 per cent. of the children were brought up for inquiry, and out of that number about one-third were rejected. Some were rejected because the parents said that their children did not need breakfast, and they declined it, and others were refused because we considered that the money coming into the homes was sufficient for the parents to provide for the children themselves.

5879. Did a large number of the parents refuse the breakfast?—12 per cent. refused.

5880. (Mr. Walron.) Were the police inquiries resented by the parents more than enquiry by others?—Yes, I think they were a little resented, but not to any extent. The police officers inquired in a very careful manner. I do not think there was any harshness about it whatever. I heard very little complaint as to the inquiries being made, but I think they acted as a deterrent possibly in some cases. Parents said that the children did not need it, and so forth, and would not give particulars on that ground.

5881. I suppose that the inquiries of the ladies of the Charity Organisation Society are not resented at all, are they. You get the fullest information from them?—Yes, principally because they are trained workers and they know exactly what to ask, and in that way they get more information, but I would not like to say that their inquiries were not sometimes resented. I think they were.

5882. Have you a poverty scale as the result of these inquiries?—I do not quite follow.

5883. In some places they have a scale. For instance, if the parent is in receipt of 3s. a week per head of the family the feeding is not undertaken?—We have a test.

5884. (Dr. Parsons.) You have some kind of standard?—We have a test, but not a standard. We have not classified them according to their need. The cards relating to these seven groups we kept. They are recorded and indexed for reference, but not classified according to poverty.

5885. (Mr. Walron.) How do you test the necessity of a particular child?—We take the income of the family. Our test is that the earnings of the father, mother, and some of the older children must not exceed 15s. per week. When it comes under 15s. and there are two, or three, or four children we consider that a needy case.

5886. Then, so far, you have a scale?—Yes. I did not understand what you wanted.

5887. (Chairman.) Have you any branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, in Brighton?—Yes, we have. I was waiting for that question. We tried to bring, in a series of cases, punishment on the parents if possible. We passed some cases on to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and some cases on to the police, but we could not get enough evidence to justify prosecution in any case. We found homes with evidence of neglect and cruelty through drink, and so on, but we could not get a conviction or bring pressure to bear upon them.

5888. Did not the mere fact of your turning the society on indirectly lead to good results?—To give a concrete instance, I remember a case of a woman who took her child in the street, begging—a boy about eight who used to attend breakfast. The police went and warned the mother and she said she would not do it

again, but three weeks after I saw the same mother and the same child in the streets, she singing, and he walking by her side looking very pitiable.

5889. (Mr. Walron.) You have had no prosecutions, have you?—We have had no prosecutions. The National Society will not prosecute unless they are sure of a conviction. It is very difficult to get a case. They will not run the risk of failure.

5890. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Did you send the police to make inquiry?—The inquiries are divided among three groups of investigators. The police might get some of the cases, or might not.

5891. If the teachers had said: "We think the parents neglectful," you would not have sent the police to make inquiries at the home?—No; but if the card showed that the case was bad and the report of the investigating officers showed that it was bad, we should send it on to the chief constable.

5892. But not in the first instance?—Not in the first instance.

5893. Do you think you get in your inquiries anything like the full wages of the families?—Do you mean, do we get the absolute truth?

5894. Yes?—No; we do not expect it if we ask for it.

5895. Did you go to the employers?—No; it was decided at the beginning to accept the statement of the parents broadly and not go to the employers. For one thing it would have meant a great deal of work, and apart from that it was thought that it was a little hard.

5896. Supposing that the wages of a particular industry were given at a figure which you knew to be below the proper amount, in a flagrant case what would you do?—We would put that on one side.

5897. You would not then go to the employer?—The majority were out of work.

5898. (Dr. Parsons.) It is not like a recognised trade where you know the price is current in the trade. Very much of the work is casual work?—Yes. We have a great many hawkers in Brighton.

5899. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You have on your form, "Occupation of any other members of family." Supposing the father was out of work, and the rate of wages stated to you of other members of the family who might be van-boys, for instance, was below what you knew to be the rate, would you consider that?—We should take that into consideration if we could detect it, but it is rather difficult to detect it with a form filled in like this. In the case of a brass-worker, if I remember rightly, we rejected that because he must have been earning more money than was stated on the card.

5900. What is the meaning of "Case recommended for advice or admonition as to management"?—That was put in at the suggestion of some of the ladies of the Charity Organisation Society with the idea that where there was bad management in the home, advice might be given to the mother.

5901. Was any actually given?—I cannot say that it was actually given. The card was drawn up at the beginning of the session and it was not fully acted upon.

5902. (Dr. Parsons.) Is there any female sanitary inspector at Brighton who visits the homes?—No, there is not. There is a nurse attached to the Education Committee who visits the homes very regularly.

5903. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) The investigation "as to drinking habits or otherwise" was not carried out, I suppose?—No, because it did not carry us much further.

5904. You decided to feed the children even if the parents did drink?—Yes, undoubtedly. The need of the children was the test and not the character of the parents.

5905. So that you were open to the charge that you were putting more money into the parents' pockets for drink, sometimes?—Yes, that was inevitable.

5906. Do you think that you got hold of all the children in need?—I cannot say that, we covered practically all. There are some children who are so respectable that they conceal their need.

5907. All the disreputable ones got help?—Naturally, they would always come up first.

5908. (Chairman.) Have you anything more you would like to say to us?—I think that the questions have covered pretty well everything. The suggestions are my own personal suggestions, and not those of my committee. I did not know whether the suggestion with regard to working with the guardians was outside the reference of this Committee, or not.

5909. We are very glad to know of any case in which action has actually been taken?—If I might express it rather more fully my own idea in that matter was that the guardians should take up two kinds of cases—(1) where the father is out of work and absolutely no money is coming into the home, and (2) where the father is out of work and the mother and the children earn very little money. Those two groups of cases, I should consider would be Poor Law cases. My own view in going into this conference with the guardians (my committee and the Education Committee may not accept my views) would be that those cases should be thrown on the guardians and after reasonable investigation they should deal with them adequately, far more adequately than we have been able to do it. That having been done we should consider the remaining cases which they would reject, the children of widows, and others they could not receive, and deal with them as best we could.

5910. Do you consider that when the order has been put in force there will still remain a large number of cases in which the work of a voluntary agency would be needed?—Yes, there must be; for instance where a man is at work the guardians cannot possibly relieve him although the money he earns is not sufficient to properly keep his family. Then again widows do not come into the order at all. Where the father is ill and receiving outdoor relief the case is also excluded.

5911. Are you a member of the Education Committee?—No.

5912. You attend as an expert at the conference?—I have been called in as representing the Free Breakfast Committee and being able to give information as to what had been done in the past. If it is done by the guardians it should be done at a central building and not in the schools. You cannot give dinners at the schools. I think there is a difficulty in serving meals at the schools.

5913. Do you think that the teachers have been at all overpressed in the matter?—I do not think so. There is a large staff of teachers attached to each school and the individual burden is not a very heavy one, although I know that some teachers complain of returns and schedules, and nominations, and so on.

5914. Do you think that voluntary help could be more easily obtained for dinners than breakfasts?—If that were so it would be far better to do it outside the schools. They object to outsiders coming to the schools for any purpose.

5915. You think that there are very great objections to a meal in the middle of the day in the schools?—There are very great objections, I think, personally.

5916. (Chairman.) We are much obliged to you.

Mr. JOHN F. MOSS, called; and Examined.

5917. (Chairman.) You are secretary of the Education Committee of the County Borough of Sheffield?—Yes.

5918. For how long have you held that office?—Since May, 1903. I was clerk of the Sheffield School Board for the whole term of the Board.

5919. You were one of the original School Board clerks of the country?—Yes.

5920. About how many schools are there in Sheffield?—We have 100 schools, containing 243 departments.

5921. And roughly how many children on the books?—76,000.

5922. That is near enough, thank you. We propose to put on our notes the *précis* which you have sent in?—Certainly.

Mr. C. D.
Lindsey
1 Aug., 1905.

Mr. J. F.
Moss
1 Aug., 1905.

Mr. J. F. Moss.
1 Aug., 1935.

The *précis* is as follows:—

A. (1) On the formation of the Children's Breakfast Committee in November last all other organizations of similar nature with the exception of the one providing free breakfasts under the supervision of Mr. Jonathan Taylor (who is one of the members of the Education Committee), at a council school in an exceptionally poor district, were merged into the general scheme, and this, too, came under the operation of the Committee early in the following February.

(2) The appeal to the public for funds was issued in the name of the Lord Mayor of the City and the Chairman of the Education Committee. Members of the latter body also took an active part in the administration of the fund, and they had the co-operation of teachers and others including the Committee of the Sheffield branch of the National Union of Teachers. The use of rooms, gas, etc., for the preparation of the meals was granted by the Education Committee free of charge, and the clerical work was done by one of the staff at the Education Office. The caretakers of schools at which breakfasts were given were instructed to render whatever assistance was needed, and gratuities were afterwards given to them out of the funds at the disposal of the Committee.

(3) The breakfasts were given free.

(4) and (5) Head teachers of Elementary Schools within the City were requested to furnish lists of children coming to school apparently without having had proper food. The cases were then visited and reported upon by the school attendance visitors as deserving of assistance or otherwise, after which they were submitted to the Committees which had been formed in each ward of the City to carry out the arrangements, and if by then considered suitable cases for help, the names of the children were placed on the lists for free breakfasts. The children were, however, promptly relieved on the first report, pending the inquiries.

(6) The meals were served at the schools.

(7) No doubt the schools at which a large number of children were provided with breakfast were able to carry out the arrangements more economically than schools providing for a few children only, yet most of the schools kept within the limit imposed by the Committee of one penny per head per meal. It was thought advisable to provide the meals at each of the schools at which necessitous children were in attendance rather than at several centres, so as to avoid the necessity of poorly clad and badly shod children having to pass through the streets from a central hall to their schools on inclement mornings, and also to prevent the possibility of children receiving breakfast and then going home instead of to school.

(8) The Breakfast Committee was only called into existence to meet the abnormal distress arising from a dearth of employment.

B. (1) The total amount expended to the 23rd June last was £918 16s. 10d. Of this sum £755 12s. 9d. had been spent on food; £29 15s. 0d. on apparatus including enamelled mugs; £33 11s. 7d. on printing, stationery, advertising, etc., whilst a sum of £99 17s. 6d. had been paid as gratuities to the caretakers of schools for their assistance. The cost per head of a breakfast inclusive of all expenses works out at 1-1d. £1,187 7s. 5d. was received in response to the appeal made by the Lord Mayor and the Chairman of the Education Committee. This amount was raised with little difficulty as a means of satisfying the needs of the children during a period of exceptional distress, but it cannot reasonably be expected that a similar amount could be raised annually without a good deal of trouble. There has been no attempt to provide meals other than breakfast.

C. (1) to (5) Breakfast consisting of cocoa, with a little milk and sugar, bread and dripping or jam, was given each school morning, and a child whose name was on the list could therefore receive breakfast five times a week. The breakfasts, whether of bread and dripping or bread and jam, seemed to be much relished by the children, many of whom certainly looked a good deal better for the food. The breakfasts were continued during the Christmas holiday and also during the Easter holiday. It was not thought necessary to provide the meals on Saturdays and Sundays as food is found in most of the homes during the week ends. Various charitably disposed persons and religious bodies were also providing free breakfasts on Saturdays or Sundays in

some parts of the City. Whilst the scheme was in full operation the numbers on the lists varied from 1,849 to 2,804, and at present 291 children are on the lists of the four schools at which free breakfasts are being continued. The operations of the full scheme extended from the end of November last to the 31st March, 1935, but it has been thought necessary to continue the help at the four schools referred to up to the present time; and Mr. Jonathan Taylor has expressed a desire to continue the provision of breakfasts during the summer holidays, and thereafter throughout the year. On 23rd June last, 195,939 breakfasts had been provided by the Committee. The teachers retain the lists of those children who have been relieved.

D. Blind and deaf children are sent to institutions and do not become in any way chargeable to the funds of this organisation. The mentally defective children have been given the free breakfasts, and they have also had some other special provision made for them at their respective centres. There is no complete provision for cripple children who do not attend school, except at the hospitals. Some help is given to children of this class by philanthropic ladies who collect them and give them a good meal weekly.

E. If the scheme became a permanent institution there would probably need to be more paid assistance, as however willing the teachers might be to give their services in an exceptional time, they would not be so willing to accept such an arrangement as part of their official duties to be performed regularly, and perhaps throughout the year. Besides the caretakers would expect to be remunerated on a more adequate scale.

Voluntary assistance could be obtained in some places, but it is doubtful whether sufficient of these helpers could be relied upon throughout the period at which meals should be given to large numbers of needy children.

With regard to the administration, it seems desirable to have more searching inquiries made into the circumstances of the parents, and some means should be devised for compelling the idle and negligent to provide for the wants of their children in a legitimate manner, without trenching upon funds of the description contemplated, and that those who could provide for their children without any such help, but will not, should be punished for their neglect. Possibly these cases might be better dealt with by the relieving officers, as the school attendance officers could not spare sufficient time from their other duties, or the officials of Charity Organisation Societies, where they exist, might co-operate and render useful aid in preventing the abuse of the funds.

It should be remembered that what is needed is a permanent system to which recourse could be had at any time throughout the year, though it will, of course, be more particularly drawn upon in times of bad trade or dearth of employment through stress of weather, but great watchfulness is essential from various points of view. There is a considerable number of people who would, if permitted, take advantage of any relief association without absolute necessity. Some of them have been known to excuse themselves by saying that if there is anything to be given away they might as well have a share of it, while others who are well able to work and could actually get employment refuse to do so. In one instance which came under notice last winter a man who was known to be well able to work and could actually have got work if he had tried, when remonstrated with for allowing his children to take advantage of the free breakfasts, said that he had not worked for six years, and would be hanged if he would work now. However this fellow went a little too far and came within the powers of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Acts, and was awarded three months' imprisonment. Such cases ought to be sharply dealt with when the children are well nigh starving. On the other hand, the deserving poor should be helped in adverse times without being compelled to become paupers. Even in times of good trade the wages of many are so small that it is impossible for the poor people to save anything from their earnings for a rainy day, though they can eke out an existence for themselves and families when work is fairly plentiful; and if they fall out of employment, a little help perhaps for a comparatively short space of time would be a real blessing, and save much suffering and hardship, the avoidance of which would surely be desirable. There are some cases too in which widows

struggle to get a living for themselves and their children without applying to the guardians, and not a few of these might be found well deserving of consideration. A little help judiciously given in such cases might save the rates in another direction, as if once these people get the taint of pauperism they lose their self-reliance, and become habitually dependant, with the loss of that laudable pride and self-respect which it seems so desirable to foster.

5923. Would you indicate to us what kind of organisations there were for the purpose of feeding school children in Sheffield before November last?—For the most part there would be kindly-disposed persons who would place in the hands of schoolmasters or managers funds wherewith to buy breakfasts. I do not think there were any dinners, excepting at one of the Roman Catholic schools.

5924. They were quite sporadic in their existence?—Quite.

5925. Were they chiefly connected with particular schools, or with a parochial organisation?—With particular schools. I should mention that there is one little organisation under the care of Mr. Jonathan Taylor, who for some years has done similar work at the Croft Council School. It is a place where there are a good many poor people living, and rather a rough population.

5926. We have a separate return from Mr. Jonathan Taylor of his work at that school, showing that it has been going on for three years, and that he has practically given breakfasts to 100 children per day?—Yes, about that.

5927. Has he now come into line with your breakfast committee?—Yes. His work was merged into ours. We had a meeting last week of the small committee to whom was relegated the question as to how long they should continue, and the Lord Mayor and his friends came to the conclusion that it was not wise to continue the breakfasts at the cost of the Lord Mayor's fund any longer, during the summer time at all events.

5928. So that any continuance will be by Mr. Taylor out of funds which he raises himself?—Yes, and he is quite willing to do that. He is one of the members of the committee, but he works sometimes on independent lines in quite a friendly way. He undertook to carry on whatever was necessary.

5929. We have a separate return from the Roman Catholic schools signed by the Very Reverend Dean Dolan. I gather that in that case they feed about 100 per week in the winter?—Yes.

5930. With dinner generally, and sometimes breakfast?—Yes.

5931. Was that work done quite independently of your committee?—Before our committee started. They have had the free breakfasts since. A well-to-do tradesman has supplied them daily with a quantity of soup and they have had other help of that kind.

5932. Does the committee supply the breakfasts given in the Roman Catholic schools?—Yes; all the schools of the town.

5933. What led to the organisation which was started in November of last year?—It was found that many of the children were coming to school evidently in an unfit state from want of food. It was a time of bad trade. Many people were out of employment, and the Lord Mayor and the chairman of the Education Committee were asked to consider the question. They came to the conclusion that it was better to afford relief in the shape of breakfasts, and the fund was started. It was very readily responded to.

5934. Was there special distress in Sheffield last winter?—There was, but I do not suppose that it was quite so acute as in some other towns.

5935. For Sheffield it was rather specially acute?—It was.

5936. That appeal was responded to to the extent of £1,187?—Yes.

5937. Did that money mostly come in at once, or was it received by degrees throughout the winter?—It was received during the first month or two of the existence of the organisation chiefly.

5938. So that the Committee knew what they had to lay their hands upon?—Yes.

411.

5939. How is the breakfast committee constituted?—We convened a meeting consisting of the School Attendance sub-Committee (a sub-Committee of the Education Committee), some of the members of the School Management sub-Committee and a considerable number of teachers. The chief officials of the local associations were asked to come, and the Lord Mayor and one or two others. We organised Ward Committees. I am not sure that they were all a success.

5940. Is the Committee rated as a sub-committee of the local education authority?—No, it is an independent organisation.

5941. Quite independent?—Yes.

5942. Was it composed of certain proportions of members, or was it rather a miscellaneous body?—A miscellaneous body. The larger proportion of the members, I think, would be teachers.

5943. Did that committee itself meet much?—No, not often. There were two or three meetings at first and then it was left very much in the hands of the officials. The Lord Mayor took a great interest in it and the Chairman of the Education Committee, and the Chairman of the School Attendance sub-Committee.

5944. Did you find that the work of that committee came mainly to yourself to do?—I think that the members of the committee took a fair share of the responsibility. The clerk of the School Attendance Department, and the secretary of the Teachers' Association, who is one of the head teachers, acted as honorary secretaries of this movement.

5945. The Education Committee gave directions that every facility should be given for the use both of schools and officers for the purpose?—Yes.

5946. Why was it determined to give breakfast?—Because that was the easiest meal to prepare. We had not facilities for cooking dinners in each school and we thought it very much better to have the breakfast given in each school so that the children should readily be relieved without necessitating their tramping a distance to a centre. There were some schools in which very few children were fed, and others where a large number were fed.

5947. You did not go on any special principle, considering that breakfast was a more useful meal to a child than a dinner. It was rather other matters that guided you to choose breakfast?—Yes, it was easier.

5948. I suppose that voluntary help is more easily obtained in the middle of the day than for breakfast if you require voluntary help?—I do not know. We cannot depend upon a large amount of voluntary help.

5949. As regards the selection of the children for the breakfasts, the initial lists were drawn up by the teachers?—Yes.

5950. Did the children apply to be put on the lists?—Some of them did, no doubt. The teachers knew from their own knowledge of the children and their state whether they needed food or not. Soon after the breakfasts were started, of course, there were a large number of children who applied for them.

5951. A child who was apparently in need would not be left off the list because he did not apply?—No.

5952. When those lists were drawn up were they sent in to the central committee?—They were given to the attendance officer for the district and he scrutinised them, and then they were sent on to the central committee.

5953. With regard to relief committees for each ward would you tell us about those?—In some of the wards the committees sat very regularly and showed a good deal of personal interest in the dispensing of relief, but in others they did not.

5954. How were the committees composed?—We called together in the first instance the managers of the schools for that particular ward, and the head teachers of the schools in that ward together with the local members of the City Council. We divided the town into a convenient number of districts—I forget how many. One or two wards were in some cases put together. They elected their own chairman and secretary and communicated with us.

Mr. J. F. Moss. 5955. Would the poverty be confined, generally speaking, to some particular wards?—It would largely. From some of the wards we had no application whatever. They courteously declined to start free breakfasts, but in other wards, more particularly in the centre of the town, we had a large number of applications.

5956. These applications were submitted by the school attendance officer to the ward committee?—Yes.

5957. Did the school attendance officer indicate his opinion in the first instance?—Yes. The school attendance officers were called in in consultation with the ward committees.

5958. Did the committees almost invariably follow the opinion of the school attendance officers, or conduct a separate investigation?—I think they were generally guided by the teachers and by the school attendance officers. Some of the members of the committee would know the parents personally, and it was very useful to have their help in that way.

5959. You found that the committees worked very differently? Some were more efficient than others?—Yes.

5960. Now can you tell us at all what proportion of the applications were rejected when the teachers' lists reached the committee?—A fair proportion, but as the scheme got to be worked more thoroughly the teachers were very careful, and the lists were almost wholly accepted.

5961. Did you find that the teachers' initial lists varied very much, some teachers taking a very different view of poverty from the others?—Certainly.

5962. Did the teachers of the three departments, say, in each school, meet together and consult as regards cases where they had brothers and sisters in the school?—I daresay they did, but I have no knowledge of it.

5963. Was any poverty scale applied to these cases?—No.

5964. The test of income per head?—No; we did not inquire into the wages as a rule. We took the evident signs of poverty, and we knew something about the habits and the homes in one way or the other. Curiously enough, amongst the number we had a considerable proportion of widows and others receiving parish relief, which relief did not seem to amount to sufficient to cover the needs of the family.

5965. Was that matter reported to the guardians?—No; we did not make any communication on the subject.

5966. Had you many acting guardians on your relief committees?—I do not think so.

5967. Was any use made of the relieving officers in investigating cases?—No. I do not think that any use was made of them.

5968. Or of any charity organisation societies?—No, unfortunately we have not any in Sheffield.

5969. None at all at present in Sheffield?—No.

5970. When a child's name was put on the breakfast list, how long was it kept there? Was it put on for any definite time?—No. The names were continued while the meals lasted. The officers and the teachers together judged how long they should be retained.

5971. Was there no regular periodical revision of the lists?—Yes, there was a periodical revision.

5972. At what interval?—I cannot quite say.

5973. The meals were served at the schools for the reasons which you give here?—Yes.

5974. Was any difficulty found in getting the schools ready afterwards?—No, the caretakers were there in good time and they got everything cleared away in time for the school to begin at the proper hour. We paid them a small sum.

5975. Were the meals generally served in halls, or class rooms, or where?—In class rooms usually. In some cases we had rooms in the basements that were appropriated for the purpose, but it was altogether a makeshift arrangement. There was no proper room for feeding.

5976. What sort of numbers would there be present at the largest of the centres?—I should think, probably, from 200 to 300.

5977. Would those all be served at once?—I am not quite sure about that.

5978. Was it found that children generally came in time?—Yes.

5979. And did they come regularly?—They came very regularly.

5980. Was any record kept of their attendance at the breakfast when they were once on the list?—Yes, they were always noted.

5981. A child who showed by coming irregularly that the breakfast was not very necessary, or much appreciated would be struck off?—He would be watched and probably struck off.

5982. Were these centres chosen at necessitous schools?—No.

5983. Was a child allowed to attend from another school?—The breakfasts were given at the individual schools. We sent a few children up to the Croft School from a school in a poor district near, but that is the only case in which we have attempted to join the schools. We thought of having centres at first as being more economical, but it was found that the children would be better attended to at their own schools, sometimes there would only be a very small number—about a dozen children having breakfast at their own school.

5984. Supposing there was a necessitous child at a school where no breakfast was served, could it get breakfast anywhere?—Yes; the teacher could easily arrange that.

5985. You made provision for a few cases here and there where it was not worth while to have a special school breakfast?—We had not any case of the kind. We had no necessity for centres. It depends very much you see on the locality in which the school is situated. On the Abbey Dale side of the town, for instance, the children are all children of respectable artisans or small shopkeepers or some thing of that sort. We did not think of supplying breakfasts when they were not asked for. If there was a poor child it would be rather hard on the child I am afraid. There would have been no difficulty in getting breakfast at the nearest school.

5986. If the teacher had represented the case?—If the teacher had represented the case.

5987. (Mr. Walrod.) At how many schools were meals supplied?—Sixty-six schools, containing 184 departments.

5988. (Chairman.) I understand that no distinction was made between Council schools and voluntary schools for this purpose?—None whatever.

5989. You say that the children looked a good deal better for the feeding. Is there any further evidence of the good effect that the breakfasts that you can quote to us?—No, except that they made some of the children more regular in their attendance.

5990. Have the teachers gone out of their way to testify that the children were much better fitted to profit by their lessons?—They have told us from time to time that they are more capable of giving attention to their lessons.

5991. Did you carry the breakfasts on during the Christmas holidays?—Yes.

5992. Was that found really necessary?—It was thought to be necessary at the time, but it is not quite so necessary perhaps as might appear, as there are school treats and various agencies for giving children food at Christmas.

5993. Probably it was more necessary during the Easter holidays, when you also carried them on?—I daresay.

5994. How were they carried on in the holidays? Were they at the schools?—At the schools. If the teachers were away they got friends connected with the Sunday schools or the district committees to come in and assist the caretakers to give the breakfasts.

5995. Did the numbers during the holidays fall considerably?—I believe they did.

5996. Is there any large system in the city of provision of free breakfasts on Saturdays and Sundays?—No, I do not think so.

5997. Do the Salvation Army do any breakfast work in Sheffield?—They do something of the kind, I think. There are one or two religious bodies that got subscriptions together and gave breakfasts or dinners and soup.

5998. The main operations ended on the 31st March, I see. Can you say about how many children were still being fed at that date?—About 2,300 were dealt with during March.

5999. You have mentally defective schools in Sheffield?—Yes.

6000. But not any cripple schools?—No, we have not. The subject is under consideration now.

6001. Is any special arrangement made for meals at the mentally defective schools?—There is some little attempt made to provide for the children, but it is not on any large scale.

6002. Would that be in the shape of a midday dinner?—Yes, they gave them meals at midday. I think that the teachers have usually got friends to help them to provide this. It is not done on any systematic or large scale.

6003. Would the reason of that be that many of the children are distant from their homes?—Some of them are distant from their homes, and some cannot be trusted in the street without guidance, and some of the children are very poor too.

6004. (Miss Lawrence.) All the breakfasts were given free, I understand you to say?—Yes, quite free.

6005. Did you have any objection on the part of the school attendance officers to visiting?—I did not hear of any. I should think they would gladly give their help.

6006. Was it made part of their duty?—We hardly put it in that way, but we should have expected them to do anything they could for the good of the school and the good of the children. They did it very cheerfully.

6007. In many cases were the meals served in class-rooms, or mostly in halls?—I think in the class-rooms usually.

6008. At what time were the breakfasts started?—At 8 o'clock in the morning.

6009. Were the teachers present at eight?—Yes, a little before eight.

6010. Were all the staff present?—No. I think they took it in turn. We left it to the head teacher to arrange with the staff as to how they should supervise the giving out of the meals.

6011. It was looked on as a voluntary act on their part, I suppose?—Yes it was entirely, and we gave the teachers to understand that we merely asked them to volunteer their service. We should not have visited absence on any teacher.

6012. With regard to the gratuities to the caretakers, you say that if it became a permanent thing they would have to be increased. Would you mind saying about what amount the caretaker would receive?—It only came to about 1s. per 100 breakfasts.

6013. Did you have any complaints from them?—Some of them thought it very little, but we called it a gratuity and gave them to understand that we expected them to do what they could for the good of the poor children.

6014. Did they do the cooking of the breakfasts?—They had to boil the water.

6015. To make the cocoa?—Yes.

6016. Virtually they had to serve it?—Yes. They prepare the breakfast. We have some large copper vessels in which they boil the water for cleaning purposes. They cleaned those out and made them useful for preparing the cocoa.

6017. What was the largest number, do you suppose, that was fed on any one morning in one school?—I think it was between 200 and 300. That was in one of the poorer districts of the town. Probably it would be in the Catholic school where the largest number was fed at once.

6018. Do you suppose that there is a midday meal provided each day at the special schools?—I should not like to say, but there is some food given at each centre.

6019. It does not always take the shape of a midday meal?—No, but something of the kind is done for them.

6020. Do the mentally defective children go to the free breakfasts in the ordinary schools?—Some of them have done so.

6021. You do not have breakfasts in the centres at all?—We have tried it both ways.

6022. Which do you find the more successful?—I am afraid I cannot say which is the more successful. The children are generally very kindly treated by their fellows. The centres are in connection with the ordinary school, and breakfasts would be going on in the schools.

6023. The defective children would come across from their centre to the big school?—Yes.

6024. In the case you mentioned, where a man was sent to prison by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, what happened to the children while the man was in prison?—I am afraid I do not know; that is the worst of it. I do not know that they would have been much worse off. Probably they would have been better off by having the father out of the way.

6025. Were the children helped with free breakfasts while he was away?—Yes. That is how we came across him. He could perhaps well have maintained his family if he had liked to work.

6026. Have you worked at all with the guardians and applied to them for assistance in the way of information?—No; we have not applied to them in connection with this movement. Since the issuing of the recent circular we have had a conference with the representatives of the boards of guardians and the Education Committee have offered to place the schools at their disposal if they wished to carry out the order of the Local Government Board, and the services of the caretakers are also at their disposal, but we have not done anything further.

6027. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) They have not answered yet, I suppose?—They have not.

6028. Did you find in the cases of those widows who were receiving sufficient relief that it was due to some scale of the guardians?—I have no doubt it would be, but we did not enquire very particularly into the cases.

6029. They have a scale, I suppose, as to how much they give to widows, according to the size of the families? Yes, they have.

6030. You did not make any recommendation to them for an increase of their scale?—No.

6031. I suppose it would be partly the bad managers among the widows who could not get on, while some of them could, on the scale?—I think it very likely. I was surprised to find how large a number of those we helped were receiving help from the guardians. Perhaps we ought to have been a little more watchful. We did not find it out until the end of the season. If a child appears to be suffering from want of food it is very hard to refuse.

6032. Did the guardians give out-relief in kind or in money?—I believe they gave it partly in kind and partly in money.

6033. The children ought to have had sufficient food if the guardians were assisting?—I suppose they ought to have done if the scale be a correct one.

6034. You think it is very desirable not to have the taint of pauperism if it can be avoided?—I think so.

6035. I suppose that if the Local Government Board order is brought into anything like full working the taint of pauperism may disappear?—I do not know. It disfranchised the unemployed who have had recourse to it, and there is a strong feeling against it on the part of some of the guardians and members of the Education Committee.

6036. Did the ward committees do the revision of the lists that you mentioned just now?—Some of them did.

6037. I suppose they varied as to whether they revised at all?—They varied very much.

6038. When they revised the list did they get the evidence of all the attendance officers and teachers and anybody else?—I think so, but I did not attend those meetings. I did not give that personal supervision that perhaps I should have done if I had been differently circumstanced.

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6039. The children were relieved before they were reported on, pending inquiry?—Yes, if they appeared to be urgent, needy cases.

6040. If they did not need it were they knocked off the list?—Yes. Some of the parents who came forward and got their children put upon the free list for breakfast were utterly unworthy of it. In one case the income of the family was over 30s. a week. It was a fairly large family. They sent the children to school for free breakfasts. They thought that they had as much right to it as some of their neighbours, they said.

6041. But you did not take into account anything but the income of the parents. You did not take into account neglect, or whether they were deserving?—No. I am afraid we helped a good many who were not very deserving, such as negligent parents.

6042. You say you think that more searching inquiries are desirable?—Yes, if we can punish the parents, but it seems hard to punish the children by withholding from them that necessary food which they are wanting. The problem is too deep for me to unravel.

6043. You think that some means should be devised, but you cannot suggest any?—No, I wish I could.

6044. (Dr. Parsons.) Would not disfranchising the parent be a fitting punishment for not providing for the children if he was able to do so?—I think so, but I am not sure that I could persuade other people of that.

6045. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) You think the funds were to some extent abused by parents of that kind?—Yes, but not to a large extent.

6046. You speak of a permanent system being necessary. Would there be any large number of permanent cases?—With regard to the Crofts district, from what Mr. Taylor tells me, he thinks there will be from 80 to 100 children needing food all the year through.

6047. For what kind of reasons?—People in the old Sheffield trades who have only a very limited employment, have work for only two or three days a week, perhaps.

6048. And that is so all the year round?—To a large extent.

6049. You say that, even in times of good trade, the wages of many are small?—Yes. When a man has a large family he cannot save very much out of 18s. or 21s. a week.

6050. To some extent then, I suppose, the breakfasts are supplementing wages?—I am afraid they are.

6051. And tending to keep wages at a low rate?—Yes.

6052. (Dr. Parsons.) What is the proportion of children relieved out of the total number of children attending school in Sheffield?—About 4 per cent. of the children on the school registers.

6053. (Mr. Walrand.) Are the meals separately cooked for each school?—Yes.

6054. Have you ever considered the advisability of getting a cart to take the coffee about to the different schools?—It would not be any advantage. We give cocoa. It can readily be made in a small as well as in a large quantity.

6055. You would save the caretakers' payments by means of that arrangement?—I do not think it would save very much. They would still have the rooms to prepare.

6056. You do not think it would be worth while, in fact?—No. It would, I daresay, if we were cooking dinners.

6057. Has there been much discussion about the question of providing dinners?—No, we have not had much discussion in Sheffield on that subject.

6058. What is your own opinion as to the relative value of dinner and breakfast?—I should suppose that a midday meal would be the more solid meal but the breakfasts seem to have supplied the extreme want.

6059. Is there any means by which children can get a cheap or free dinner in Sheffield, do you think? Are there any soup kitchens or agencies of that kind?—We have no large systematic provision.

6060. (Dr. Parsons.) Cheap restaurants?—No, not many, but I do not think that Sheffield is so bad, generally speaking, as some of the other large towns. The

people are fairly well off, but of course there is a large proportion who are always in poverty.

6061. A great many children that you feed are I suppose suffering as much from improper feeding as from under-feeding?—I daresay.

6062. You have a medical officer for the Education Committee, I think?—We have not a medical officer regularly visiting the schools. The question is now being considered. We are seeking to provide the teachers with all the information we can get with a view to their being our officers to watch the children.

6063. To pick out children who appear to be improperly fed as well as underfed?—Yes.

6064. That will be systematically done?—Yes. We have just appointed the Deputy Medical Officer of Health for the district as the lecturer on School Hygiene at the Training College, and we are arranging for him to give a course of lectures to all the acting teachers. No doubt the committee will arrange for him to pay occasional visits to the schools, but we have not attempted to examine individual scholars at the schools.

6065. His lectures will cover a large field?—Yes.

6066. Cleanliness, and so on?—Yes, and the feeding of children. We have lectures now on the feeding of children, the proper kind of food, and so on, and feeding bottles.

6067. Who gives them?—We have a staff of about twelve or fourteen peripatetic science teachers who give demonstrations at the various schools. They take their apparatus about and give experimental lessons.

6068. Have the teachers pointed out to these lecturers, or to any of the relief committees, that there are children suffering from improper feeding?—I could not say so.

6069. It has hardly gone far enough yet?—No. That is one of the difficulties I have seen in making use of the medical officer. If he should find children suffering in any way, we have no means of helping the child, excepting in the way of food, of course, which we can do by organisations of this kind. We attempt to find out the defective eyesight of the children and issue directions to the teachers with regard to it. Where necessary, the children are sent to the infirmary or hospital, but we cannot provide the spectacles. In a large proportion of these cases I am afraid the children are left to take their chance.

6070. If you found that a child was being improperly fed would you get some one to communicate with the parents and suggest other kinds of food, and so on?—We should do so probably through the lady inspectors of the sanitary authority under the Medical Officer of Health.

6071. With regard to the man who was prosecuted, who took up the prosecution?—The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Our officers give information of those cases wherever they find it desirable.

6072. Have you often communicated with them?—Yes, we have often communicated with them.

6073. How many times have they prosecuted?—There have been a great number of prosecutions, but you see the cases are very difficult to prove.

6074. They are unwilling to take up a case unless there is practically a certainty of procuring a conviction we understand?—I have not had any complaint of that sort, but they have to prove that a child is actually undergoing suffering.

6075. From direct neglect or cruelty?—Yes.

6076. But there have been several prosecutions?—Yes. We have given the society all the help we could.

6077. Have there been many convictions out of those?—I cannot say the proportion, but a number of parents have been convicted from time to time.

6078. The case of this man is not the only one?—No.

6079. There is no reluctance on the part of the magistrates to convict?—Some of the magistrates are very willing to be pretty severe on such cases.

6080. (Chairman.) Is there much work for women in Sheffield which leads to the mothers being absent in the middle of the day?—They are not employed largely

in the factories. Some of the women are, but I should think that Sheffield has a smaller proportion than many of the textile districts.

6081. Do you think that most children would go home to some sort of meal in the middle of the day?—I think so.

6082. Would many be sent out with a penny or a halfpenny to fend for themselves?—No. I do not think that prevails much in Sheffield.

6083. You do not think there would be any very obvious chance for a cheap restaurant supplying a meal at a penny or three half-pence cost price?—I hardly think so. It might be a great boon in some parts of the town.

6084. But you have not had the matter brought specially before your notice?—The reports which have come to me are to the effect that very often the children are sent without breakfast because the mothers do not get up, for instance.

6085. Have you anything to add to your evidence that we have failed to ask you about?—It does not occur to me at present that I can usefully offer anything further. I wish I could solve the problem as to how the parents are to be brought to book who are negligent.

Mr. G. F. GRANT, called; and Examined.

6090. (Chairman.) You are honorary secretary of the Hull School Children's Help Society?—Yes.

6091. Would you tell us when the Society was established?—In 1885.

6092. Has it been working continuously ever since that date?—During the winter months in each season.

6093. I have before me here the last three Reports of the Society for 1901-2, 1902-3, and 1903-4. I notice that since the beginning of that period the operations of the Society have been very largely extended?—That is so.

6094. What has led to that? Have there been any particular reasons?—During the years that we have been in operation, it has varied from various causes. During the dock strike in Hull, which was previous to this, we came up above some of the amounts that are shown in the Reports that you have. It has varied according to the necessities of the seasons, and it has varied according to the amount of money we have been able to obtain.

6095. Have you been rather guided by the amount of money or the amount of distress?—Those things are rather inter-connected. The Press are very good to us. When the distress is bad we get the Press to notice our meetings and that causes subscriptions to come in. The last year or two the question has attracted more attention and got more attention in the Press. Some of the principal items in the last Report, "Amount collected by the Hull Daily Mail £330," "Amount collected by Eastern Morning News and Hull Daily News £218 19s. 10d." Those are substantial amounts.

6096. To take the years I mentioned the number of meals was 1901-2, 59,000 odd; 1902-3, 100,000 odd; 1903-4, 214,000 odd. What has it been during 1904-5? Has it still further increased?—200,448.

6097. It was rather smaller last winter than the winter before?—Yes, a little.

6098. Has the income been much the same?—The income has been pretty much the same.

6099. We have nothing before us at present as to the income for this year?—We have not our accounts out yet.

6100. Perhaps you would tell us what kind of sum you have received?—We have spent all the money we have had. We have had to cease operations on account of there not being any more money. We have spent about £1,000. I have not the particulars with me. The meals cost much the same. It is a corresponding amount in proportion to the number of meals.

6101. The income has been a little smaller and consequently operations have been a little smaller also?—That is so.

It is a very difficult problem. I do not think there is any difficulty as a rule in getting help for the children. Children appeal to everybody. How far you should relieve the worthless parents is very often a serious question with those who are willing to give for the help of the children themselves.

6086. Do you think it likely that any serious alteration will be made in the system owing to the Local Government Board Order?—There does not seem to be any great inclination to take it up in Sheffield.

6087. Has it been suggested that there would be difficulty in getting voluntary contributions in view of that order?—There would be difficulty if the order were carried out, but I do not see any prospect at present of either the guardians or anybody else working it very readily.

6088. (Dr. Parsons.) There are two boards of guardians in Sheffield, are there not?—Two—Sheffield and Ecclesall. The Education Committee are quite willing to do their part in providing the rooms and offering facilities to the guardians, but I do not think that the guardians quite see their way to take up the work; at all events they have not shown any sign yet.

6089. (Chairman.) We thank you very much indeed.

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6102. You say that the Society is practically the only agency in Hull for supplying free meals to children in attendance at elementary schools. Are there many parochial or congregational agencies in Hull?—There are some, but we seek to prevent that by the way in which various sects and sections of the community are represented on our Committee. We have tried to keep all these different things under one umbrella, as it were, if I may use that expression. We have representatives of Anglicans, Nonconformists, Jews, Socialists, anyone and everyone who will help us to feed the children. Now and again in the winter churches and chapels may have given 300 to 400 meals for an odd week or two, but not continually during the winter season.

6103. Have you a large Committee?—Yes.

6104. The General Committee consists of forty people or more?—Yes.

6105. Does that Committee meet?—No; practically it is in the hands of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee meets only.

6106. That is a Committee of more than twenty persons?—Yes.

6107. Does that Executive Committee meet actually?—Yes; when meetings are called. Besides the officials there are six to eight members, who take a regular and continuous interest in the work of the society. Other members attend occasionally.

6108. Do those six or eight persons regularly attend the meetings?—Yes.

6109. How often are the meetings held?—Every fortnight in the winter months, in the Town Hall.

6110. What is the attitude of the Local Educational Authority on the matter?—We have several members of the local education authority on our Board; for instance, Canon Lambert, who is one of our Vice-Presidents. He has been Chairman of the School Board. Mr. T. B. Holmes is a Nonconformist; Mr. Locking is a Nonconformist. Mr. Holmes is not a member of the present education authority, but Mr. Locking and Canon Lambert are very active members.

6111. They do not sit on your Committee as representatives of the Local Education Authority?—No; they are elected independently.

6112. Does the authority give you use of rooms in schools?—Not the Education Authority. The City Corporation allow the annual meeting to be held in the Town Hall and they allow us to have a room in the Town Hall for the Committee every time we require it.

6113. Is that the Executive Committee of which you spoke?—Yes.

6114. The education authority recognise the existence of the society by allowing teachers to distribute the

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tickets?—Certainly. They benevolently look upon us and give us any assistance they can. The returns of the schools and the attendances, and things of that sort, they supply us with, and they give us the right of entry of any school we wish to visit. We have a right to go in; we are empowered to go and enquire as to the state of the children and talk to the teachers and ask how they are getting on with their distributions, and so forth.

6115. Do they place the school attendance officers at your disposal at all?—Not specially, but the teachers get from them what information they require. That is understood. We do not have any direct communication with the school attendance officers.

6116. Do your society, as such, go at all into the question of whether the tickets are being given to worthy recipients, or do they accept the teacher's decision simply?—That question very often comes up at Committee meetings, and individual cases are sometimes cited where children appear to have had two or three tickets in their possession. You cannot avoid it in the way in which we have gone to work. The matter is left entirely to the discretion of the teachers. In visiting the teachers we find that many of them take an interest in the children and their condition, and they feel exceedingly being shut up with poor starving children. In many cases the teachers themselves supplement what is done, especially the girls' teachers. If they have any heart in them, and the children are coming to school in the morning in a distressed condition, they have something in the way of breakfast going on when they arrive—something supplementary. That is an exceptional thing. It is not done all round in all the schools. We accept the teacher's decision simply.

6117. You have no visitors belonging to the society who follow cases up and investigate?—Not individual cases—not to their homes.

6118. All the meals that you give are given free, I understand?—They are all given free.

6119. Was that the result of careful consideration by the society?—It has never been considered on any other basis. It has never seemed to enter our minds that we should get any of them to pay anything towards the meals. We have got our meals exceedingly cheap.

6120. You do not supply actual meals yourselves at any point?—No. We contract through other people for the meals to be supplied.

6121. The whole of your work is done through tradesmen and other agencies?—Yes, principally through the operations of the Hull People's Public House Company, Limited. I may say that the chairman of that company is the chairman of our society—Alderman Fraser. That has been done by them more as a matter of philanthropy than business.

6122. (Mr. Warond.) That is a temperance society?—Yes.

6123. (Chairman.) What are your arrangements with that company?—Our arrangements are that they supply the meals at a penny per head. We buy the tickets and pay for them, and have to run the risk of their finding their way back again. As you will notice in our balance sheet, there are eight other centres where food is supplied. In respect of those we have to pay 1½d. each.

6124. What you mean by a centre is a recognised place of business?—Yes, where the food is supplied.

6125. Has the Hull People's Public House Company several centres?—Yes, they have sixteen or eighteen cocoa houses in various parts of the town. It is a very awkward name to outsiders—the Hull People's Public House Company, Limited. In my *précis* I put "Temperance."

6126. What do you generally call them?—Cocoa houses.

6127. Out of the £963 spent in 1903-4 on meals, £725 went to this Public House Company?—Yes.

6128. And the rest went to eight other tradesmen?—You may call them refreshment-house keepers.

6129. Have you special arrangements with those persons that certain things are to be supplied for a certain ticket?—Yes, we have.

6130. Would you tell us what the arrangements with them are?—The arrangement is principally that soup

and bread is supplied for the ticket. That is chiefly what is supplied by them.

6131. Have you an example of the tickets that are issued?—No. I am sorry to say I have not brought those. They are little slips of tickets. On the ticket is printed, "Free meal for child only," "to be supplied at"—the place appointed—"on behalf of the Hull School Children's Help Society." We get pink tickets from the Public House Company. They are in books of twelve. These are packed up in packets and sent by post to each school every week, so many for each department, so that there is a regular distribution of tickets. We keep a record of every school and every department and the date when we send so many tickets into each department. I have not brought a book.

6132. You know exactly how many tickets each department has received?—Yes.

6133. Is there any blank on the ticket for a name to be filled in, or a signature to be put?—No.

6134. When a child has received a ticket can he present it at any of these places?—He should not do so, but some of them do it with regard to the cocoa houses. The tickets issued by the Public House Company will not do for other centres. They issue 1d. tickets. We have to pay 1½d. at the other centres. The others are green tickets and we do not pay for the green tickets until they are collected. With the Cocoa House Company, if we get £20, £30, £40, or £50 worth of tickets, we pay for them and distribute them, but with the green tickets we only pay for the tickets collected.

6135. Is there considerable difference between the number issued and the number brought back?—There are about 4 or 5 per cent. not brought back. We have tested it several times; we do not know where the tickets are; they may have been lost.

6136. What security have you that the tickets are used by the children to whom they are issued and not by other persons?—It is a standing rule with us that only the child itself shall receive the meal at the place appointed for it to receive it. I do not say it is always carried out.

6137. But the tradesman would not know that it was the child who received the ticket?—He would not know in the case of an individual child. These centres are all arranged for as near a school as possible. You can judge of the condition of the children in Hull. We have a very low class of labour—dock side labour. There is always a very large quantity of very poor people who earn very little money. In the winter they are out of labour and the children very soon get into a destitute condition. You see them coming up by scores to the various centres, and you cannot question for a moment that the children require the meals.

6138. What security have you that the child gets a wholesome meal in exchange for the ticket?—By going round and inspecting. I go round myself sometimes and so do other members of the committee. The Cocoa House Company, being in a position to make soup, make most excellent soup. They take a benevolent view of it, their chairman being our chairman.

6139. Can a child get a choice when he presents a ticket?—No, not much. He can at some of the centres but not at others. It depends on the character of the people who are supplying the meals. If you have to do with people who put their hearts into it it makes a difference. If a cocoa house keeper has sympathy with the work he does more for the child, and provides Irish stew, rice pudding, potato or treacle pudding, and so on, but that is only exceptional. The bulk of the help is by meat and vegetable soup made in large quantities and very good stuff by boiling bones and things of that sort. A good dish is given and a good piece of bread with it.

6140. Is there any limitation as to the time of day at which the tickets may be presented?—They are supposed to be for a midday meal. They are available for breakfasts if the children have not had anything to eat. They are sent out with one of the tickets and they are supplied with cocoa, coffee, tea, and bread and jam or bread and dripping, etc.

6141. Might not a child get sweets instead of the whole some food in exchange for one of the tickets?—Not at

the Public House Company, but elsewhere it is possible. I have heard of cases, but it is exceptional. I have heard of a woman getting six tickets and asking for half a pound of sausages for them. The people would not supply them.

6142. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) She did not get the sausages?—No.

6143. (Chairman.) The tradesmen whose names are mentioned are cocoa-room and refreshment-room keepers in every case?—Yes, or perhaps men who keep a porkbutcher's shop and have bones and things of which they can make soup. They are not Aerated Bread Company's shops, or anything of that sort, but they are suitable for the children who go there. They get a good meal. With regard to a refreshment house down at the dock side you may judge what class of refreshment house it is.

6144. You say in your *précis* that the society has found it necessary that a fairly large number of children should attend at each centre of distribution. Would you tell us what is the precise meaning of that?—You see if people have to prepare soup, or arrange for children they must know that they will have a certain quantity. It is not worth anyone's while to undertake it for only five or six children every day.

6145. How are you able to guarantee that a certain number of children shall come, if the tickets are available at any point?—By instructing the teachers to tell the children the centre appointed for the particular school.

6146. It depends on compliance by the children with instructions given to them by the teacher?—Yes.

6147. Do the teachers apply to the society for the number of tickets they will need?—They do, but if you will notice the composition of our committee we have so many representatives of the head teachers of elementary schools on the committee and they attend the meetings.

6148. Some of the members of the executive committee are teachers?—Yes. We try to secure their interest. Those teachers are very assiduous in their attention.

6149. Do you trust to them to keep an eye as to the number required for each school. Would they advise you of the need of each school?—No. We have a record of the tickets supplied. We get a certain amount of experience of what each school requires. Each school is visited during the winter season and we ask them how many they are using every day, what quantity they have on hand, and whether or no they want a larger supply. That is regulated by what our funds are and the need, and things are balanced in that way. I find that the teachers are really the most valuable members of our society. We always seek to make them feel that they are members of the society and to get them interested in the work.

6150. Do you find that there is great variety between the view of one teacher and the view of another teacher in the way in which the need is estimated?—Yes, they vary, but the agreement is wonderful. With regard to some of them who are putting their hearts into it—the state of the children and the work they are carrying on is distressful to them. When you visit you see twelve to twenty poor children who have not had a meal, and many of the teachers are very distressed about it.

6151. Have you found it necessary to reduce the demands of particular teachers in particular schools?—Yes. If we find they accumulate tickets we make a record and at the next distribution we send them a fewer number. We ask how many they have on hand.

6152. Are there special arrangements made at any of the centres for particular tables for children to sit at?—In some cases where there are very large numbers. This last season we found that the cocoa-house had not a suitable centre. That is the only case in which we have engaged a room. The Salvation Army in one of the poor neighbourhoods allowed us to have one of their rooms on condition that we recompensed the care-taker, and the Cocoa House Company sent down men with soup in large cauldrons which was put near the stove. It was done at 1d. per head—the same price. You would have 300 or 400 children a day in that place, and it was astonishing to see how the children improved visibly before you in their physical condition. I used to taste the soup myself and it was most excellent. It was

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made of vegetables and bones and meat boiled up. The larger the quantity of soup made at once the better the soup is found to be.

6153. Have you any further evidence than what you have seen with your own eyes as regards the effect of the meals on the children?—Yes. We have evidence from the education authority that it helps to keep up the attendance of the children at the schools. All our tickets are given away in the schools. We are a School Children's Help Society.

6154. Yes?—It is an inducement to children to go to school. The people on the education authority and our committee have stated at our meetings that it has certainly affected the attendance at school.

6155. Does that mean that teachers would use it largely as a reward for good attendance?—No. It is the necessity of the children. We have never looked at it in that light.

6156. They would come to school in order to get a ticket?—It would be a further inducement. If the mother was in a destitute condition it would be a further inducement for the children to come to school if they could get a meal.

6157. Is any definite arrangement made by teachers to keep a child regularly on the relief list?—No; that is against our rule. We have a rough rule that the society only gives a meal every other day so as to supplement, as it were, what the parents do. We do not want to keep the children or to induce that idea if we can help it.

6158. It is a rule of your society that a child shall only receive a meal every other day?—That is a rough rule given to the teacher. If there is a distressing case where a meal is needed every day, it is given every day. We leave it to their discretion. If they are at all short of tickets they would be given on alternate days.

6159. Are the tickets available on other than school days?—If they have them by them they are. They are supposed to go straight away on the school day and get the meal.

6160. But they could be used on Saturdays, or during the holidays?—Yes. At the end of the season, when we give up work, we issue to the poorest school the whole of the tickets that we have and tell the teachers, "You must spread those out as long as you can at your discretion." That is when we cease operations till the next winter season.

6161. When does that point when you cease generally come?—It comes about May. We have extended up to June and beyond. When the dock strike was on we had to go on for a long time.

6162. Do you find that the numbers fall as the season advances?—Yes, materially. It is rather cruel in individual cases, but one healthy thing that the society does is that it does not continue its operations all the year, because the supply would create a demand with certain classes of people. If they knew that meals were to be had they would be always asking.

6163. When the distribution ceases what happens to a child who is really in want, under present conditions?—The children are thrown on their own resources. There is nothing else for it. We treat the thing in a lump. It may be cruel to say so. We do not treat the individual cases, and that is why we think it wants following out.

6164. No tickets are distributed in the holidays, I understand, though they might be used then?—If the teachers had any on hand, and they knew of very bad cases, it would be a personal matter for the teachers. The Society is not supposed to distribute any.

6165. You make in your *précis* suggestions for improved organisation?—Yes. "From the experience we have gathered in the working of our Society we would suggest that the greater part of the assistance during the winter months should be rendered by charitable societies with the exception of the chronic cases of distress which come under the observation of the teachers, which cases should be handed over to the officers of the Poor Law Board for their special and individual attention. We also feel that all charitable societies should be kept entirely clear of the Poor Law authorities in the eyes of the

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public in carrying out the work of benevolence. If such were the case we might still continue to receive the support of the public as heretofore."

6166. Have you anything further to say on this point?—I can only emphasise that very often people come to our Committee with certain odd cases. When you are administering 200,000 meals, as we do in the season, there must be odd cases which cannot be followed up. Five or six particular cases have been found out. Probably those cases should be attended to.

6167. Do they bring to you cases which have not been attended to and which they think should be, or cases which they think have been wrongly assisted?—A case occurs to my mind of a man who was having 32s. a week. He had a wife and two or three children. He gave his wife 12s. a week and spent £1 himself. The children were not well looked after. It was not our place to do anything.

6168. Were the children receiving tickets from your Society?—They came to school in a state of destitution. We got to know of this. We could not starve the children to bring the man to his senses.

6169. They were, as a matter of fact, receiving assistance?—They were receiving assistance. Further than that, the man was asked for 7d. for the children to go for a Sunday school trip, but he would not give the money. I mention that to show that there are cases we cannot follow up.

6170. Does your society ever call in the officers of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children?—When cases have been brought to my knowledge in visiting the schools, I have suggested to the teachers that they should send to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, informing them that they would not be called upon to appear in the matter. In many cases the condition of the children has been very much improved by the visit of the society's officer. In Hull some of the people who have not looked at the subject all round have thought that we might amalgamate more, and not have so many agencies, but our society, being free of all officialdom, and free of all penalty, and so on, gets its money better than if it were amalgamated with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. We should not stand on the same footing with the public as we do. All the money we get virtually goes to the children.

6171. The money is given to all schools without regard to denomination?—Yes. In our returns we tell you what the Church schools get and what the Council's schools and the Catholic schools and the Hebrew schools get.

6172. (Miss Lawrence.) Do you at all distinguish in your own mind between what you call hungry children and under-fed children?—I call the under-fed children chronic cases. They are always in that condition. There is a certain percentage in certain schools in poor neighbourhoods, who, winter and summer, are always in the same condition.

6173. We have been told that a considerable number of children are underfed because they have had unsuitable food, but are not hungry?—That is a question, I am afraid, which I have not looked into. It strikes me that more children suffer from want of food. I do not think there are many who are distressed in our neighbourhood by getting unsuitable food except very young children being brought up by their mothers. I refer to school children who have come under my observation.

6174. In the case of negligent parents you would still feed the children, I gather from what you said just now?—Yes. If a teacher says, "That child's father is a butcher" or a "slaughterman and gets a lot of money, but he lets the child want, and so forth, we cannot say, "Do not give the ticket." It is given, but I would say to the teacher, "Send the address of the man to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children to see if something cannot be done." You will see that all the little attention that can be given in that way voluntarily, and so forth, does not affect the great mass of children in Hull. There is no proper supervision of the great quantity of underfed children.

6175. What do you suppose is the largest number a day that gets tickets from one school?—That depends; the school varies. In some departments there are, say,

250 children. I have found from experience that in the poor neighbourhoods it runs up to about 10 per cent. of the attendances that require meals.

6176. (Dr. Parsons.) In the whole of Hull, or merely the poor schools?—Principally in the poor schools. The higher grade schools and the schools in the better class neighbourhoods we never send tickets to.

6177. (Miss Lawrence.) Do the head teachers of each department confer together, or do they work independently, with regard to giving away tickets?—We allot the tickets and send them under cover to the boys' teacher, who distributes them to the other departments. In that sense they must confer. Our schools are so arranged that each department has a very similar number of scholars.

6178. Would it be possible that a boy from one family might be getting a dinner ticket and not a girl?—It might be possible.

6179. Or the other way on?—They might not give it on the same day in the boy's department as in the girls', the days being alternate days.

6180. It would be unlikely that children from the same family would not get a ticket at some time during the week?—Yes. A ticket would be sure to be given at some time during the week.

6181. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do not the teachers form varying estimates as to what constitutes an underfed child?—Yes.

6182. The master might think that the boy was not in want while the mistress thought the girl was?—Yes. Some have more heart. I have to caution some not to give them all away at once, and others have tickets on hand at the end of the season.

6183. You send about the same number for each department?—Yes.

6184. The meals are rather regulated by the supply of tickets than by the number of children at any moment?—Yes, according to our means. The Committee consider how much they will spend during the next fortnight. We take the record that we have been keeping all these years of what they have been having every fortnight.

6185. Your record would be rather of what they have been having than what you yourself, from personal investigation, think is the need of the school?—Yes, that would be so. There are other members of the committee who visit as well as myself.

6186. You said you limit the number if the tickets are not used?—Yes. If they accumulate tickets we do not send a further quantity.

6187. The teacher with a very large heart gets the largest number?—Yes. We exercise a little judgment. We know the wants of the neighbourhood.

6188. You do not know whether the teachers visit the homes and make enquiries?—I do not say they would not do it but they know the children and enquire. For instance, ten or twelve are brought out when I go and ask, "What are your father and mother, and how many are there at home?" and so forth. We encourage the teachers to take as much personal interest in the children as they can, but the teachers would not have time to visit much.

6189. Do the teachers keep any record of individual cases?—I think not, except when a very bad case impresses itself on their minds.

6190. If the father got into work in the course of the season would the teachers be likely to find that out?—I do not know that they could in all cases, but when work has improved a child has said: "My father has got work; I do not want a ticket to-day."

6191. These would be rather rare cases, would they not?—Yes. Coming into contact with the teachers I know that they get to know a great deal about the children.

6192. A good deal of the work is irregular dock work, is it not?—Yes, there are a great many dock labourers in Hull.

6193. So that the parents might be in work one day and out the next?—Yes. It is casual labour.

6194. Your committee thought that meals on alternate days were sufficient for the children?—Yes, as a sort of

rough rule for the teachers. We are open to assist the parents over a time of stress and difficulty, but we do not want them to imagine that we are willing to keep the children. There are parents who will prompt the children to ask for tickets when there is no occasion to do it.

6195. The teachers would not take into consideration the character of the parents?—No.

6196. They would simply consider the need of the child?—Yes, that is the great thing.

6197. If it was known that a father or mother drank you would not take any notice of it?—No.

6198. You have never had any reason to feel that you were so short of money that you could not do what was necessary?—No, and some of us have always had faith that if we did the work rightly we should get the money.

6199. (Dr. Parsons.) Has any action been taken in Hull under the Local Government Board's recent order?—I have not heard of any except by hearsay. The education authority and the Poor Law people have had a conference, I have heard.

6200. There are two boards of guardians in Hull?—Yes.

6201. If the guardians acted according to the Local Government Board's order, that is to say, relieved certain classes of children, would that affect your work?—So far as I know the guardians say they do not yet understand it, and they have asked the relieving officers and others, and they do not seem quite to understand how they are to go to work. Is a child to apply to a relieving officer for a meal? I heard it put in that way.

6202. Is there accommodation at the People's Public House Company's cocoa rooms for a number of children?—Sometimes when there is a great crowd of children there is a difficulty in that way. It is an exceptional business at an exceptional time when they are busy in other ways, and I must say it has not been always quite as satisfactory as we could wish. Sometimes the children have had to wait outside.

6203. And there has been rather a scramble for meals, perhaps?—Yes.

6204. What was the reason for adopting this plan of feeding them at cocoa rooms instead of providing for them at school centres; was it because it was cheaper?—Yes. The cocoa-house people include utensils and everything in the penny. We could not do it cheaper. It has been asked whether the education authority could not use the cookery classes for the meals, but most of the places where they have cookery classes are not situated in the poor neighbourhoods. The point is, to have a centre convenient to the school, and some of the schools in the very poorest neighbourhoods do not have the cookery arrangements. One thing that has always struck me is that I do not think anything more ought to be thrown on the teachers if anything is done in the matter. If you gave meals in the school it would make a difficulty with the teachers. They cannot be there at meal times and at ordinary times as well. That is a difficulty which suggests itself to me. You would want a fresh set of people. Hitherto they have had the tickets and simply distributed them.

6205. (Mr. Walrond.) Have you any means of knowing if it is the rule for the same child to be fed right through the session?—I think it will follow that the same child is

fed right through the session. One test that I have applied to find how they are off is the state of the penny bank. It is nearly always the same children who put the money in, and nearly always the same children who never have any money in. The destitute are the destitute and the provident are the provident. They very seldom alter. You never find those who put money in the bank among the destitute, or those who are destitute putting money in the bank. There are just the two classes.

6206. You do not think there are many odd meals given?—If necessary in the winter months, if a child came without anything to eat in the morning, a ticket would be given and it would go out and get a breakfast.

6207. Is that largely done?—No, it is exceptional.

6208. As a rule does a parent know when his child will get a meal?—No; he knows that there are tickets for meals in the schools, but he will not know distinctly when the child will get a meal.

6209. You say that the rule is to give a meal on alternate days, and if a child is put on the feeding list a parent can very soon calculate on what day the child will have a meal?—Yes, but it is left to the discretion of the teachers. There is no hard and fast rule. This is only to give them more judgment in the matter. The discretion of the teachers in each school is the deciding factor as to how the children are treated. We do not enforce any particular rules in that way.

6210. You do not know, I suppose, how many children are given a meal every day?—No. We know how many tickets are issued that week. We knew once because the education authority sent round to all the teachers, through Dr. Riley, the secretary of the education authority in Hull. In the return made by the teachers I was pleased to see that there was hardly a department that had not had some of our tickets. They had gone all through the schools. How many tickets they had had was shown. The clerk to the education authority sent word to every teacher to keep a register of how many tickets were given away for a few days, or a week.

6211. I did not mean how many dinners were given on every day, or any day, but how many meals a week individual children got. Have you any record of that?—No.

6212. (Chairman.) What did the return of which you speak show?—It showed how many tickets were given away in every department in the town.

6213. In what way was it satisfactory. You said you were pleased?—It did us immense good. It showed how many children were getting meals in every part of the town. We did not know anything about the test at the time. We did not know the test was being made. The view of the education authority was that they had better strengthen our hands in every way they could.

6214. It showed the amount of ground you were covering?—Yes.

6215. (Chairman.) Have you anything to add to your evidence?—No, I do not know that I have, thank you. If the teachers had two classes of tickets, our benevolent ticket and tickets for the children to come under the care of the workhouse authorities, and if they were allowed to decide which class of ticket they should give I think that that would be an improvement. If they could take the address of the child in a chronic case and put the Poor Law authorities on the track I think it would be a very good thing.

Miss R. A. WARRY, called; and Examined.

6216. (Chairman.) You are specially connected with the Northey Street Council school?—Yes.

6217. Would you tell us where that school is situated?—It is situated by the river side just south of the Commercial Road.

6218. In Limehouse?—In Limehouse.

6219. Are you a manager of the school?—Yes. I have been a manager for about fourteen years.

6220. Are you manager now of a group of schools?—Yes. The group has just been altered. We have rather a large number. Northey Street is the poorest of the group.

6221. Would your evidence be more or less confined to what you have seen in Northey Street?—Yes.

6222. What is the size of the school?—Boys, 262 on 1 Aug., 1905. the roll; girls, 251; infants, 250.

6223. Turning to the return of the Joint Committee I see that the weekly average number of children fed in 1903-4 in Northey Street School was fourteen. In the past season, 1904-5, it went up to thirty. Of this number nineteen were in the boys department, five in the girls and six in the infants?—Yes.

6224. Have you any remarks to make upon these numbers?—In the winter of 1903-4 we changed the

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Miss R. A. head master. The new head master came early in 1904, and of course, as with most new people, he thought that the children were very poor indeed, and he fed rather more lavishly than the old master. The head mistress, who has been there for certainly over twenty years, has now altered her mind very considerably from her first impression, and thinks that very little feeding is required. With regard to infants not much is done. I think that is the explanation. In the boys' school last winter 329 meals were given. I do not know whether you know what I mean by that, because there is a little difference. 329 times they had something; the girls 97 times, and the infants 94, making a total of 520 meals.

6225. That explains a difficulty on the return which I have before me made up by the head master of the school. He states in answer to the question "How many children were fed"—"520." That is really the number of meals that were given?—Yes—520 meals were given.

6226. He says that the total number of meals provided during the last completed year was 2,013?—Thirty-four boys had meals and thirty-seven girls I know. I do not know how many infants, but the total number of meals was 520. I have taken the numbers from the books.

6227. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) 520 during the whole year?—During seventy school days from about the 2nd December to the 25th March.

6228. (Chairman.) The total cost of the meals during last winter was—how much?—£5 6s. 4d.

6229. (Miss Lawrence.) What does that average?—Just over a halfpenny.

6230. (Chairman.) I see that the actual number of children fed is returned as ninety-six individual children, which would mean that the actual number of children fed is about three times the weekly average. That differs very much from most schools in London. The average number fed weekly is thirty, which means that the number of meals that any particular child would get would be very few?—Yes. The boys had by far the most. The boys had food 329 times.

6231. That you have explained to us already?—Yes.

6232. Is there a relief committee at the school?—There is a committee consisting of the three head teachers, myself and the attendance officer.

6233. Is that a relief committee constituted under the rules of the Joint Committee?—I think so. They require you to have it.

6234. When does that committee meet?—Not very often.

6235. What is the system of selection at Northey Street?—At the beginning of this winter the teachers gave me a list of those they thought were distinctly underfed with regard to the boys. With regard to the girls not much was done. I visited a good many. I visited about twenty out of thirty-four of those cases, and I considered that eleven had no need at all; six were needy, three were distinctly bad, I thought; twelve I did not visit. They work on those lists giving the meals where the headmaster thought it was necessary. I look at it pretty often. If I see a boy's name that I do not know I go and visit. I asked one of the other managers to do it, but he was not able to do much.

6236. When you say that three of the cases were bad, what do you mean?—One was a bad house distinctly. One I thought was a bad house. They went on having meals, I am bound to say. My veto did not stop it. The other was a chronic case in which, from the beginning of time to the end, they would be in the same condition. However, they all had a certain number of meals. In cases where I knew the men were in regular work they did not get meals.

6237. Were those cases where the children might have had food but did not, or were they really receiving food?—They were really receiving food. There was a third case. 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.

6238. When you find the children are actually in need of food, but the parents could supply it if they would, what do you do?—I do not think we find very many cases of that sort. I come across parents at the attendance or B committee, of which I am a member. Sometimes it is said, "We cannot send them because they have had no breakfast." I make a note of it and tell the headmaster. Of late years the food has been only given when the children have asked. All the children have been given to understand that they can have bread and milk if they want it and ask for it. In the girls' school the headmistress has so trained her girls that it has answered very well this winter. They have come to her quite privately, and have said "Governess, I have had no breakfast." Privately she has fed them, and privately they have come and said, "We do not want any further help." Therefore, the number of girls fed is very much less. The boys have always been more throughout.

6239. Are you satisfied that there are not cases in that school of actual need which are not brought to the notice of the teachers?—Yes, I think I am. We are so much more fortunate than in the west of London, I consider. Many of us live close round, and are in constant daily touch with the children. We see them on week days and we see them on Sundays. I touch them in the B committee, and so does one of the other managers. I touch them at excursions, and know what they spend then. I keep a bank in the school, which is a very good feeder of the pulse. I visit if anybody tells me of a case. I do not think there are many cases that escape, but I could not vouch for it.

6240. Do you find much difference of opinion as regards the feeding question between managers of other schools and those of your own?—The present group I am now on, as a body, have not settled to do anything. The last group, which was partly the present group and partly another, unanimously agreed that the milk and bread should be the only thing.

6241. Would you tell us something about the manner in which the meals are supplied? Is it all done at the school?—Yes. The children are given Nestle's milk and warm water when they ask, and a slice of bread. That is what the teachers are told to give them.

6242. Would that apply to any time of the day?—Yes.

6243. To breakfast or dinner?—They are told to give that as breakfast. I do not know whether they give bread and jam. The London Schools Dinner Association has sent the money direct to the head teacher in the last two years, so we have not so much control over it.

6244. Your assistance in that school is derived entirely from the London Schools Dinner Association?—Entirely.

6245. In the return it is stated that the meals are bread and milk prepared by the teachers of the school and given on three or four days a week, but they may be given on any day on which they are wanted?—On any day, and they ought to be given regularly if required.

6246. Would they be available all the year round?—It has not been done all the year round hitherto. The London Schools Dinner Association does not send too much money. It is pretty chary of it. They said they would give a further grant if necessary.

6247. There is no rule of the school to prevent its being given all the year round?—No. I have been connected with two or three other big feeding schemes. We have generally gone on until Easter, beginning after Christmas.

6248. Has your experience been that, as a rule the need ceases then?—Yes, largely. In 1891, after the severe frost, a very elaborate plan was gone through, and a very large number of cases were investigated and visited. It has filled me rather with joy because I feel convinced that we should never dream of nor would it be necessary now, doing anything on such a large scale. Even then only comparatively few were really fed all along. It was not found necessary. Then in 1895 the rector of the parish took up a breakfast scheme and we had parish breakfasts. That went on for about eight weeks. I have not quite all the particulars, but, as far as I could

tell, it began with fifty-five boys and forty-six girls and infants, and dwindled down until it was not worth while to go on any more. They did not come very much.

6249. Do the teachers have tickets sent to them from other agencies than the London School Dinner Association?—That year when the "Daily Chronicle" started their breakfast fund, there was a great outcry. The East London Wesleyan Mission ran it entirely by themselves; they did not wish to have any joint action. Then there was very little feeding in the schools. The children were sent to the Mission.

6250. Is there a Salvation Army depot near you, or any other agency?—Yes. That winter was a very breakfasting winter, but last year I did not hear much about it. The East London Mission gave dinners. I do not know how they decided. I should think they were given to anybody. I came back from taking the bank one Monday morning and some of the children who had been paying into the bank were then going for dinner, so that apparently no inquiry had been made.

6251. Have you any reason to think that many have meals in the school that should not?—I do not think they do so much now. I think there is a great deal more *esprit de corps* amongst the girls. I do not think they would cadge. A small system like this is very valuable, to my mind, because you can distinguish between the chronic cadgers and the temporary cases. In the short time I have had before coming here I have visited two or three cases. I always go in assuming that they are very sorry indeed to have had to have meals. But I said to one woman, "You were very glad of the bread and milk," and she said, "Yes. When the father was out of work it was very nice indeed but of course it is much better to give it at home."

6252. Are the mothers out much in your district early in the day?—No; they are in bed very often early in the morning. I was speaking to a trained worker, who works to the north of where I live. There is one school where they give a very great deal of food. She says that the mothers in that part rely very largely on it, and send as many children as they can. They do not get up. She goes round for her own work, which is a new kind of work, and she finds that they are not up. 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 the bread do not stop the feeding at home, but the children have had something nourishing. That is what the body of managers think.

6253. (Miss Lawrence.) Have you any reason to suppose that a scheme of paid for meals would be successful?—Outside the school, do you mean?

6254. For choice certainly outside the school?—The children who come paying?

6255. Yes?—I should say that it would be moderately successful—nothing more. Do you mean supposing there was a cookery centre on a large scale and the children could come and buy?

6256. I meant rather supposing, for instance, your managers undertook the provision of a 1d. meal in the middle of the day on the school premises or in a neighbouring hall, would it be well attended by the children?—I should say that it would be very well attended at first, but not much afterwards. I was in Thomas Street at the cookery centre a week or so ago, and I saw many children bringing in pennies then to buy in the luncheon interval.

6257. Have you considered the question of using the cookery centres for this purpose?—No. We have considered very much whether we could not have a cookery centre, and we have wanted it.

6258. But not with this particular object in view?—No. There is not a cookery centre near us that would be the slightest good. It is not a neighbourhood where the women go out to work.

6259. They are at home most of the day?—Yes. Any work like tailoring which they do would be done at home.

6260. Is your source of supply entirely from the London Schools Dinner Association?—Entirely.

6261. You have no subscription list of your own?—Miss R. A. No. There was a little voluntary subscription at first Warry. before any money was got, and I am sure the head teachers give occasionally. 1 Aug., 1905.

6262. (Chairman.) Do the head teachers receive any thing from the "Referee" Fund?—I have not heard that they do. I rather think that two or three years ago they received something, but I am not sure.

6263. (Miss Lawrence.) Do the teachers confer at all about the provision of the food?—I do not think they do.

6264. I gather from your saying more was given to the boys than to the girls that they acted on their own responsibility?—Yes.

6265. How often does the committee meet to which you have referred?—I am afraid that it has not any very fixed times of meeting. As a rule I am in the school every week and I confer with the head teachers, and then very often confer with the attendance officer, but I do not know that we have often sat round the table and talked it out.

6266. Have you brought the guardians to your assistance at all? Have you asked the relieving officers for information?—No.

6267. Has the circular come into force in your district?—No, I do not think so. I am in touch with a great many of the relief agencies and several of the managers belong to the parochial relief committee, and I do a good many other things, so that altogether we have a good deal of local knowledge.

6268. How do you contrive to procure the supply? Does a certain amount of milk come into the schools every day?—No, we send out and get it in as occasion demands.

6269. They only have to get hot water in the schools?—Yes—for which they use their own gas stove.

6270. Is there a sort of roll call in the morning with regard to what children are to be fed that day?—No, certain children come up and tell the teacher or head master.

6271. The day before or in the course of the morning?—In the course of the morning. The earlier the better of course. With the girls' teacher, as I said, it is done privately.

6272. What does the infants' mistress do?—I know that she feeds very little, but I do not know her plans. I was speaking to the caretaker yesterday and I said: "You have been here a year. What is your opinion; are there many children in the school wanting food?" The answer was: "I should not think so, because each playtime we have a lot of food to sweep up. They all bring lunch. All the babies bring lunch."

6273. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Did not a gentleman send milk and biscuits for some years?—Yes, a long time ago.

6274. He has not done it lately?—No.

6275. The school is in a very poor part, is it not?—Yes. It is not quite so poor as it was. A great many of the old buildings have been pulled down and there are some large council buildings which are not yet full.

6276. Some parts that Charles Booth marked black are pulled down?—Yes. Some of the poorest of the children come from Poplar way.

6277. Are the parents of the children whom you feed almost always out of work, or are they cases of sickness or casual dockers?—Almost always casual dockers, and always dirty and miserable. Everyone of them if he did not drink and gamble would have money. Of course sickness would be quite different.

6278. Would you do anything from other sources in the case of sickness?—We could send them to the St. Anne's Relief Committee.

6279. That is what you would do?—Yes, if we found out a serious case. One of our visitors visits on the south side.

6280. You would feed the children of the family through the relief committee?—Yes, through the relief committee if necessary. We had a sick child the other day and I at once told the parochial people, who have sent the child to the sea.

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6281. In the case of widows do you find that their children suffer?—I do not know of any, and I have not been told of any. None of those I visited were widows.

6282. Do the widows get regular relief in any way?—Not regularly.

6283. Not outdoor relief?—No.

6284. A certain number have pensions I suppose?—Almost entirely the widows send their children into the parish school, and I would urge them to do it, keeping one at home.

6285. That is the regular system?—Yes. It is very good and far better for the children.

6286. So that the Poor Law School deals with a large class of children?—Yes.

6287. Do you work for the Country Holiday Fund?—Not now, but I did.

6288. Were you feeding the same children?—I do not think so; I do not know.

6289. You would have information about them?—Yes. The children we feed, who are shoeless and tattered, go hopping.

6290. Many used to go hopping; do they still?—Yes, but not so many, and they go fruiting. There has been trouble because they have been taken away against the law.

6291. The attendance falls very much in the hopping time?—Yes.

6292. Sir Charles Elliott, who gave evidence here, thought that there was not enough relief given at Northey Street?—I dare say he did.

6293. You did not think so?—No. I think that systems of relief are fatal. You must take the family as a whole and you cannot take the children out of it. If you once begin to relieve you must go on, four or five days would not be enough. They can feed themselves except in exceptional cases.

6294. You do not feel that the children are distinctly badly nourished in many cases?—No. A gentleman came into the infants' school and said to the head mistress "How well the children look." He expected to find them looking miserable. Of course there are miserable looking children, but it does not follow that they are badly fed. It is not always that.

6295. The children never have a very bright appearance in the boys' school at Northey Street?—I do not think the infants look at all miserable generally or under-fed. I was speaking of the infants.

6296. You feed the children of drunkards apparently?—Yes, I suppose we do. I do not know what ought to be done in the case of people where you believe they are living immoral lives. I object to that.

6297. But you feel that you ought to feed the child in these cases. You have been doing so?—There was one case in which I said they were not to do it; I do not know whether they did. It was a very flagrant case.

6298. With regard to the bank, do you collect from house to house, or at the school?—At the school.

6299. Is there a large number who put in?—Yes. We generally take about 30s. a week.

6300. Are they increasing?—I do not know. I gave up the work, but I think I shall take it again. I took it for a great number of years.

6301. By helping the family you indirectly help the children a great deal?—In other ways you mean?

6302. Yes?—You see my great work, besides schools, is the Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants. I know the girls as children, and as they grow up I try to get hold of them.

6303. You get them into places?—Yes.

6304. That is the best way of helping the families?—I think so. One is very sick with them sometimes. They will hang about and will not do anything. They say they are starving, but will not take places. They are not all fit for it, of course. But I have a great many of the old scholars. Mrs. Bain can hardly believe it when she sees them sometimes.

6305. Because of the improvement?—Because of the improvement.

6306. (Dr. Parsons.) Your view, generally speaking would be that it would be better to take a small selected number of the worst cases and feed them fully than to distribute the feeding over a large number?—What do you mean by feeding fully? Do you mean five or ten meals a week?

6307. Five meals a week—one on every school day?—I am afraid I cannot quite agree with that. That would be practically saying to some of the people, "We will feed your children through the winter."

6308. I am supposing that it is limited to the cases that really are in need?—How are you to know whether they are in need unless you go and visit the employers and verify the father's earnings? That is the point, I think. No investigation seems to me to be any good at all unless you know the father's earnings.

6309. And that you have to depend on the parents for?—You have to get a man's permission to inquire of his employers. I have never done it. It has only been partial inquiry.

6310. In the case of casual earners, people who live by small odd jobs, and so on, there would be difficulty?—Yes. In other relief work you say, "Who is your foreman? Who knows you? What name do you go under?" And when it comes to that sort of thing you very often find that people can help themselves. But there is a difficulty with regard to the casual dockers. May I tell you of a case? I have seen two children every day for a year. They are not in this school. They have never had a new frock, but always the same. They are delicate little things. They were going to be sent away by the parochial committee. The father's wages were verified. The father always takes 8s. a week for himself. When he was asked to pay for the children (he is not a bad man at all) he said, "My father goes to Yarmouth every year. I do not mind sending this delicate child away, and I will pay 10s. for her to go with my father." I should have thought that the children were very poor. Unless you make thorough investigation I do not see that it is much good.

6311. You think close investigation very important?—I think so, and another important thing is who is going to investigate? Without a trained person it is not much good.

6312. (Mr. Walrond.) Have you reported any cases to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children?—Yes, but not lately.

6313. Have they taken any steps?—Very often the local agent talks to the mother and it has a good effect. There has been no bad enough case in the school, that I can think of, for them to take up.

6314. You have had no prosecutions?—We have had no prosecutions. One does not remember accurately unless one puts the cases down. In the case of children constantly sent in a filthy condition, which occurred with one family, an officer of the society has visited the parents.

6315. Do they go round of their own accord, or do the teachers have to suggest it?—Somebody has to call them in.

6316. Do they keep resident officers?—Yes, they keep resident officers, but I have never heard of their going round the schools.

6317. In going through the schools you have not noticed very much evidence of under-feeding, or rather of malnutrition?—I think the children are very often very improperly fed, but that does not always mean that they are underfed. The things that they have are often very bad, and that comes from the laziness, or the ignorance, of the parents.

6318. Have you found a considerable number of children who are stunted and below the normal standard, as far as you can judge?—I should very much like to prevent a great many people marrying, but I cannot do that.

6319. You think the causes are complex?—I think they are most complex, and it makes one feel every day how terrible it is. They marry without the slightest regard to health.

6320. You would not be prepared to say that there was any class of children who, though not defective, are, from

mal-nutrition, below the normal standard?—I am afraid I have not gone into it enough for that.

6321. We have been asked to inquire into that?—One would need to make further inquiries with regard to that.

6322. As far as the actual under-feeding goes, you do not think that that has a very great effect?—No. It is not only my own opinion. Yesterday I went to a resident body of workers and I said: "What is your opinion?" It was just the same as mine. They thought that it would be nothing short of it a calamity to start a big scheme. I said, "Do you consider that gambling has a very bad effect, because perhaps you know more about that than I do." One of the men, who has a good deal to do with boys said, "Yes, it is very prevalent in the homes" and there is no evidence of that as there is of drink. Therefore it is much more difficult to trace it. His opinion was that if boys did not gamble there would be a good deal more for the children to eat.

6323. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Could anything be done to help the parents to feed the children more properly?—I think we are doing it. I think our cookery centres are doing an immense amount of good. Our housewifery centres are excellent. I find that the girls who come to me are very much more helpful people.

6324. Do they choose better foods now, do you think, and prepare them better?—I do not often go into their houses. At dinner I think that the children very largely get bread and butter and get sent out into the streets. On Sundays they have a very big dinner and eat the rest on Mondays, and do not have very much on other days. The English are proverbially unskilful in cooking, are they not?

6325. Can nothing be done to instruct the mothers?—Every mothers' meeting tries, and the county council have supplied lecturers.

6326. Do you think there is any improvement for all this effort?—Yes, I think there is an improvement. Going through the statistics of 1891 and 1892 made me feel very hopeful. I think the school, as a school, has immensely improved, and I do not think that any body of teachers would suggest such numbers of children as requiring feeding as were suggested in those days. They did not all require it then.

6327. There are very large numbers from other schools in London?—They have not the same education as at Northey Street. It has had a very continuous set of managers.

6328. (Chairman.) Have you seen the effect of rather abundant feeding in other schools?—No.

6329. You have not seen it in the homes?—The school where the children are very much fed is not a particularly good one. The attendance is bad. The district is not a very grand one.

6330. Is there any tendency to send children to schools where there is feeding?—The lady of whom I told you said that the parents do try to send the children there, but we find that parents have a very strong idea that children should not go to what they consider a lower-class school.

6331. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Does Northey Street consider itself very much above the other school you were speaking of?—Yes, I think so.

6332. (Chairman.) We had evidence from a headmaster of a school with an average number of 1,357 on the books, that 863 were fed, and a large number of the difference between those two numbers, the children who were not

fed, were being fed elsewhere?—I can quite understand that. The headmaster in one school said, "I am sure we are feeding children we ought not to." But I do not know much about that case. The greatest number of meals given to one boy was ninety-five last winter. It varied from ninety-five downwards. Sometimes there were about six meals a week, the master said. I said, "Did you make a mistake and mean five." And he said, "No; some boys had more than one."

6333. You mention in your *précis* the great danger of any advertised scheme?—Yes.

6334. Would you develop that a little?—Human nature being what it is, both parents and children cannot resist any scheme of feeding. They would directly come and say they were destitute. It would be difficult to find out for a time whether they were or not. We should find it out eventually.

6335. What do you mean by an advertised scheme?—If it were known that at Northey Street there was a free dinner every day, or in connection with a certain church or chapel there would be a meal every day, you would have such cases as the case of the boy who did not want to stop at home for breakfast. It is a popular thing to say that the teachers know exactly, but I maintain that they cannot know. They know one side only. They know the look of the children and not much about the outside circumstances, and they are not able to investigate.

6336. And perhaps it is undesirable that they should be the people who decide because of the relationship that it brings about with the parents?—Yes. One of the great advantages of the plan that we have been carrying out for some time is that there is no special scheme. The meal can be had if necessary. Sometimes parents come up and say to the head teachers, "Will you give my children this or that?"

6337. A representative of the Salvation Army told us that they have a regular system of centres all about London in the slum districts in which breakfast is available every morning for a farthing, and is given free in case of need. Have you come across the effect of that anywhere?—Yes. In the same year that the *Daily Chronicle* breakfasts were given the Salvation Army were giving farthing breakfasts I heard, but I heard nothing of them last winter.

6338. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Do any of the churches or chapels give meals now?—Brunswick Chapel has done so. I do not think they were doing it this winter. They did it one year very largely. They do not care to co-operate at all, so that one cannot tell.

6339. (Chairman.) Have you anything to add?—I do not think so. I do not know whether I ought to say that in a neighbouring school, Gill Street, where they gave the bread and milk in the same way, they fed, twenty boys, fifty-one girls, and thirty-one infants making a total of 102. Their expenses are very much higher. I do not know why it is. We suppose that they gave a good deal more food. I have not been able to see the head-master before the school closed for the holidays.

6340. (Mr. Cyril Jackson.) Did you notice that in Gill Street the girls have a very much larger number of meals than the boys?—Yes.

6341. That is the exact opposite of Northey Street?—Yes.

6342. Is that a matter of the teachers?—I think it is a matter of the teachers.

Miss R. A.
Warry.
1 Aug., 1905.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX V.

MEMORANDA GIVING PARTICULARS OF THE SYSTEMS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION ESTABLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS.

I. COUNTIES :

- (1) London.
- (2) West Sussex.

II. COUNTY BOROUGHES :

- (1) Blackburn.
- (2) Bradford.
- (3) Brighton.
- (4) Burnley.
- (5) Derby.
- (6) Halifax.
- (7) Hanley.
- (8) Manchester.
- (9) Rochdale.
- (10) Salford.
- (11) Swansea.

III. BOROUGHES :

- (1) Clitheroe.
- (2) Keighley.
- (3) Kidderminster.
- (4) Widnes.

IV. URBAN DISTRICTS :

- (1) Erith.
- (2) Stretford.
- (3) Tottenham.
- (4) Willesden.

I. COUNTIES.

(1.) LONDON.

MEMORANDUM ON MEDICAL INSPECTION, ITS REQUIREMENTS AND RESULTS, BY DR. JAMES KERR, MEDICAL OFFICER (EDUCATION), LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

HISTORY OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Medical Inspection in England.

The first move in this country was the outcry of 1884, about over pressure, which may have had a basis in fact but was not derived from scientific or medical observation. Sir Joshua Fitch distinguished himself in laying the bogey. The English literature of this period dealing with school hygiene, as given in the conferences at the exhibition, is chiefly remarkable for the abysmal ignorance of contemporary knowledge, and the absence of all medical names in connection with it. The School Board for London, from experience of infectious diseases, retained the services of a medical officer in 1890, but he was poorly paid, and could not afford to develop this department of work. Bradford, in 1893, appointed me medical superintendent, and from the first the attractiveness of the various problems offering themselves for study in school took me daily into the schools. From about 1887 onwards various other medical officers have been appointed by some of the larger educational authorities.

On Dr. Smith's retirement in 1902, I was appointed medical officer to the School Board for London, the Department was reorganised, and since then its work has extended rapidly; we have now on the medical staff:

Permanent.—The Medical Officer (Education).

One assistant medical officer, giving whole-time services.

Two assistant medical officers, giving half-time.

One assistant medical officer, giving quarter-time.

Twenty local assistant medical officers, giving quarter-time. (Appointed for periods not exceeding three years).

Twelve school nurses—proposed to be increased to thirty-two within a few weeks.

The duties the School doctor is concerned with—

The *school buildings* in their relation to cubic capacity.

Methods of ventilation and warming, and testing of air purity.

Lighting (natural and artificial).

Furniture, black-boards, educational apparatus.

The *methods of education* and the *normal child*.

The psychology and physiology of the senses in relation to education—vision, hearing, memory, etc.

The normal development of children, and their relation to the tasks imposed at various ages.

The need of nutrition, and of proper allowance for

Attention was first drawn to the subject of Medical Inspection in schools abroad, by a paper by Lorinser, "On the care of health in schools," published in Berlin about 1836, dealing with school hours and over-pressure.

Cohn's examination of the visual conditions of 10,060 children in Breslau in 1866, was an epoch-making work, and his treatise in English by W. P. Turnbull, His Majesty's Inspector, is the best introduction to school work in the language.

A commission was appointed in Norway in 1865, to consider school work, and as a result of this very much attention has been given to medical inspection in Denmark and Scandinavia, the work of Axel Key being classic (Axel Key's *Schulhygienischen Untersuchungen in deutscher Bearbeitung* herausgegeben von Dr. Leo Burgerstein, 1899).

During the next twenty years, much work was done in German-speaking lands, and several towns (Munich, Nuremberg, Zurich, Lucerne, Basle) appointed commissions to enquire into matters of physical condition.

In Wiesbaden, four medical inspectors were appointed in 1896 to look after the interests of the 7,000 pupils in the public schools. They had to examine all new pupils, to keep a medical chart for fourteen days of each child in bad health, to have a definite hour in each school for medical examinations, to report on the school conditions, and confer with the teachers, and give them brief lectures on questions of school hygiene. After making careful enquiries the Prussian Minister of Education issued an order stating that the value of the Wiesbaden system had been proved, and that in each educational district six schools should be selected, where the children, on entering, should have records made as to their physical conditions, mental development, and any defects, and that attention should be paid to all cases of infectious disease. The health conditions of the schools should be considered in all respects.

This system is the one generally adopted as a model on the Continent.

The result of all the work done in relation to school hygiene has been the formation of several scientific societies, and these have combined to form an International Congress meeting triennially. The first was held in Nuremberg in April 1904, and already has produced a stimulating effect on School Hygiene everywhere. The second International Congress for School Hygiene will be held in London in August, 1907.

growth, the requirements of physical exercise, attitudes, fatigue, sleep, recreation.

Duration of lessons in various subjects. Need of breaking up lessons and cultivation of spontaneity.

Harmful methods and crank ways of teaching in relation to reading, writing, drawing, etc.

THE ABNORMAL CHILDREN.

Obstacles to perception. Visual defects, defects of hearing, dangers of ear disease, and of mouth breathing.

Dull children. Feeble-minded, morally defective, deaf, blind, and epileptic, cripple and invalid. Children presenting anomalous defects.

DISEASES IN SCHOOL.

Developmental diseases, spinal curvatures, rheumatic disorders, quinsy, chorea, and heart troubles.

Infectious diseases—measles, scarlatina, diphtheria. Contagions of grosser sort. Disorders due to dirt, verminous children.

Children not in attendance from various causes:—

Infections.

Long continued disorders, tubercle, etc.

Anemia and debility.

Alleged over-pressure, etc., etc.

TRAINING OF SCHOOL DOCTOR.

Questions of school hygiene require general acquaintance with *scientific methods* of investigation.

School doctor should have more than mere medical qualification. He should have either a scientific degree or diploma in Public Health.

School experience is the greatest value, much time, in the first years of his work at least, should be spent in school. Nothing can compensate for want of time to be spent in school visitation.

Personal experience has shown me that the irregular calls and duties demanded from the 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*, and their association most undesirable.

The recent Education Acts making the Sanitary Authorities also Education Authorities naturally tends to put the school work into the hands of the Medical Officer of Health, and whilst for small districts this may be desirable it will generally rather tend to retard the development of educational hygiene, but is preferable to the duties being held by general practitioners.

THE APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL DOCTOR.

The appointment of a school doctor requiring the accumulation of experience, and new ideas and novel views of many things, makes it advisable that candidates for these posts, unless they have had previous public health experience, should be comparatively young, certainly not over thirty-five years of age.

The best solution of the school doctor question for most places will be to make it a part-time appointment, to stipulate that so many school sessions weekly shall be devoted to school visitation, and allow the doctor to hold other official appointments, or to follow consulting practice, but in all cases to bar private general practice.

As a general estimate in a district, say, of about forty typical urban schools the doctor should be asked to give three school sessions weekly to school visitation, and one session to other educational work (or else an hour daily), he should be paid £200 to £250 annually, and be allowed other professional work, not being private general practice.

THE BENEFITS OF A SCHOOL DOCTOR.

Apart from the increased school attendance, from improved health resulting from early checking of disease from the better educational results got by improved methods, or after treatment of pathological conditions in the pupils, there is also the confidence inspired in teachers, and the general sense of security that rises from their having the doctor to fall back on in cases of doubt. Locally, too, there is the improved attendance resulting in increased school grants, which balance the outlay on medical supervision.

Had proper medical advice been followed since the passing of the Act of 1870 millions might have been saved in buildings which are ill-adapted to health conditions, and now can only be tinkered at.

It is a pennywise policy to work without expert medical

help as the whole business of school hygiene is so involved, question of size of rooms being related to areas of windows, these depending on methods of heating and ventilation, on distances of desks and character of the furniture, the kind of work to be done in the schools. Dimensions depending on the teacher's voice, the child's vision and hearing, and so on. All matters are correlated so that each varies with the other, and yet we have hundreds of schools built in the last thirty years ill-lighted, ill-ventilated, badly heated, unsuitable for seeing or hearing, which the medical knowledge shown in Cohn's papers of forty years ago, or the report of the Danish and Norwegian Commissions of 1865, would have prevented had it been utilised.

We have in London half-a-dozen schools fitted with mechanical ventilation on such a meagre scale that any medical men possessing rudimentary school experience of what is required in ventilation, before a stone was laid, could have predicted failure as regards ventilation.

I have insisted on school experience because in regard to these matters people often seem to forget that children are sent to school to be educated, and not to be catalogued, and examined as pathological material.

THE DOCTOR AS EDUCATIONIST.

In the more delicate and possibly higher matters of lessons and fatigue, over-pressure and personal health of the scholars, the doctor who has to advise should be primarily an educationist, and should work as a colleague and in conjunction with the School Inspector and teacher.

Abroad, we often find, unfortunately, that the doctor makes pedantic and extreme demands, and the educationist resists them. Commonsense, tact, and school experience are valuable qualities here, even to the medical expert.

Almost every practical solution is a matter of compromise—one cannot satisfy all requirements; in some the game is not worth the candle, and the school doctor has to find the solution which offers the best value at the least cost.

MY OWN EXPERIENCE IN SCHOOLS.

When appointed in 1893 in Bradford, I took as the field for enquiry "All that affects or tends to affect the health of those working in the schools." The first work in Bradford was to ask the teachers to make lists of all the children they knew who were in any way abnormal as regards "eyes, ears, speech or brains." This inspection took about four months, the direct outcome of this was:

1. The establishment of five centres for the special education of mentally defective children; this was several years before the Defective and Epileptic Acts were passed.
2. The annual vision testing of all children in the standards.
3. A new form of defect (in congenital word blindness) was noticed for the first time.

The importance of nasal breathing, attitudes, physical exercises, and proper heating and ventilation and furnishing became evident.

Each subject tested led to something further. The noting of children with defective hearing, for instance, led to the testing of normal hearing, this led to the noting of mouth breathing and to the observation that discharging ears with all their fatal possibilities were at least ten times as common among mouth breathers as among the other children.

The contracted chests of many of these children led to tests on physical exercises and brought out the fact that the older girls, and especially the female pupil teachers, suffer from want of exercise. It also led to testing of ventilation and to a contrast of the so-called natural systems with mechanical ventilation. It led, too, to the measuring of children and apportioning their heights and ages in the various standards, and the fixing of proportions and sizes of seats and desks. The mode of dissemination of infectious disease brought out the sanitary evils of the dual desk as compared with the single seat, and showed the futility of the usual methods of school closure adopted with a view of preventing dissemination. Every subject leads to another, and each one requires some modification of existing practice to suit sanitary requirements.

The investigation of cases of non-attendance raised questions of ill-feeding, ill-nutrition and the grosser infections, so that it is evident that it is almost impossible

for a doctor to go into a school without finding something to inquire into and something to simplify, or cheapen, or abolish.

The conclusion arrived at with regard to the feeding of school children was that this was not sufficiently important to set aside other matters in order to specially investigate it. As a routine matter one however often is called upon to consider the question of specially ill-nourished children and to the school doctor the subject naturally appears as that of "ill-nourished" children rather than as that of "under-fed" children.

Some half-dozen years ago I examined in detail 285 girls of an elementary school, it was the first attempt made in this country to assess the average condition of school children, and was in one of the poorest schools in the West Riding. Of these 285 girls between the ages of six and thirteen, forty-two said that they had no fathers and twenty-one said they had no mothers, yet I only found four to be seriously affected in the way of ill-nutrition, whilst sixty-five were described as only fairly nourished, and the conclusion arrived at was—"Speaking generally there were fewer exceedingly bad cases of dirty or neglected children, but taking even the very low standards of cleanliness and health which was adopted, there were more dirty though not exceedingly dirty, and more ill-nourished though not actually diseased children than had been expected."

The children seen in school who are in a seriously debilitated state of health are not in such bad health from starvation. They suffer from many causes of which starvation appears during school life to be a comparatively unimportant one.

In the first place as regards a child's physique during school days, it appears that the local and temporary conditions of the public health prevalent at the time of its birth have such influence that the causes affecting them, climatic or whatever they may be, are of national importance and require investigation.

These local and temporary conditions are expressed by the infantile mortality, that is, the number of children per 1,000 born dying before they reach one year of age. In a few schools in London measurements of children have been made during the past year, and we thought that possibly infantile mortality might have a selective influence, killing off the weakly and leaving a stronger stock.

My assistant, Dr. C. J. Thomas, has examined this question and has been able to show that children born in years of low infantile mortality have a better average physique than children born in years of high infantile mortality, and that probably for instance the 1894 crop of humanity is the best we have had in average physique for many years.

He has shown this for the Chaucer School in the curves I present here. He has also demonstrated it in the Sharp Street School in Manchester in the curve for the children's heights which was published as an appendix to Dr. Eichholz's evidence to the Committee on Physical Deterioration, and here are the curves for Leipzig Road (Boys) School.

The moral of these observations is the enormous importance of healthy infancy to be obtained by encouraging proper nursing of children, and by legally restricting women's work for a very considerable time after child-birth.

Passing from infancy we come to school. Here one can recognise at once what is called the under-fed child in the types known in the Hospital out-Patient room as the fine and coarse types of strumous children. The same children occur in all classes of society and in better class schools are called "delicate" and cared for by residence at the sea-side, cod liver oil or syrup of iron and such remedies.

They are either alert, nervous, excitable, thin children, of fine texture, delicate skins, grey eyes and fine hair, or coarse, heavy, dull children, and whilst careful hygiene and dieting plays a great part in treating such children, I do not think that want of food is a very great factor in their production.

Very considerable numbers of such children fairly healthy till then, begin to suffer almost from the day they go into school, and from my own observation it seems that some school conditions which are very prevalent are more powerful as contributing causes than diet.

The common history given by the parents of such

children is so regular and invariable that one would accept it as true even if they had not actually followed and known children of the poorer classes from their birth till their school days.

The common history is that the child was lively and apparently healthy till school attendance began, soon after this it began to fall off in energy, possibly there were difficulties in getting it to sleep at night, it was wakeful or even talkative for the first half of the night, then in the early morning slept heavily and could scarcely be wakened, when got out of bed may have continued drowsy, had headache or nausea, would not take more than a mouthful of breakfast or may have refused food and even vomited, and this is one of the most genuine causes of children going to school breakfastless. Gradually picking up by the middle of the day it is again lively, but after a few days of this headache or other symptoms come on, which at first to the inexperienced may suggest meningitis, and the child stays at home, perhaps lying on a couch for a few hours groaning with a headache, in a day or two it is better and returns to school, and later the cycle again recurs, the child coming to look pale and debilitated. Such is a marked case of an extremely common condition among the younger children of elementary schools. It has been called "infantile neurasthenia" on the continent and appears to be as nearly as possible a pure school condition.

The two causes which may contribute to it are *first*, the generally foul atmosphere of school rooms; *secondly*, the unreasonable nature of the work required in the infant school.

Let me speak of the atmosphere of school buildings. Not one school room in ten is ventilated within reasonable requirements for health. Young children appear more responsive and therefore suffer more in poisoning by foul atmosphere than older ones, and least responsive are the adults (teachers). When the whole school is assembled in the hall at the beginning or end of the day and the atmosphere of the room gets excessively foul in the ten minutes or quarter of hour they are so assembled, it is almost invariably the younger children who faint or vomit.

The great indicator of living in foul air in any collection of individuals is the incidence of phthisis among them; fortunately the age incidence of this disease comes on after school age, and although our teachers are carefully selected by medical examiners as likely to be free from liability to this disease yet considerable numbers annually fall victims to it, and so important a factor is the school thought to be that the London School Board instituted a rule, maintained by the London County Council that teachers absent with any signs of phthisis should not be allowed to resume work in school for at least twelve months.

School ventilation is the most pressing problem of school hygiene. It should be regulated by a requirement of the Board of Education. The time is now ripe for prescribing a standard of impurity of school air. Such a standard is prescribed in respect to certain factories as nine volumes of carbon dioxide in 10,000 volumes, and for school purposes the prescription that schools should be so ventilated that "the average impurity of the atmosphere as determined by the carbon dioxide present in the air should not exceed ten volumes per 10,000 (when no artificial light is required)" is one which might be prescribed as a hygienic condition for grant and a condition which can easily be determined by measurement.

We take mortality statistics for periods when most children did not go to school, before the compulsory education and since, and we also know that formerly boys were much employed away from home and girls mostly at home. If we compare death rates at different school ages we find that with girls death rates from most causes have improved since school attendance became general, much more than boys, thereby suggesting that the change from home to school has been much to the girls' advantage except in this matter of phthisis, where the girls have increased mortality, and the only explanation which I can suggest is that on an average the atmosphere in school is much worse than in the home.

My conclusion as regards ventilation then is the bad atmosphere of most school rooms has much to do with infantile debility and conditions of ill-nutrition, and it is the most pressing question in school hygiene.

The second group of causes which I stated as contributory school conditions is the nature of the work of infant

departments. I cannot go into the technical details now, but may say that all medical writers recognise the nervous strain resulting from such work as kindergarten embossing, all forms of sewing, the use of pens, pencils or needles, and all work involving combined eye and finger movements, and aiming at exact and accurate results of a fine character in the infant departments involves great and unnecessary strain. The teaching of sewing to children below the standards is not merely a waste of time and teachers' salaries, but involves a strain which is greater than is demanded at any other age, and is required from an organism more unable to undertake that strain than at any other time in school life. At the present day the real over-pressure of school life is practically confined to the infants departments. The new Code of 1905 should effect an enormous improvement in this.

These are two chief school causes which affect the nutrition of children, and seem to me are much more important than any question of feeding children in school. Knowledge of these conditions will only be gained by efficient medical superintendence of the children in school.

The condition of personal cleanliness of many elementary school children is undesirable, the element of self respect is not sufficiently inculcated in school, and the gospel of personal effort for the good of their fellow men is neglected. We try to remedy actually offensive and verminous conditions by a combination of nurse and doctor.

We have now concluded that power is really wanted similar to what they possess in Glasgow to be able to condemn a child as being in an offensive condition and unfit for school attendance, and then to give the parent twenty-four hours to abate the nuisance, or it will be done by the sanitary authority and the cost recovered. To-day I hear of a child who has been eight months out of school with itch and is still suffering. I know of numerous cases of ringworm which have been out more than a year; but in the case of verminous heads the nurse inspects, then a card is sent home in a sealed envelope stating the condition found and giving directions for cleansing and stating that if this is not satisfactorily done in a week the child will be separated from its fellows in school until cleansed. At the end of a week this is done, and a red card then delivered at the home by the school attendance officer, stating again the conditions, giving directions, and allowing a further week after which the child will be excluded and the parent liable to prosecution. The nurse generally visits the home about this time and except in rare cases cleansing of a satisfactory nature takes place. Our rule is, you must cleanse your child or be punished. A great number of minute details have to be observed in the legal process of getting cleansing thus accomplished, but a school can be cleansed in a month.

No actual treatment is undertaken by our school nurses. They also inspect children with other diseases, especially advising teachers about doubtful cases of ringworm or favus. When a difference occurs between the opinion of the London County Council nurse and the medical certificate often produced by the parent, further microscopic examination of the stumps of hairs from the child shews the nurse to be right in at least nine out of ten cases.

We examine microscopically many hundreds of specimens from ringworm and favus cases, and a positive diagnosis is never given from the medical department without the fungus being actually seen in the specimens submitted.

The nurses work during school hours and do a good deal of home visiting as well. They are paid £80 to £90 yearly, and travelling expenses.

In the prevention of infectious diseases—I speak only of conditions affecting London—generally speaking personal contagion is the most common method of diffusion. The least controllable disease is measles—school closure as generally practised is perfectly futile in controlling it. Scarletina, on the other hand, can often be checked by the examination of the children and exclusion of perhaps a single case that has a running ear or discharging nose, but the most controllable of school diseases is diphtheria, by taking a tiny scraping of mucus from the throat on a fine loop of platinum wire, a perfectly harmless and painless procedure, and then placing a small fragment of this

mucus on a prepared surface in a test tube it is possible to say whether the individual is contagious with diphtheria or not, with tolerable accuracy within eighteen hours, by microscopically examining the growth of organisms that appears on the prepared surface.

There have been many cases when children apparently in perfect health have been "carriers" spreading diphtheria germs about them and infecting one after another of their school fellows. As diphtheria exists in London at present we can stamp out any school outbreak in two or three days.

Here again in relation to school diseases the school doctor will, from his knowledge of school procedure, cause less disturbance and interrupt school life less than any other sanitarian is likely to do.

The blind, deaf, and mentally defective are now separated for special education. The first selection depends on the teacher. We often find children approaching imbecility who have been kept for years in voluntary schools, and we sometimes find still teachers and managers of such schools attempting to shelter these special class children in them.

A medical inspection of each child about the time it passes from the infant department to the standards would be most useful and would hardly be objected to so long as the child was not stripped. My experience of objectors has been that it is only when people think something objectionable is likely to be found about their children that they raise objections to examinations. In practice the objector can be neglected. I examine the child and let them object afterwards.

Weights and measurements are of scanty value as applied to individuals, and are almost useless unless standards have been determined by measurements from large numbers of unselected children. They are of enormous value in giving indirect results educational, hygienic, and social.

Records of infectious diseases which children have had will in practice be of little use except in the case of measles. With measles it is worth while keeping a record of all children in the infant department. At regards this disease I think there will be no great harm done if it is neglected in the upper departments.

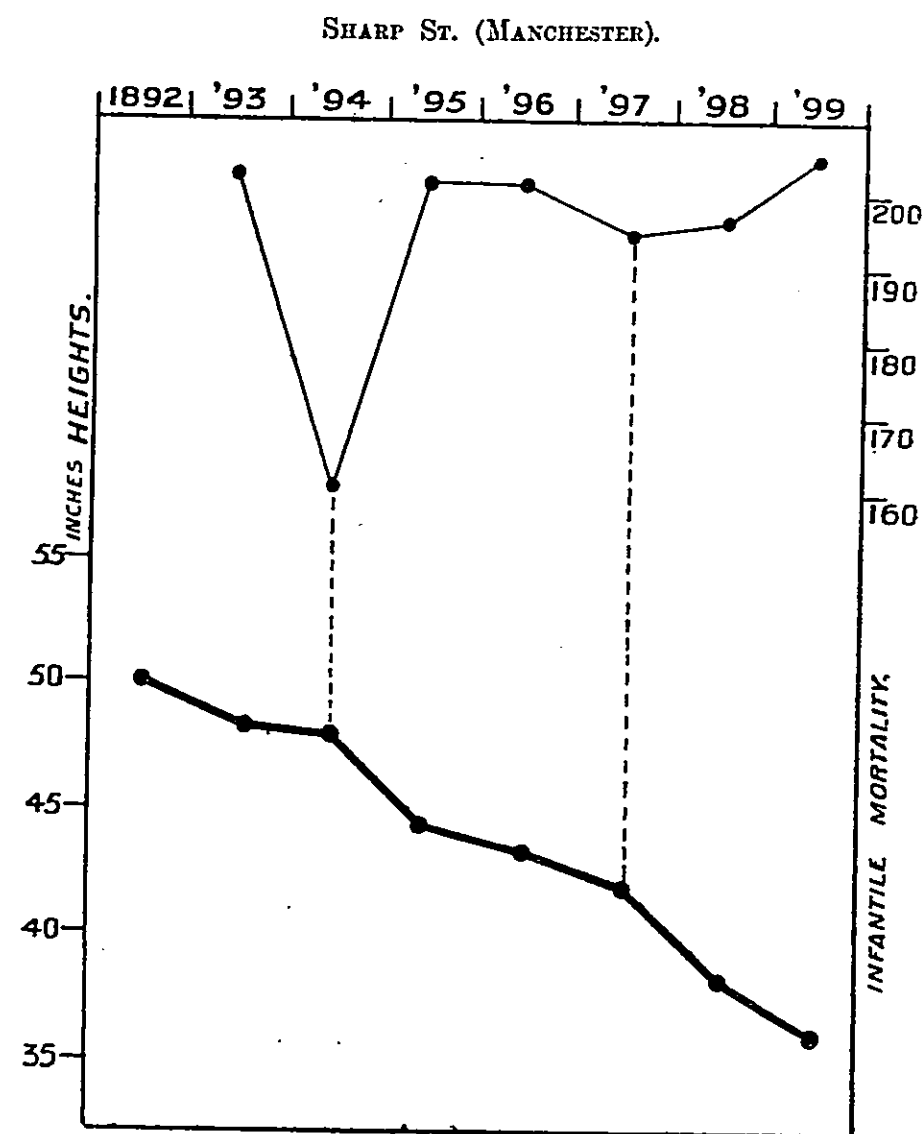
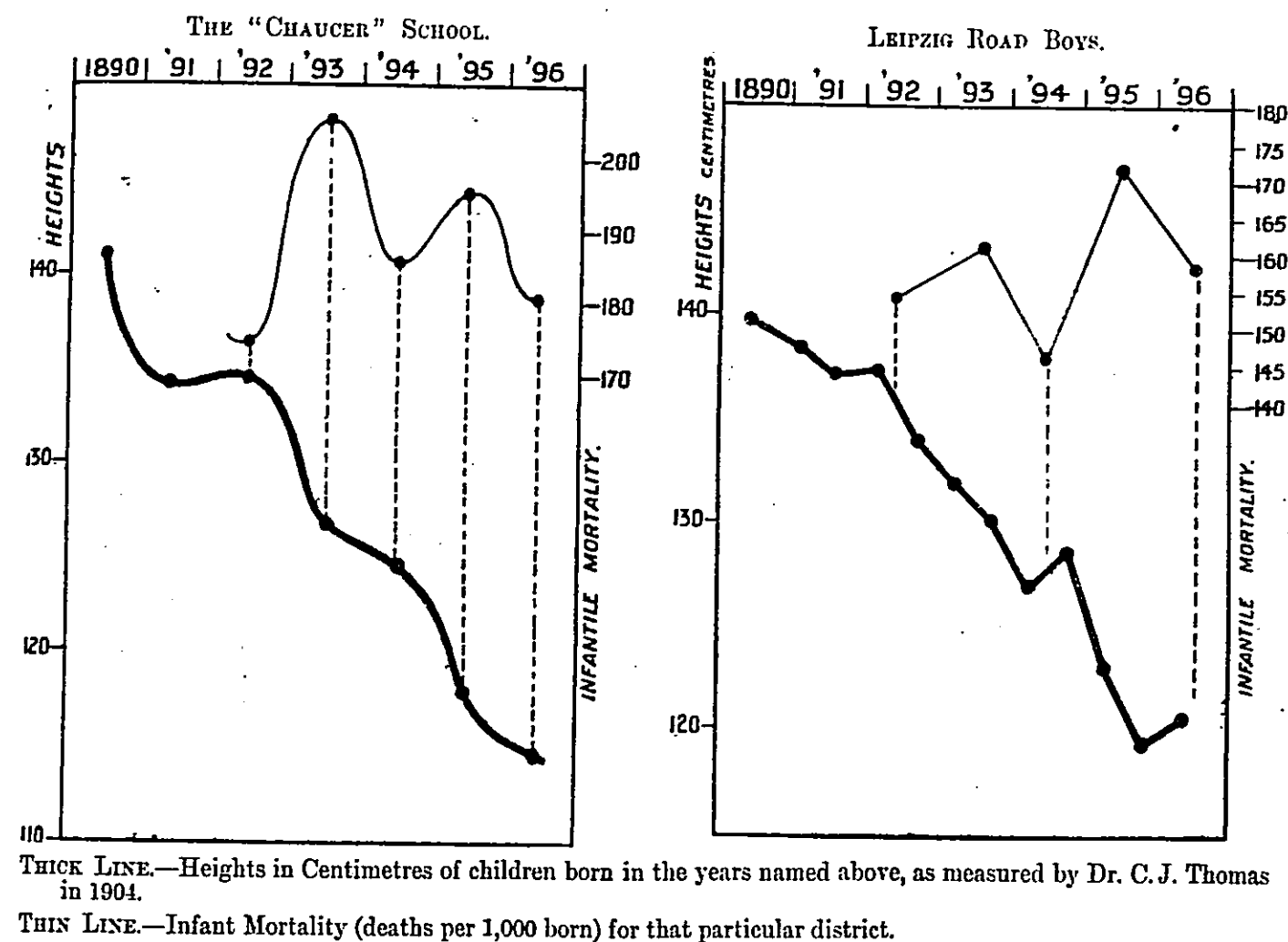
Nowhere is every child inspected by medical men or by nurses, in some cases of threatening outbreaks of illness every child in a class may be inspected, and when our cleansing scheme is applied to a school, all the children in the school are examined by the nurse. Teachers ought to assist in the medical officer's work, and should know the early symptoms of measles, scarlatina, and diphtheria; they should also recognise obvious cases of itch and ringworm. The parents should be informed of all cases of infectious disease suspected. The medical officer of health should also be informed, and in London the medical officer for education.

Just as each public elementary school has an official correspondent so it should also have an official paid medical officer whose name should be returned annually on Form 9.

There should also be a medical officer's report book kept at each school, or else he should make a record in the log book. His appointment should be subject to approval by the Board of Education, but all other arrangements should be left to the Local Education Authorities.

Such medical officer is the servant of the local authorities, who are responsible to the Board of Education for the school being conducted in a healthy and hygienic manner, and for medical oversight being kept on all abnormal children.

To bring about efficient medical superintendence of schools and scholars inspection by the Board of Education will be required, and this inspection pre-supposes a definite medical department in connection with the Board of Education. Such department would consist of a chief medical officer with about ten medical inspectors and the clerical assistance necessary. This department would speedily settle many vexed questions of hygiene, would materially modify school procedure, and would prevent the local medical superintendence being a sham; without a department of this kind medical inspection of children in elementary schools would become in many places mere make-believe.



WEST SUSSEX EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Form of Medical Certificate.

.....19
is suffering from.....and is *not now fit to attend
 School, but will probably be able to return in.....weeks.

The Child has been under my care since the.....193

Signed.....
 (A duly qualified Medical Practitioner.)

* If the Child is now fit to attend School please strike out the word "not" and the words following "School."

II. COUNTY BOROUGHES.

(1.) BLACKBURN.

MEMORANDUM BY DR. A. GREENWOOD, MEDICAL OFFICER.

A.—STAFF.

I was appointed medical officer to the Blackburn Education Authority in October, 1903. I do not engage in private practice, but my other duties are those of the Medical Officer of Health for this borough.

It is difficult for me to state what portion of my time is spent in educational duties connected with the schools, but I would refer you to three special Educational Reports which I have written since 1903, copies of which have been forwarded to your Board. The subjects of these reports are as follows:—

1. The sanitary conditions of the fifty-two public elementary schools of Blackburn,
2. Infectious diseases in Blackburn schools.
3. Annual Report to the Blackburn Education Committee for 1904.

No nurses are employed for supervision and care of health of school children. No other persons are specially employed for this purpose, but very many of the school teachers take a great personal practical interest in this work. For example, I have known teachers who have provided food and clothing to necessitous cases and many cases are referred to me by the teachers for medical examination.

B.—ORGANISATION.

1. The medical inspection of school children in Blackburn is carried out as follows.

(a.) If I have any reason to believe that an infectious disease is spreading amongst the scholars of a school, I visit and examine all the children present. This often results in suspicious cases being sent home at once for observation.

(b.) Every Tuesday morning I examine all the school children kept at home who are alleged to be physically unfit to attend school and who have been referred to me by the school attendance officers. For example, last Tuesday morning I examined seventeen such children.

(c.) and (j.) The nutrition, general personal condition, and cleanliness of heads are also noted of the children mentioned under the previous sub-division, and also of those school children admitted to the Blackburn Fever Hospital. For a considerable time there have been upwards of 130 children continually in that institution.

(e.) and (f.) A list is now being prepared of the mentally and physically defective and epileptic children, so that I may select suitable cases for the "special school" which will be erected shortly, in this town.

(g.) The school teachers have been instructed in the use of Snellen's Test Cards, and many cases have been selected for glasses, positions in the front row of a class, etc.

(h.) I have made some observations on the hearing of children at one school.

2. (b.) Records are kept at the Health Offices of the

houses at which various infectious diseases reported by the school teachers have occurred.

3. Such organisation as I have described above applies to the whole of the Blackburn borough area, including the fifty-two public elementary schools.

4. Each school is visited by myself periodically, and as often as demanded through special circumstances.

5. Every child in Blackburn schools has not been medically inspected. Those specially selected by the teachers and school attendance officers are always examined at once by myself.

6. Teachers are always encouraged to assist in the inspection. For example I have already given a course of lectures on "Infectious Diseases" to school teachers, and during the coming winter it is highly probable that I shall give a course of lectures to those officials dealing with other diseases, and conditions affecting school life.

7. Parents are notified accordingly.

8. There is no voluntary organisation for providing spectacles, surgical appliances, etc.

9. I have never experienced any objection on the part of parents to the examination of their children.

10. See special report on infectious diseases in Blackburn schools mentioned above.

C.—COST.

1. I receive as medical officer to the Education Committee the sum of £100 per annum.

D. WHAT RESULTS ARE OBTAINED.

1. I was appointed to this position in October, 1903, and the work described above has been carried on regularly since that date. I believe the primary reason for the appointment was in order that the Defective and Epileptic Children's Act of 1899 might be administered by a medical official of the Committee.

2. The present system works very smoothly and satisfactorily. This, of course, will develop in time. It is too early yet to point definitely to any permanent beneficial results. But undoubtedly the school teachers now take a greater interest in medico-educational work than they have ever done.

Other points for consideration under this heading appeared in my annual Report to the Education Committee for 1904.

If there are any further items upon which you desire extended information I shall be glad to supply them. I may say that at present I am conducting an exhaustive inquiry into the number of underfed school children in Blackburn schools, and the causes of such underfeeding. —I am, Yours faithfully,

ALFRED GREENWOOD.

(2.) BRADFORD.

MEMORANDUM BY DR. RALPH H. CROWLEY, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

July 8th, 1905.

A.

- (1.) Yes.

(a.) He is allowed in addition to act as Honorary Physician to the Royal Infirmary and to act as a Consultant.

(b.) In the manner stated above.

(c.) The time equivalent to school hours.

- (2.) No.

- (3.) No.

B.

- (1.) Yes.

(a.) Each week the head teacher of each department returns a card to the office showing—

(a.) The total number of children away on account of under-mentioned diseases.

(b.) The number of fresh cases which have occurred during the week.

Diseases: viz., chicken pox, diphtheria, dirty heads, impetigo, influenza, measles, mumps, ophthalmia, ringworm, scarlet fever, small-pox, sore throat, typhoid fever, whooping cough.

In addition to this teachers are instructed to report at once any special feature, e.g., a case of diphtheria, simultaneous attacks of sore throat, etc.

Special visits and investigations are made according to requirements.

In the case of diphtheria, for example, examination may be made of the throats, etc., of a whole class or of the whole school, individual children excluded; or if necessary throats are swabbed, etc.

Such a school is kept under constant supervision and repeatedly visited.

(b.) One afternoon each fortnight, or more often should necessity arise, children who are considered fit to attend school, but whose parents allege their inability through illness, are examined by the medical officer at the office. These are for the most part children of parents who are considered by the attendance officer to be endeavouring to evade the law.

(c.) Individual children are examined from this point of view from time to time, and a few years ago examination of a large number of children were made for statistical purposes.

(d.) A careful examination is made of all such children either in the school or at the office, such children being for the most part brought out by the teacher on the occasion of my visiting the school.

(e.) (i.) A complete list is kept of all mentally deficient children, throughout the schools; such children are seen on the occasion of a visit to the school, being presented by the teacher. They are dealt with as circumstances permit, all for whom it is practicable being sent to a special school; a few may be excluded as unfit for any kind of school while others are kept for observation for another year.

(ii.) Are seen in the same way as the above; nothing at present has been done for educatable physically defective children who are unable to attend school, though a house visitation of these will shortly be effected.

(f.) Children of this class who are in the schools are examined as to the advisability of their remaining in school. A personal visit to every epileptic child of such parents who would be expected to send their children to a public elementary school was made a few months ago with a view to some action being taken with regard to those who were capable of being educated.

(g.) The following is the system adopted throughout the schools:—

(a.) Each head teacher is supplied with a Snellen's Test Type.

(β.) Once a year each child is tested by the teacher, is placed twenty feet away and tested as regards the line D 9.

(γ.) A list is made of all the children on a form provided for the purpose, who are unable to read this line correctly and the list is forwarded to me.

411.

(δ) This list is compared with the previous year's record.

(ε) The department is visited and every child on the list is examined by myself.

(ζ) The teacher of each class is interviewed and any other children picked out who may be able to see well for distance but who fail for near work; similarly all squinting children who have passed the distance test are examined.

(η) Notices are sent to the parents in those cases where it is thought necessary.

(θ) A list of children on whose behalf notices have been sent is then sent to the head teacher with a space left for the filling in of any particulars showing what attention has been paid to such notice.

(ι) Children suffering from otorrhoea or deafness are presented by the teacher and if thought advisable notices are sent to the parents. When thought necessary children are recommended to the Deaf School.

(i) At present no special attention is paid to the question of children's teeth.

(j) (a) Ringworm. Instructions are given to teachers to exclude all children suffering from ringworms. Such case or cases about which the teacher has doubt are regularly brought to me at each visit.

(b) Dirty heads. All children suffering from verminous heads are excluded from school or at least they are supposed to be.

The attendance officer is instructed to see that adequate steps are taken for the cleansing of the child so that the condition may not be made an excuse for non-attendance at school.

2. (a) Not at present.

(b) Not at present except in one or two isolated cases in Infants' Departments.

3. Over the whole area within the boundary of the City of Bradford.

4. (a) Three or four times a year at any rate: many departments much more often, depending on special circumstances.

(b) There are none.

5. For the most part only those specially selected, though I often look round whole classes and find out any who attract attention from any cause. The teacher chooses the children, many of them keeping a list ready for my visit. Should they have a good many or should one or more children present any point of sufficient importance the teacher sends a request that I would pay a visit at any early opportunity.

6. Not in any systematic way, though such questions are frequently discussed during my visits.

7. Yes, notices are sent to them or else they are sent for by the teacher and the parents informed what the doctor says. Special forms are sent with regard to vision, hearing, adenoid growths, and other miscellaneous conditions.

8. Practically not as regards spectacles, though cases are now beginning to be referred to the new organisation, the City Guild of Help, and if on inquiry the case appears genuine, help is given. In the case of surgical appliances assistance is given through the infirmaries where such children are probably attending—e.g., by the Samaritan Society.

9. I only recollect hearing of one parent who objected to his child being examined, though I am inclined to believe from what one hears from teachers from time to time that a few parents think a lot of unnecessary fuss is made!

10. (a) Only at the end of each week and then on the card previously mentioned, except in the case of diphtheria, when immediate notification is usually made to myself.

(b) No formal instructions have yet been issued. A memorandum on infectious diseases is in contemplation at the present time.

(c) They probably hear of it as soon or sooner than anybody else.

(d) The question of closing the school being in the sole province of the Medical Officer of Health he is requested by the Secretary, on my representation to the latter of

the advisability and after conference with him, to close a given school and he will then visit the school or not as he thinks fit.

RALPH H. CROWLEY.

(3.) BRIGHTON.

MEMORANDUM BY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

In accordance with the suggestions of the Committee on medical inspection, etc., I send you herewith a statement the matter of which is arranged in accordance with the schedule forwarded by the Committee.

A. STAFF.

There was under the old school board of Brighton and Preston a medical officer who still retains the appointment under the Education Committee. He is not paid any salary, but receives fees for each item of the work which is referred to him; thus, he examines pupil-teachers, defective children, etc., in accordance with a fixed scale. This work only takes up a short part of his entire time, and he is engaged in private practice.

Occasionally, before the appointment of a school nurse, the medical officer was engaged temporarily when the necessity arose on the recommendation of the medical officer of health, for examining children in schools, taking "swabs" from suspected cases of diphtheria, etc.

Since the Education Committee was formed, matters referring to the hygiene of school life have been always referred to the medical officer of health, who is not engaged in private practice, and who is regarded by the Education Committee as their medical advisor, although no appointment of him as such has been made.

One school nurse has been employed for a school year, and her appointment has been a great success. She is entirely in the service of the Education Committee, and is paid £85 per annum. The conditions of appointment are given on the appended form (a).

It will be seen that the school nurse acts jointly under the supervision of the clerk to the Education Committee, and the Medical Officer of Health. Her work is supervised especially by the latter two or three times a week, and he arranges as to the notices and other instructions to be given to parents in regard to the children concerning whom the nurse reports to him.

B. ORGANISATION.

There has been for many years past a system of medical inspection of schools by the medical officer of health and his medical assistant. This has, however, been chiefly concerned with the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, and not with the physical condition of the children.

It is not thought necessary to give here in detail all particulars of notices served on parents and teachers with regard to the exclusion from school and resumption of school attendance of children who have had, or have been suspected of having an infectious disease, or other children in the household. This can be supplied if desired. The system works smoothly and has been found to be thoroughly efficient in its operation.

Some time ago it was felt that the weak point in the system was the absence of co-operation between the attendance officers and the medical officer of health, and the accompanying regulations, particularly Section 6 (Schedule B.), were framed to meet this difficulty.

There has been no systematic inspection of the children at school as to nutrition, eyes, ears, or teeth; defective and epileptic children are examined according to the requirements, as stated, by the medical officer of the late school board.

CLEANLINESS OF CHILDREN.

The supervision of this forms the chief work of the school nurse, the work being on similar lines to the well-known work done in London schools. The school nurse also supervises all cases of eczema, impetigo, ringworm

etc., visiting the homes and instructing the parents in details of treatment. It is hoped to make arrangements with the Queen's nurses which will enable them to do the home part of the work, and thus give the school nurse more time for visitation of schools.

RECORDS OF WEIGHTS, ETC.

This has not yet been started locally. I am strongly of opinion that no system of school feeding should be undertaken except in the light of the knowledge which measurements and weighings of school children would furnish, but I may refer on this point to remarks made by me some years ago on page 115 of a book entitled "National Physical Training" by J. B. Atkins.

FREQUENCY OF VISITATION.

The school nurse visits every school in the town at least once in about every fortnight, and in the intervals of these visits has cases referred to her by letter for home visitation. These letters are sent by myself, by teachers, or by medical men in the town.

5. Specially selected children only are examined by the nurse, examinations by the medical officer of health may include all the children in a class, but as a rule, only selected children, especially those who have been in contact with a case of infectious disease.

6. The accompanying form, or one similar to it, has been in use for many years, in order to familiarise the teachers with early symptoms of infectious disease.

7. All parents are informed of infectious disease, the sanitary inspector visiting the house for this purpose.

8. There is no special voluntary organisation for providing spectacles, etc., apart from the Surgical Aid Society, the Charity Organisation Society, and at cheaper rates at certain hospitals.

9. It is very seldom that parents object to the examination of their children, except in cases of dirty heads, when one of the appended notices is sent to them for prompt attention.

10. (a) The accompanying regulations show that it is part of the duty of the teacher to notify such cases.

(c) Teachers are not informed by the medical officer of health of epidemics not occurring in their own school.

11. There has been no case in which managers have had power given to them to call in a doctor when required.

C. COST.

(a) Doctors.

The medical officer, as stated, is paid by fees; the medical officer of health receives no special payment for his work in connection with the schools.

(b) The nurse receives £85 per annum.

(c) Attendance officers and teachers are paid independently of the work they do in connection with the prevention of disease. The total expenses are very small.

D. RESULTS.

The above system, apart from the school nurse's work, has been in operation for many years past. Its continued and increased success depends upon the co-operation not only between the teachers and the medical officer of health, which is as a rule easy to obtain, but also between the medical officer of health and the attendance officers who have many opportunities of coming into close touch with the domestic circumstances of parents and children, and could be made very much more useful than they have hitherto been in improving the physical welfare of the children.

ARTHUR NEWSHOLME, M.D., Pro. J.F.S.,
4th July, 1905. Medical Officer of Health.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE FOR THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIGHTON.

Regulations for Nurse Working under the School Attendance Committee.

1.—The Nurse is to act under the instructions of the above Committee, and to carry out the following and any other duties which may be given by this Committee.

2.—Subject to the instructions of the above Committee she is to act under the joint direction of the Clerk of the Education Committee and of the Medical Officer of Health, for the purpose of improving the attendance of children at School, by examining children who may be suspected of infectious diseases, unclean heads, etc.

3.—She is to visit the Elementary Day Schools from 9 to 12 and 2 to 4.30 each day when the Schools are in session, and to make such inquiries and investigations as are directed by the Clerk to the Education Committee, or by the Medical Officer of Health.

4.—She is to be present at each Meeting of the Parents' Branch Sub-Committee to report on the work done during the preceding week.

5.—She is to keep (either on cards or in a day book),

accurate notes of all cases in which she has found conditions requiring her attention.

6.—The examination of suspected children to be made, as far as practicable, away from other children.

7.—The Teachers' co-operation to be sought at each School which is visited, and the Teacher encouraged to pick out any children requiring attention.

8.—The Nurse is not to exclude any children from School, but only recommend the Teacher to do this.

9.—Except in well-marked cases, in which this is clearly necessary, exclusion only to be decided upon after consultation with the Medical Officer of Health.

10.—The Nurse to attend daily or as often as indicated by him, at the Town Hall, at 5 p.m., to advise with the Medical Officer of Health as to work done, and to receive from him instructions as to Schools to be visited, and as to visiting any school children at home.

11.—The Nurse is not, under any circumstances, unless specially instructed by the Medical Officer of Health, to undertake any measures of treating children, but only to advise parents in accordance with directions previously arranged.

JOHN CARDEN,

Clerk to the Education Committee.

(4.) BURNLEY.

MEMORANDUM BY DR. PULLON, MEDICAL OFFICER.

Education Department,
5th August, 1905.

A.—STAFF.

1. Yes.

(a.) Solely for purposes connected with elementary education.

(b.) Yes.

(c.) Time varies according to the claims upon it, but several schools are visited weekly, and an average of about thirty children are examined weekly at the medical officer's home, these include children from the schools who may have eye, or ear, or other disease (for their examination there is no scientific apparatus provided at the schools), and also cases of absence that appear doubtful to the school visitors, e.g., where children are not under medical treatment and consequently have no certificate.

2. No.

3. The three lady health visitors of the corporation visit the children at home and school.

B.—ORGANISATION.

1. Yes.

(a.) Yes.

(b.) Yes.

(c.) Yes.

(d.) Yes.

(e.) (1.) Yes

(2.) Yes.

(f.) Yes.

(g.) Yes.

(h.) Yes.

(i.) Yes, but only in a limited sense—the medical officer has recommended the services of a dentist.

(j.) Yes. (This is a prolific cause of preventable absence.)

2. (a) No.

(b.) No.

3. Over the whole area.

4. (a.) Whenever required, but at least once a quarter.

(b.)

5. Usually specially selected by the head teachers, who may either recognise the defect or ailment, or have their attention drawn to it by the other teachers.

6. Yes.

7. Yes, special notices are sent to the parents.

8. The Authority (Educational) has a contract with an optician to supply suitable spectacles and with an eye specialist in difficult cases to examine the eyes. The parents pay the cost of the same.

9. Very rarely; in the notices issued they are asked to take their children to the medical officer (and this gives him an opportunity of explaining the nature of the complaint, e.g., adenoids), then advised to see their own medical attendant.

10. (a.) To the Health Department and the Education Office, who communicate with the medical officer, but in cases of urgency the head teachers sometimes communicate directly with the medical officer.

(b.) Yes, in a general sense.

(c.) Yes, and the schools in such neighbourhoods are specially and frequently visited during the epidemic.

(d.) Does not apply to Burnley.

11. Reply same as to (d.) No. 10.

C.—COST.

1. (a.) £120 per annum.

(b.) Nil.

(c.) Nil.

2. Tramway pass costing £5 per annum.

3. £125 per annum.

4. One-twelfth of a penny.

D.

1. Since September, 1899. Reasons were frequent epidemics, heavy death rate of young children, and the opening of schools for mentally and physically defective children.

2. Yes. Improved health amongst teachers and children, reduction in the number of malingers, and preventable absences and the proper care of delicate and defective children, also reduction in number of physical deformities, e.g., squint, club feet, adenoids, etc., by instructing parents what steps to take for their removal.

3. Improved ventilation and sanitation of schools, cleanliness of the children and improved attendance generally at the schools.

GEORGE S. PULLON (M.D., C.M.),
Medical Officer.

(5.) DERBY.

MEMORANDUM BY DR. HOWARTH, MEDICAL OFFICER.

A. STAFF.

1. In addition to my duties as medical officer to the Derby Education Authority, I also hold the office of medical officer of health and medical superintendent of the Borough Infectious Hospital. I am not engaged in private practice, and devote the whole of my time to the above duties. It is impossible to state exactly the time devoted to education duties but one afternoon in each week is devoted to the examination of scholars attending one or more schools. This enables me to visit each school in the borough once in each six months, a time-table being drawn out at the beginning and middle of each year which is strictly adhered to for that period. If for any cause a visit to any school is postponed, an opportunity is taken as soon as possible to visit at a later date.

2. No nurses are employed by the Education Committee out the Sanitary Committee engages both a woman inspector and a trained nurse, the latter devoting four afternoons per week to sanitary work, a considerable portion of which is really school work and consists in visiting homes where non-notifiable diseases have been reported from the school. I have advocated in reports to the Education Committee the appointment of a school nurse to devote the whole of her time to visiting children who may be suffering from some ailment or other in the hope that frequent visitation and, if necessary, progressive pressure, would result in the parents devoting more attention to getting their children better from these ailments than is sometimes the case, apathy being most frequently observed in cases of ringworm, pediculosis, impetigo and other contagious ailments of a similar character. In addition to the fixed half day per week the medical officer has to devote time to the visitation of cases on the request of the school attendance officer and also conduct the medical examination of candidates for the position of pupil teacher.

3. There are no other persons who undertake the supervision of the health of the children, excluding, of course, the teaching staff.

ORGANIZATION.

(a) There is no systematic medical inspection of schools having for its object the prevention of the spread of infectious disease, but when a particular incidence of any disease is observed in any school, visits are made to that school for the purpose of ascertaining whether children suffering from the particular disease are in attendance and for the purpose of giving advice to the teachers. Instances of this kind occur fairly frequently.

(b) Children kept at home and alleged to be physically unfit are examined by the medical officer on request of the school attendance officer. If a medical man is in attendance, a certificate is given that the child is unfit to attend; this is usually accepted. The school attendance officer uses his discretion in respect to making such requests. The report of the medical officer is subsequently forwarded to the clerk to the Education Committee.

(c) Nutrition and general personal attention.

(d) Inability, whether physical or mental, to profit by instruction given.

(e) Defective children—mental and physical.

(f) Epileptics.

(g) Eyes.

(h) Ears.

(j) Heads—cleanliness and freedom from vermin.

Cases coming under the above headings are prepared by the teachers for examination by the medical officer at his regular half-yearly visit, but in addition, defective children, mental and physical, are examined at frequent intervals at the special school. So far, no attention has been paid to the teeth.

2. No records are kept of weights and measurements of children, nor of infectious diseases they have been suffering from.

3. The organization extends over the whole area.

4. Each school is visited as stated above by the medical officer twice a year.

5. In addition to the children specially selected, the medical officer, as a rule, examines each class but does not take each child individually.

6.

7. The names of all children specially selected by the teachers for examination by the medical officer are placed on a list under various headings. If the medical officer considers that the case is one for treatment, he makes a note on the form and requests the teacher to see the parent of this particular child and advise that the child shall be placed under medical treatment. He further requests the teacher to return the form to the office with observations as to the action taken in reference to his suggestion. In the case of infectious diseases, all cases are visited by a member of the sanitary staff except when measles becomes excessively epidemic, when it is impossible for each case to be visited. At this stage, a circular giving directions as to the precautions which should be adopted to prevent the spread of the disease is sent by post to the parent of every child who has been notified to the medical officer as suffering from measles.

8. The only voluntary organisation which I am aware of to provide spectacles, is the "Samaritan Fund" at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, and on occasions I have given a note suggesting that the bearer would be a suitable case to receive assistance from the charity dispensed from that fund.

9. I know of no case where parents have objected to the examination of their children. On the contrary, when it becomes known that the doctor is visiting on a certain day, parents frequently attend the schools with a request that their child shall be examined and a report made to them.

10. (a) A scheme of inter-notification of infectious diseases, whether notifiable or not, has been working in this borough for several years. The notification is made to the medical officer of health.

(b) Most of the teachers are provided with copies of the official precaution forms.

(c) I have not found it necessary to notify the teachers of the outbreak of any epidemic except measles, and when I anticipate the occurrence of this disease in an epidemic form, the head of each department is always communicated with.

(d) I am not aware of the length of time that medical inspection of children in public elementary schools has been in operation in this district, but I have done the work, so far as relates to the examination of individual scholars, for two years. So far as concerns the notification of infectious diseases and the examination of schools for that purpose, I have done the work for some years. The present system works smoothly and satisfactorily. Its defects may be regarded as follows:—

1st. The value of the school notification of infectious diseases, particularly the non-compulsory notifiable diseases, is materially diminished owing to the withdrawal of the grant (Article 101*); for scholars excused by order of the sanitary authority, there is not the inducement for teachers to notify cases of infectious disease.

2nd. Many parents do not realise the importance of taking action in cases where their children are known to be suffering from defects which interfere with their school work. Apathy and the want of means are responsible in the main for this, and although the general infirmary treats patients free who present a recommendation, the poorer people state that they find some difficulty in obtaining a recommendation. In the case of children requiring spectacles, many children have their eyes tested at the infirmary, and receive a prescription for glasses, but do not obtain them, because they cannot afford the money. I consider that it would be of advantage if some scheme could be arranged whereby a schoolmaster or school-mistress could purchase these spectacles, and payment for them could be made by instalments to the headmaster. There are cases of abject poverty where glasses should be given without any charge.

3rd. Children sent home on account of contagious ailments are another difficult class to deal with, for the very carelessness which frequently is the cause of the disease, is continued when the child is sent home, and such cases are absent from school for a period which is quite in excess of that necessary to produce a cure. As I have said, a tactful nurse visiting such homes would do a great deal in the way of obtaining a speedy return.

6.) HALIFAX.

MEMORANDUM CONCERNING MEDICAL INSPECTION OF CHILDREN IN HALIFAX.

A.

1. There is a medical officer appointed solely for purposes connected with public elementary education, but this is understood to include the examination of the Committee's teachers and employees. He has duties under no other local authority, but is engaged in private practice. His school duties take up four afternoons per week with occasional mornings and evenings.

2. Nurses are not employed, and the medical officer has advised the Committee against this practice on two grounds—(1) it introduces another class of official and, therefore, possibilities of friction; (2) the class of work allotted to school nurses is not such as requires hospital training, and can be done quite as well by a teacher, who, moreover, has the children under constant observation. To enable teachers to acquire the necessary knowledge they are encouraged to attend courses in ambulance work, school hygiene, and physiology.

3. Not officially, except that the attendance officers report anything in the way of neglect, etc., which comes to their notice.

B.

1. Yes.

(a) The school is inspected by the medical officer when an epidemic is present, and the teachers put upon the alert to look for early cases of disease.

(b) Children alleged unfit to attend school are expected to produce a medical certificate. If for any reason, they cannot do so, they are brought by the attendance officer to see the medical officer at the Committee's office on Wednesday afternoon. It is assumed that the attendance officer can recognise cases alleged to be too ill to go outside the house.

(c) Yes. There is compared with some larger towns less deficiency as regards food and clothing. Ragged children are a very small percentage and practically none come without boots, though this is partly due to private charity.

(d and e) Yes. On the doctor's visits, teachers are expected in each class to bring before him those physically or mentally defective, who are examined with a view to special teaching. The difficulty here is to get the children to a special centre, their parents usually being particularly stupid or negligent.

(f) Epileptic children are examined and excused school, but nothing is done for them.

(g and h) The eyes and teeth of children are examined periodically by the teachers and the more defective examined by the medical officer. If they appear to be likely to benefit by treatment, the parents are notified to that effect. With regard to teeth the charitable institutions can only deal with cases of deformity, and displacement, as the number of carious teeth in this town is enormous; probably 95 per cent. of the children have carious teeth.

(h) The hearing of children noticed by teachers to be deaf is examined by the medical officer and treated in the same way as defective eyesight.

(j) The teachers are expected to attend to this and are provided with circulars instructing parents how to clean verminous heads. Negligent parents are brought before the medical officer and, if necessary, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children invoked.

2 (a) The weights, measurements, etc., of large numbers of children in various schools have been taken, but this

is not done systematically on account of the large amount of time required. Although the results are very interesting their practical utility seems problematical.

(b) No; the method employed in some areas (and based upon this record) of excluding children from school who have not had certain ailments does not seem a desirable one.

3. Organisation extends over the whole area.

4. (a) The medical officer visits quarterly.

5. Every class is visited as a rule on these occasions and the teacher expected to point out anything abnormal.

6. Yes.

7. Yes.

8. Surgical appliances may be obtained at a cheap rate and occasionally gratis at the infirmary. Spectacles are occasionally, but only rarely, supplied gratis.

9. Not often.

10. (a) The teachers notify all infectious diseases to the Health Committee of the County Council either directly, or indirectly through the Education Committee.

(b) Yes, and it is arranged that pupil teachers shall attend a course of hygiene, of which this subject shall form a part.

(c) Yes, by the attendance officer.

(d) Sometimes; but usually the inspection is left to the sanitary inspectors.

C.

1. (a) £150.

2. About £5 for printing, etc.

3. £155.

4. 1st of 1d.

D.

1. Since 1898 the inquiries instituted as to the need of special school provision for defective children raised the question of the need for regular medical inspection of all school children.

2. See extract from Rev. E. Lawrence's address.

3. No specific evidence.

EXTRACT FROM AN ADDRESS BY THE REV. E. A. LAWRENCE, CHAIRMAN OF THE HALIFAX SCHOOL BOARD, AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE BOARD, HELD NOVEMBER 16TH, 1903.

Teachers have been led to attach greater importance to physical exercises—including proper methods of breathing; ventilation—in Schools provided with little or nothing beyond what is called the "natural system"—has received increased attention; children are carefully examined by the teachers with a view to the discovery of defects in sight or hearing, or in general health, that may account for any backwardness they show; and all cases of the kind that are discovered are brought under the notice of the doctor. They have also become familiar with the early symptoms of infectious diseases, and have thus been enabled to avert the disastrous consequences that ensue from a too late discovery of such disorders.

The effect upon the parents has been no less satisfactory. They have received information and counsel of the highest value, which has already borne good fruit, and will doubtless work in many ways for the advantage of the children. The Board, after five years' experience, has every reason to be satisfied with the step taken, and the choice made, when its medical officer was appointed.

(6.) Two sets of lectures to teachers (on Infectious Disease in schools, eye and ear disease, mental peculiarities, etc., and general hygiene, ventilation, etc.) have been given, and about 1,200 tickets were applied for and issued. The attendance at these lectures was remarkably good. A synopsis of the lectures will be supplied to each teacher.

Next winter a regular course of instruction in twelve lectures will be given to the senior students at the pupil teachers' training centre, and this will be continued. These lectures were illustrated by lantern slides showing all the usual diseases dealt with by the teachers and myself, and also showing by tables, diagrams, etc., etc., the different subjects referred to in the lectures.

D.

(2 and 3.) I have no difficulty in working here, and the medical officer of health and I help each other in every way. The very large number of schools and the huge aggregate of over 100,000 children render it impossible to do as much as one would like, but the development of the positions is only a matter of time and expense.

The teachers have, of course, much yet to learn, but this also is being overcome.

The withdrawal of Article 101* from the code is greatly to be regretted from the medical officer's point of view.

PERCENTAGES OF MARKED CASES OF THE BADLY NOURISHED CHILDREN.

	Infant Departments.			Older Scholars—Standards.						
	Babies.	5's and over.	6's and over.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	L-VI.
Seven worst schools -	16.6	14.8	15.7	20.3	18.7	17.7	20.2	17.0	9.5	18.0
Other schools -	7	7.12	7.5	12.0	13.1	10.3	10.4	7.6	5.2	9.8

FREE MEALS (DINNER) TO SCHOOL CHILDREN.

No. examined.	Free meals.	Paid for.	Badly nourished.	Taking free meals.	Marked cases.	Taking free meals.
6,609	832	27	1,405	286=20.3%	824	142=17.2%

Free meals given to - - - - - 832 Deansgate, Manchester.

Percentage of which were badly nourished - 34.3
Percentage of which were marked cases - 17.0

Free meals are only given in certain schools, and only to children from families whose total weekly income falls below the following scale—other children may have the meal on payment of one penny per meal.

Scale.
Number in family including child - 1 or 2. 3 or 4. 5 or more.
Income per head per week after deducting rent - 3s. 2s. 9d. 2s. 6d.

Investigation of home circumstances, etc., of badly nourished children not taking free meal.

Eleven schools taken and 938 cases successfully dealt with.

		Per cent.
Number investigated -	938	
Mental capacity below par -	172	18.3
Mental capacity bad -	32	3.4
Father mother, or both, dead -	152	16.1
Mother works out -	164	17.4
Family in receipt of relief -	123	13.1
Total living at home=under 6 -	359	38.2
Total living at home=6 -	176	18.7
Total living at home=over 6 -	402	42.8
Total living at home=9 and over -	125	13.3
Living in 1 room -	51	5.4
Living in 2 rooms -	139	14.8
Marked cases -	533	56.8
Income below limit scale -	359	38.2

Number of children in above eleven schools receiving free meal, 738. A. BROWN RITCHIE.
10th July, 1905.

The beneficial results are—

Earlier diagnosis of disease.
More certain exclusion of suspects.
Interest and care taken in the matters of children's eyesight and hearing.
Special treatment of children with defects of sight or hearing.
More care with regard to ventilation, heating, etc.
Inspection and influence used in dealing with want of cleanliness, and verminous heads, etc.
Better knowledge of results of unsuitable work or position, or desks, etc., etc.
Capability of recognising and allowing for the results of defect or disease or debility on the child's capacity for work.
Knowledge of the development of the infant mind and faculties, and consequent effect on teaching in infant department.

Deansgate, Manchester.

SYNOPSIS OF INVESTIGATION REGARDING BADLY NOURISHED CHILDREN.

Twenty Elementary Schools Taken.

	Number of children examined, 10,180.	Examined.	Badly Nourished.	Very Badly Nourished.
Seven worst schools	2,031	610	367	
Other schools -	8,149	1,379	806	
Total -	10,180	1,989	1,173	

TESTING OF EYESIGHT AND HEARING.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

With the approval of the Committee, the Medical Officer has arranged the details of an investigation into the condition of eyesight and hearing of the pupils in the Manchester Schools and asks the cordial co-operation of all head teachers in carrying out the initial stages of the scheme, and in doing all in their power to obtain results carefully and accurately, so that the objects in view may be fully attained.

The purpose of the investigation is to detect and to establish a record of those scholars in whom acuity of vision or hearing is defective, and by repeating the examination of eyesight once annually to check former records, to compare the results of different examinations, and to note the effect of school work on the eye.

The preliminary examinations, which shall be limited to children in Standard II. and those above, will be carried out under the supervision of the head teacher, to whom forms will be supplied for the record of results of the tests, and when the initial difficulties have been overcome it is probable that the investigation will not take up very much time.

All abnormal results, as shown in the records, will be investigated by the medical officer, who will advise the parents as to the steps, if any, which should be taken.

Many defects of eyesight will be revealed by the test cards for distant vision. The common defects are "Short-sight" (Myopia) and "Long-sight" (Hypermetropia).

Myopia.—Near objects are seen distinctly. The child may be able to read, write, and sew with comparative ease, but is unable to see distant objects (e.g., letters on the blackboard) distinctly. Objects are held nearer to the eye than is normal; the eyelids are often closed into a horizontal chink when looking at a somewhat distant object. This condition becomes worse when children are occupied too long or too closely over fine work, or when lighting is bad. Children affected in this way should be placed in the front rows of the class.

Hypermetropia is more common in young children than in adult life. During the period of growth these eyes improve, and may reach a normal condition. The image of distant objects can usually be seen clearly, but when near objects are looked at, the muscles whose action affect the accommodation of the eye to distant and near vision respectively, have to act very powerfully, and this condition gives rise to fatigue and a feeling of tiredness or pain in or round the eyes.

Children affected in this way may have difficulty in reading, writing, drawing, or sewing. Many cases of squint are due to hypermetropia, and can be remedied by glasses.

Other Conditions which may be present are those of a) Astigmatism, in which all letters or all parts of letters are not seen with equal distinctness; (b) Asthenopia (weak sight), in which condition the acuteness of vision may vary, there may be double vision, dimness of vision, or disappearance from time to time of object looked at.

Directions for testing Scholars' Vision.

1.—For the visual tests a bright day should be selected if possible, and in no case should artificial light be substituted for daylight.

2.—The card is to be placed in a good light about the height of the child's head, and at a distance of ten feet from the child to be tested. The child is then to fill in all the letters it can see, each letter in its proper place.

3.—If the child wears glasses, test without these first, then put on the glasses, and, on a separate sheet, test again.

4.—Change the card occasionally so as to present new letters to the different children, but each child must copy from one side of the card only.

5.—The result of the test is to be marked by the teacher in the square provided for the purpose.

In marking the result on the record a fraction is used, indicating the number of feet from the child's head to the test card, and the smallest type the child can read correctly, viz. :—

Number of feet	-	-	-	-	10
Smallest type visible	-	-	-	-	12

This means that at ten feet distance the child sees clearly only type which should be visible at twelve feet, and the vision is $\frac{10}{12}$ of normal.

In the case of a child wearing glasses, the sheet used while wearing the glasses must have the result recorded within a ring, e.g., ($\frac{10}{12}$).

If nothing can be read write "nil" in the appropriate space.

6.—The tests should be made as soon as possible. In the case of new children, the tests should be made within a month from the date of their admission to school. In the case of schools in which the children have been tested within a year, Standard II. should be tested within a month of the time when the children enter the standard.

7.—In order to obviate fallacious results, it is necessary that copying be prevented, and the test cards should not be exposed in view of the children, except when in use.

8.—The records which are not filled in correctly are to be arranged alphabetically, and in series; according to the standard and department in which the scholar is accommodated, and, along with a note of the number of correct papers and total number tested in each standard, forwarded, per store's cart, to the medical officer at the education offices. The correct records may be destroyed.

9.—In addition to those cases of defective vision revealed by the test card for distant vision, the head teacher is requested to report to the medical officer all further cases of apparent defective vision, or of disease of the eyes or eyelids, whether occurring among the children already tested or among those younger.

The medical officer will visit the various schools and investigate the cases of defective vision.

Hearing.—All children suffering from deafness or from discharge from the ears should be reported to the medical officer on a separate sheet, and not referred to on the eyesight paper—I am, yours faithfully,

C. H. WYATT,
Director of Elementary Education.

The Head Teacher.

CITY OF MANCHESTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Deansgate, Manchester.

To the Parents or Guardians of
.....190

residing at.....

Your child, who is now in attendance at the School, has been examined, and is reported by the Committee's Medical Officer to be suffering from defective Hearing, which is likely to hinder his (or her) progress at school. You are therefore advised to consult a medical man at once, either privately, or at the Ear Hospital (23, Byrom Street, Deansgate), with a view to having the defect remedied.

C. H. WYATT,
Director of Elementary Education.

CITY OF MANCHESTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Deansgate, Manchester.

To the Parents or Guardians of
.....190

residing at.....

Your child, who is now in attendance at the School, has been examined, and is reported by the Committee's Medical Officer to be suffering from defective vision, which is likely to hinder his (or her) progress at school. You are therefore advised to consult a medical man at once, either privately, or at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital (24, St. John Street, Deansgate, or Oxford Street), with a view to having the defect remedied; and you are particularly warned against obtaining spectacles without a doctor's certificate.

C. H. WYATT,
Director of Elementary Education.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF CHILDREN.

Extracts from Second Annual Report.

For the information of the Committee, the medical officer (Dr. A. Brown Ritchie) has reported upon the eyesight of children attending the elementary schools of the City. A copy of this report will be found in Appendix M. In accordance with certain suggestions contained therein the Committee have made arrangements with the authorities of the Manchester Eye Hospital by which, in cases of poverty, spectacles are supplied to necessitous children either free or at a reduced charge. This charge is paid out of the school banks reserve fund. Before this relief is granted, careful inquiries are made by the Committee's officers as to the circumstances of the parents.

During the past year the medical officer has carried out the testing of the eyesight of children attending the municipal schools in Standard II. and above. The total number of children tested was 27,329, and of these 1,960 were found to be suffering from defects of such gravity as to warrant a circular being sent to the parents calling attention to the defect, and requesting that the child be taken to a private practitioner or to hospital. 289 cases of defective hearing were submitted to the medical officer, and the parents of 118 of these were advised.

The question of backward children, so far as its medical aspects are concerned, has also been referred to the medical officer. The Committee have ordered Dr. Ritchie's report thereon to be printed, and a copy will be found in Appendix N.

In connection with the Bursary scheme, and in accordance with the Board of Education requirements with regard to pupil teachers, and also in connection with the changes under the recent Education Act, 551 and 500 medical certificates, respectively, have been issued, a number of these necessitating repeated medical examinations.

In conjunction with the medical officer of health for Manchester, the Committee's medical officer has done much work with a view to the prevention or lessening of epidemics and infectious or contagious disease in schools.

The returns of infectious disease from the various schools are submitted to the medical officer every week, and in every case where there is evidence of any disease of such character as to require investigation or advice he visits the school personally.

In the case of notifiable diseases (e.g., scarlet fever, diphtheria, small-pox), the schools are visited on receipt of information from the medical officer of health.

The Committee's medical officer, in the event of epidemics of disease, examines the children to such extent as may be necessary, and instructs with regard to exclusion of suspects and disinfection of premises. In each case of a visit to a school or department, an endeavour is made to impart to the teaching staff as much information as possible, with a view to making the exclusion of infected pupils more certain, and improving the general sanitary arrangements in connection with class work.

In view of the serious effect of epidemic diseases on school attendance, an arrangement has been come to whereby the term of exclusion of elder non-infected children is appreciably shortened, and it is not considered that the risk of infection is made greater by the changes adopted.

Deansgate, Manchester,
25th March, 1904.

Eyesight of School Children.

Having now tested the vision of the children in a number of the municipal schools, and a sufficient time having elapsed since the testing, one is able to point out a difficulty in the way of obtaining satisfactory results from the work.

The method of procedure is as follows:—

1. The principal teacher of a school receives printed instructions as to the method of taking the preliminary test of vision, and is supplied with test cards and forms for the children to fill up. The teachers then get the forms filled up by all the children in and above Standard II; the papers are corrected and the incorrect ones are forwarded to me.
2. The incorrect papers are examined, and those in which there is evidence of defective vision of any consequence are selected. I visit the school, and personally test all selected cases.
3. In the case of a child whose vision is found to be defective beyond a certain standard, or whose eyes are diseased (though the vision may not be affected), a circular is made out and forwarded to the principal teacher, who in turn sends it home by the child. This circular draws attention to the defect, and requests that the child be taken for further examination and advice either to the parent's private doctor or to the eye hospital. A record of the children with defective vision is also supplied to the principal teacher.

Many of the parents so notified at once seek medical advice, and, where required, procure glasses for the children; but in the schools attended by the poorer classes especially there are numbers of children whose parents cannot afford the price of a pair of spectacles, and one can hardly expect (considering the number of children referred to them) that the hospital authorities will supply such cases gratis.

My object in reporting to you at this juncture is to ask whether some arrangement with the Eye Hospital author-

ities is not possible, so that the wants of these children really poor parents can be met.

The question is one of finance only, as, were funds available, the glasses where required, and where there was genuine inability to pay for them, could be got by the hospital authorities at a very low price. It is only in an exceptional case that expensive lenses are required.

Hoping that the Educational Committee may be able to do something in the matter, as it seems a pity to leave the children suffer educationally and "optically,"

I am, yours obediently,

A. BROWN RITCHIE.

Report by Dr. A. Brown Ritchie, Medical Officer to the Committee, regarding Backward Children two years and over above standard age.

In carrying out this investigation, the results of which are tabulated in the accompanying sheets, twelve departments in Municipal schools were chosen, and the greatest care taken to obviate unreliability of figures.

Of course, when the teachers estimate the mental capacity, and where the attendance officers record the number of rooms occupied by the family, there is, obviously, the probability of some variation in the figures, but as the other points were dealt with by me personally, the main results should be reliable.

It is to be noted that 221 of the children had left school before, or were absent when, I made my personal investigations, the figures have therefore to be considered in two groups.

The outstanding facts seem to be that backwardness in the children is, in the vast majority of cases, due either to bad health or irregular attendance apart from bad health.

Bad health covers most of the figures on the sheets, but poor health generally, with bad nutrition, and the presence of markedly enlarged tonsils or adenoids, form the largest group of cases. Disease of the ears or eyes or defective vision accounts for a fair number, and a small number are found to be absolutely unfit for an ordinary elementary school on account of well-marked mental deficiency. A considerable number of the children are very dull or slow mentally, but not actually "mentally deficient," and these cases are often quite healthy otherwise. Of those in bad health generally, many seem underfed or badly nourished; some suffer from chronic disease (e.g., tubercle), and others have had repeated illnesses. A point worth noting is the large proportion of children with teeth in a state of advanced decay.

Irregular attendance, apart from bad health, is largely explained by the prevalence of large families, father or mother dead, or mother working out, while another factor is the frequent removal of families from one district to another.

The result of the above conditions is that a large number of children leave school having completed their fourteenth year and having only reached standard 3, 4, or, at most, 5.

A number of children appear to be advanced from the lower standards without benefitting to any extent from their attendance at school, while others seem to spend year after year in the same standard. Both systems of dealing with these children seem to be entirely unsatisfactory, and the difficulty appears to be that they are incapable of progressing so far in one year as the step of one standard indicates.

Much of the bad health, poor nutrition, or disease of various organs is preventable or removable, and perhaps, pending further progress in this direction, some system of notification to parents of the unsatisfactory state of their child's health, and requesting attention to it, would do good.

A. BROWN RITCHIE.

Number of Children 2 Years and over above Standard Age.

	Grange Street.		Johnson Street.		St. Matthew's (D).		Burgess Street.		Bangor Street.		Queen Street.		St. Peter's.	
Standard.	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
O.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
I.	26	...	...	...	6	...	...	5	4	8	27	11	5	7
II.	36	...	...	...	6	...	...	10	8	9	16	18	5	5
III.	...	...	31	26	9	...	32	13	10	12	30	12	6	12
IV.	...	...	37	25	6	...	29	12	7	9	21	27	10	8
V.	...	...	17	20	2	...	10	7	...	14	8	12	4	3

Usual Age of Children in Various Standards.

Infants.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	...
3-6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	...

Children may leave School if 14 years of age, or if they are 12 years of age and have passed Standard VII.

Synopsis of Reports on Individual Schools.

TOTAL EXAMINED—	671							
Mental Capacity below par	278	Bad	-	-	56			
Father, Mother, or both dead	112							Living in Van - 3
Mother works out	80							" 1 Room 8
Total living at home—including child = 6	423							" 2 Rooms 30
" " " " over 6	300	9 and over -	90					
TOTAL EXAMINED—	450							
Vision defective	79	Bad	-	-	36			
Insufficiently clothed	130	"	-	-	7			
Clothing and person dirty	175	"	-	-	13			
Shoes bad	111	Very bad	-	-	46			
Hair poor in condition	173	Bad	-	-	37			
Glands unhealthy	158	"	-	-	13			
Eyelids diseased	35	"	-	-	11			
Teeth unsatisfactory	201	"	-	-	44			
Throat or Nose unhealthy	142	"	-	-	64			
Ears diseased	53	"	-	-	27			
Health and nutrition below par	325	"	-	-	111			
Squint	20							
Deaf, noticeably	8							
Mentally defective	14							
Tonsils markedly enlarged or Adenoids prominent	114							

Number of Children in Various Standards who have left or are leaving School at completion of School Age (14).					
I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	Total
2	8	45	91	103	249

(9.) ROCHDALE.

EXTRACT FROM MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

C. COST.

- (1) What sums are annually expended on the salaries of—
 - (a) Doctors?
 - (b) Nurses?
 - (c) Other persons?—£100.
- (2) Incidental expenses?—£50 on clogs, crutches, etc., not from rates. The administration is voluntary and costs nothing.
- (3) Total.
- (4) What rate in the £ is required to meet this expenditure?—One-fifteenth of a penny for salary of medical officer.

D. WHAT RESULTS ARE OBTAINED.

- (1) For how long has any system of medical inspection of children in public elementary schools been in operation in the district? State the reasons which led to its adoption, modification or discontinuance?—Since the year 1899.
- (2) Does the present system work smoothly and satisfactorily? What are considered to be its advantages, difficulties, and defects?—*Vide infra*.
- (3) What evidence is there of its beneficial results, temporary or permanent?—*Vide infra*.

TABLE I.—*cont.*

Boys.													
Class or Standard.	No. Examined.	2½		3½		4½		5½		6½		7½	
		R.	L.	R.	L.	R.	L.	R.	L.	R.	L.	R.	L.
Standard I. - - -	737	40.6	36.0	33.6	34.9	11.7	13.8	5.8	6.8	5.2	5.0	3.1	3.5
" II. - - -	686	43.5	41.3	25.2	27.1	12.0	12.8	8.3	8.3	8.4	7.9	2.6	2.6
" III. - - -	753	57.9	51.9	21.1	22.6	7.8	9.3	6.5	7.0	4.3	5.8	2.4	3.3
" IV. - - -	681	61.0	57.6	20.1	21.7	5.0	7.3	6.3	5.0	5.0	5.3	2.6	3.1
" V. - - -	410	58.3	56.1	21.2	21.4	7.8	7.8	6.3	4.9	2.7	4.9	3.7	4.9
" VI. & VII. -	378	68.3	59.8	15.1	20.9	4.2	6.6	2.9	5.0	6.3	3.4	3.2	4.2
	3,645												

INFANTS.													
	559	34.2	32.6	23.8	24.3	29.7	31.3	7.1	7.1	3.4	2.9	1.8	1.8

HIGHER GRADE SCHOOLS.													
Pendleton - - -	138	71.0	68.1	14.5	14.5	2.9	2.9	2.9	4.3	4.3	5.8	4.3	4.3
Grecian St., Boys' -	208	65.9	58.7	16.8	20.2	5.8	5.8	4.8	6.2	3.8	4.3	2.9	4.8
" Girls' - - -	408	41.2	39.2	33.1	33.6	10.8	12.0	8.1	7.8	5.4	5.2	1.5	2.2

Although the wearing of spectacles is the most important preventative measure to be taken against the increase of defective vision, there are other measures which may be considered. The schools should be well lighted; the children should be so arranged that the light should fall from the left hand. In any new schools the amount and arrangement of window space ought to be most carefully considered.

Reading books should have a dead white or cream surface, and the type should be of good size. "The simplest test of the size of type is the one devised by Cohn. A small square hole is cut in a thin piece of card-board (or in a visiting card), the hole being exactly one square centimetre. The card, with the centimetre square hole, is placed on the printed page of the book, the lower edge of the square being immediately above one line of print. A satisfactory type should be so large that only two lines of print can be seen in the centimetre square: if more than two are seen the type is too small and should be condemned." (Williamson).

Blackboards or their substitutes should be kept a dead black and not allowed to become grey by successive layers of chalk. The crayons should be white or yellow, as these colours afford a strong contrast. The figures or letters should be large and made with a broad stroke.

Slates should not be used. The contrast between the colour of the slate and writing done by slate-pencil is not sufficiently marked.

The maps should be made with a dead black surface and white outlines. The figures and letters on them should be as large as the line of test types intended to be read by the normal eye at forty feet. Coloured maps with shining surfaces and hand atlases with profuse lettering should not be used.

Table II. shows the complete results of an examination of one school. Five hundred and forty-four children were tested by the teachers, and those who were unable to read 20 with each eye were examined ophthalmoscopically. The table shows clearly the great increase

of myopia in the upper standards. The results are stated in percentages.

TABLE II.

Standard.	Normal.	Hypermetropia including Hypermetropic Astigmatism.	Myopia, including Myopic Astigmatism.
1	R 57.4	34.2	6.4
	L 54.2	39.2	
2	R 45.2	49.5	4.7
	L 43.6	51.3	
3	R 44.	50.	5.7
	L 34.4	59.7	
4	R 46.	47.3	6.3
	L 52.1	41.0	
5	R 36.8	56.5	6.5
	L 36.2	56.5	
6 & 7	R 63.7	21.8	14.5
	L 65.6	18.1	

In order to encourage the wearing of spectacles, which are so frequently needed but seldom worn, a scheme has been initiated by which they can be provided at a very low charge. The details of this scheme are in the hands of the teachers, and the work of supplying the spectacles has already begun.

PART III.

ANTHROPOMETRIC MEASUREMENTS IN Salford Schools.

The Physical Instruction Sub-Committee decided to have measurements taken of boys in six Salford Elementary Schools, these being selected as representing the various classes of children living in the borough. The schools selected were:—

1. Langworthy Road Council School.
2. John Street Council School.
3. Trafford Road Council School.
4. Grecian Street Council School.
5. St. Peter's School, Greengate (non-provided).
6. St. Ann's School, Brindleheath (non-provided).

LANGWORTHY ROAD COUNCIL SCHOOL.

The boys are chiefly drawn from the class of clerks, warehousemen, and shop-keepers. They were clean, well nourished, and sufficiently clothed. Only three boys showed any evidence of vermin. The school is surrounded by a large open space, and has a very large playground.

JOHN STREET COUNCIL SCHOOL.

The boys are mostly from the class of unskilled labourers. Clothing was deficient, both in quality and quantity. Not one boy was wearing an undervest. Twenty boys out of the sixty-two examined showed marked signs of vermin.

TRAFFORD ROAD COUNCIL SCHOOL.

The boys at this school are chiefly drawn from the skilled artizan class. Recently there has been a considerable number of admissions of the children of dock labourers. The district surrounding the school has of late years become thickly populated.

GRECIAN STREET COUNCIL SCHOOL.

The scholars in this school are largely drawn from the skilled artizan and clerk class. They may be fairly described as well dressed and nourished. Every boy wore two garments, an undervest and shirt. Only one boy showed any evidence of vermin. The school is in the immediate vicinity of a large park.

ST. ANN'S SCHOOL, BRINDLEHEATH.

The boys are chiefly the children of mill workers. They are well, although roughly, clothed, and are well nourished. Attached to the school is a large playing field.

ST. PETER'S SCHOOL, GREENGATE.

The boys examined were the children of unskilled labourers. They were dirty, badly clothed, and ill nourished. A large proportion showed distinct signs of rickets. The school is situated in a very populous district, which, although much improvement has taken place during recent years, may still be regarded as the worst in Salford.

The question as to what measurements should be taken was given careful consideration.

"Other things being equal, a goodly stature in a youth implies a surplus of energy over and above the amount requisite merely to sustain life. Hence it follows that more than otherwise a tall population implies a relatively healthy one."

"Weight indicates the immediate condition of the tissues."

These two measurements are easily taken and are not liable to experimental errors.

When it is remembered that the chest contains the heart and the lungs, the importance of a well developed chest seems obvious.

Many measurements of anthropological or developmental interest might be taken, but height, weight, and chest girth may be regarded as of primary importance to the school anthropometrician.

It was decided to measure the boys between the following age periods:—7 years and 9 months and 8 years and 3 months; 9 years and 9 months and 10 years and 3 months; and 12 years and 9 months and 13 years and 3 months.

This method gives three age periods, the averages of which, in each school, are approximately 8, 10, and 13 years. The measurements become therefore almost strictly comparable. Moreover, lists of boys to be measured may be made out of school hours, thus avoiding the interference with school work which some other methods involve.

Each teacher was asked to make a list of the boys in his own class at these ages. These lists were checked by the headmaster and again by myself at the time of examination. The possibility of boys at wrong ages being included was thus reduced to a minimum.

As it was deemed inadvisable to entirely strip the boys, it was necessary to make a preliminary inquiry into the weights of various articles of clothing.

Twenty-five boys were examined and the average results were as follows:—

Increase in height due to boots - - - - 1 inch.

" " " " stockings - - - - 1½ inch.

Total weight of clothes - - - - 7 lbs.

Weight of boots - - - - 2 lbs.

Weight of trousers and socks - - - - 2 lbs.

As the boys were measured without boots, and weighed with trousers and stockings, it will be necessary in the following tables to allow 1½ inch from the height and 2 lbs. from the weight in order to obtain the actual measurements of Salford boys.

The measurements were taken as follows:—

HEIGHT.—Without boots, standing erect, knees braced hands by side, heels together, and feet forming an angle of 60°.

WEIGHT.—All clothes removed except trousers and stockings.

CHEST MEASUREMENTS.—Standing erect, arms extended laterally and horizontally, with palms upwards, the lower edge of the tape measure being placed on a level with the nipples. Several deep inspirations and expirations were taken, and the maximum and minimum girth recorded.

The following tables summarise the results for each age period.

TABLE I.
SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS AT ALL THE SCHOOLS.

AVERAGE AT AGE 8.

Name of School.	No. of Scholars examined.	Average Age.		Average Height.		Average Chest Measurement.		
		Yrs.	Mos.	Ft.	Ins.	Average Weight. Lbs.	Max. Inches.	Min. Inches.
Langworthy Road - - -	37	8	0.3	3	10.9	46.6	23.1	21.1
John Street - - -	22	7	11.3	3	9.1	46.4	23.3	21.3
Trafford Road - - -	38	7	11	3	9.6	44.8	23.1	21.2
Grecian Street - - -	29	8	0.6	3	11.1	48.6	23.5	21.6
St. Ann's, Brindleheath - -	9	7	11.1	3	10.1	46.4	22.9	21.1
St. Peter's R.C. - - -	8	8	6.1	3	8.4	45.1	22.3	20.8

TABLE I- *cont.*

AVERAGE AT AGE 10.

Name of School.	No. of Scholars examined.	Average Age.		Average Height.		Average Weight.	Average Chest Measurement.		
		Yrs.	Mos.	Ft.	Ins.		Max. Inches.	Min. Inches.	Diff. Inches.
Langworthy Road - - -	37	9	11.8	4	2.3	56.0	24.6	22.5	2.1
John Street - - -	23	10	0.5	4	0.2	53.2	24.3	22.1	2.2
Trafford Road - - -	42	9	11.2	4	1.6	53.2	24.3	22.2	2.1
Grecian Street - - -	45	10	0.3	4	2.5	57.1	24.5	22.6	1.9
St. Ann's, Brindleheath - -	9	10	0.3	4	2.7	59.3	24.5	22.5	2.0
St. Peter's R.C. - - -	5	9	10.5	4	1.7	53.7	24.0	21.7	2.3

AVERAGE AT AGE 13.

Langworthy Road - - -	13	12	10.7	4	7.5	71.0	26.5	24.5	2.0
John Street - - -	17	12	10.2	4	5.3	66.2	25.9	23.7	2.2
Trafford Road - - -	33	12	10.5	4	6.0	66.9	26.3	23.7	2.6
Grecian Street - - -	41	12	11.2	4	6.7	68.8	26.1	23.7	2.4
St. Ann's, Brindleheath - -	11	12	10.6	4	8.3	79.8	27.2	25	2.2
St. Peter's R.C. - - -	8	12	10.6	4	4.7	64.6	25.7	23.7	2.0

TABLE II.

SUMMARY OF GAINS AT ALL THE SCHOOLS.

BETWEEN 8 AND 10 YEARS.

Name of School.	Average Age.		Average Height.		Average Weight.	Average Chest Measurement.	
	Yrs.	Mos.	Ft.	Ins.		Max. Inches.	Min. Inches.
Langworthy Road - - -	1	11.5	0	3.4	9.4	1.5	1.3
John Street - - -	2	1.2	0	3.0	6.8	1.0	.8
Trafford Road - - -	2	0.2	0	4.0	8.3	1.2	1.0
Grecian Street - - -	1	11.6	0	3.3	8.5	1.0	1.0
St. Ann's (Brindleheath) - -	2	1.1	0	4.5	12.9	1.5	1.3
St. Peter's R.C. - - -	1	10.4	0	5.3	8.5	1.7	.9

BETWEEN 10 AND 13 YEARS.

Langworthy Road - - -	2	10.8	0	5.1	15.0	1.8	2
John Street - - -	2	9.7	0	5.1	13.0	1.5	1.5
Trafford Road - - -	2	11.2	0	4.3	13.6	2	1.5
Grecian Street - - -	2	10.9	0	4.2	11.6	1.6	1.1
St. Ann's (Brindleheath) - -	2	10.3	0	5.6	20.5	2.7	2.5
St. Peter's R.C. - - -	3	0.0	0	3.0	10.8	1.7	2.0

TABLE II-*cont.*

BETWEEN 8 AND 13 YEARS.

Name of School.	Average Age.		Average Height.		Average Weight.	Average Chest Measurement.	
	Yrs.	Mos.	Ft.	Ins.		Max. Inches.	Min. Inches.
Langworthy Road - - -	4	10.4	0	8.5	24.4	3.3	3.3
John Street - - -	4	10.8	0	8.1	19.7	2.6	2.4
Trafford Road - - -	4	11.5	0	8.4	22.0	3.2	2.5
Grecian Street - - -	4	10.5	0	7.5	20.1	2.6	2.1
St. Ann's (Brindleheath) - -	4	11.4	0	10.1	33.3	4.3	3.9
St. Peter's R.C. - - -	4	10.5	0	8.3	19.4	3.4	2.9

A close acquaintance with the respective schools and the surrounding districts, together with intimate knowledge of the boys, led me to expect a higher anthropometric record in the Langworthy Road, Grecian Street, and Brindleheath Schools than in the John Street, Trafford Road, and St. Peter's Schools.

The expectation when brought to the test of measurements and weights is strikingly realised. The averages of heights and weights of boys in the first three schools is at each age period above the averages of the latter three schools.

TABLE III.

HEIGHT.

Age.	Langworthy Road.		John Street.		Trafford Road.		Grecian Street.		St. Ann's.		St. Peter's.		Average.	
Years.	Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.
8 - -	3	10.9	3	9.1	3	9.6	3	11.1	3	10.1	3	8.4	3	10.1
10 - -	4	2.3	4	0.2	4	1.6	4	2.5	4	2.7	4	1.7	4	2.5
13 - -	4	7.5	4	5.3	4	6.0	4	6.7	4	8.3	4	4.7	4	6.4

WEIGHT.

Years.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
8 - -	46.6	46.4	44.8	48.6	46.4	45.1	46.4
10 - -	56.0	53.2	53.2	57.1	59.3	53.7	55.4
13 - -	71.0	66.2	66.9	68.8	79.8	64.6	69.0

In Table IV. the average weight in ounces for each inch of height is shown.

It will be seen that at 8 years of age the records at all the schools are fairly equal, but that at 13 years there are marked variations. The scholars at the Langworthy

Road, Grecian Street, and Brindleheath Schools show a greater weight for each inch of height than those at Trafford Road, John Street, and St. Peter's Schools. The relation between height and weight is to be regarded as an index of nutrition.

TABLE IV.

SHOWING AVERAGE WEIGHT IN OUNCES FOR EACH INCH OF HEIGHT.

Average Age.	Langworthy Road.	John Street.	Trafford Road.	Grecian Street.	St. Ann's Brindleheath.	St. Peter's R. C.	General Average.
Years.							
8	15.8	16.4	15.6	16.4	16.1	16.2	16.1
10	17.7	17.7	17.1	18.1	18.5	17.2	17.5
13	20.5	19.7	19.8	20.1	22.7	19.6	20

In the preceding tables, averages are used and not means. Averages include and are influenced by exceptional cases, while means disregard exceptional cases and

are uninfluenced by them. If various classes of the same race are to be compared, it is usual to employ averages.

TABLE V.

NUMBERS DEVIATING MORE THAN 5 PER CENT. FROM GENERAL AVERAGE OF MEASUREMENTS, FOR
EACH YEAR OF AGE, PER CENT.

School.	Age.	Number Examined.	Deviating Above or Below.	Height.	Weight.
Langworthy Road	8	37	Above - - - -	13	32
			Below - - - -	15	40
	10	37	Above - - - -	33	20
			Below - - - -	11	29
	13	13	Above - - - -	25	46
			Below - - - -	16	38
John Street	8	22	Above - - - -	13	50
			Below - - - -	18	45
	10	23	Above - - - -	8	21
			Below - - - -	26	47
	13	17	Above - - - -	5	30
			Below - - - -	23	53
Trafford Road	8	38	Above - - - -	13	26
			Below - - - -	13	51
	10	42	Above - - - -	35	16
			Below - - - -	11	54
	13	33	Above - - - -	17	27
			Below - - - -	24	48
Grecian Street	8	29	Above - - - -	24	47
			Below - - - -	0	20
	10	45	Above - - - -	31	40
			Below - - - -	0	31
	13	41	Above - - - -	12	34
			Below - - - -	7	21
St. Ann's, Brindleheath	8	9	Above - - - -	0	33
			Below - - - -	0	11
	10	9	Above - - - -	11	55
			Below - - - -	0	0
	13	11	Above - - - -	40	80
			Below - - - -	10	0
St. Peter's Greengate	8	8	Above - - - -	0	25
			Below - - - -	25	50
	10	5	Above - - - -	40	20
			Below - - - -	0	60
	13	8	Above - - - -	0	0
			Below - - - -	12	62

In order to correct the impression obtained by a too exclusive use of averages, a method has been devised by Hay, of Aberdeen, in which the number of children examined who may carry more than 5 per cent. above or below the average is stated. In Table V. this method

has been applied. It is interesting, inasmuch as it shows the constitution of the averages, i.e., the number of boys above and below what is practically a mean. As the number of boys examined in each school was not the same, the results are stated in percentages.

TABLE VI.

HEIGHT.

Ages.	Salford.	Edinburgh	Glasgow	English Artisan. (Roberts.)	Public School Boys.	Anthropometric Committee Standard Average.
No. of Observations.	427	300	300	1,000	2,000	30,000
Years.	Ft. Ins.	Ft. Ins.	Ft. Ins.	Ft. Ins.	Ft. Ins.	Ft. Ins.
8	3 10.1	3 9.8	3 10.6	3 11	—	3 11
10	4 2.5	4 2.7	4 3.7	4 2.5	4 5	4 3.8
13	4 6.4	4 7.8	4 7.6	4 7.5	4 10.5	4 8.9

WEIGHT

Years.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
8	44.4	45.3	44.0	52.0	—	49.9
10	53.4	55.6	52.4	59.0	58.0	62.5
13	67.0	70.6	70.0	71.0	79.0	77.6

* In Table VI. the average of height and weight of Salford boys is compared with the measurements of school boys in Edinburgh and Glasgow, with boys of the English Artisan Class, Public Schoolboys, and the Anthropometric Committee's Standard Average. The ages of these latter are taken differently from those of the Salford ones, e.g., aged 8 means that the boys are above 8 years of age and below 9 years of age; aged 10 means that the boys are above 10 years of age and below 11 years of age; aged 13 means that the boys are above 13 years of age and below 14 years of age. Allowances have been made for the weights of the clothing worn at the time of measurement in each set of figures. When the variations of age periods is borne in mind there does not appear to be any considerable difference between the Salford boys and the boys of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and the English Artisan Class, but all these are below the averages of the measurements of Public Schoolboys and the Anthropometric Committee's Standard Average, the difference in weight being especially marked.

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(11.) SWANSEA.

MEMORANDUM BY DR. RHYS DAVIES, ONE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICERS.

In this memorandum I state, in as few words as possible, what has been done in connection with the medical inspection of schools in the Swansea town.

The memorandum does not refer to any subjects covered by my evidence, nor to the work of my colleague, Dr. Rice Morgan, in the upper or outlying districts of Swansea.

I will make a few notes under the following headings—

1. The physical examination of the children.
2. The public health aspect of the work done.
3. The results observed.

1. THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF THE CHILDREN.

During the last eight years I have visited quarterly all the town schools formerly under the supervision of the school board. They are twelve in number, having at present an average attendance of 11,098 children.

I shall refer to the examination of—

- (a) 1,000 children for acuteness of vision.
- (b) 1,600 children for colour vision.
- (c) 1,561 children for acuteness of hearing.
- (d) 600 children for cleanliness of the head.
- (e) 300 children for the state of teeth.

In making these observations I was expected by the school board to ask the single question, "Do these children suffer from any physical defect that 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 school medical officer, treat these children?"

(A.) The Acuteness of Vision of 1,000 Children.

I shall not give a detailed account of this. Some notes are, however, necessary.

(1.) Before this preliminary work can be of any value for comparison of the state of acuteness of vision in different towns, it is essential to mention the letters used in Snellen's Test, as some are much more difficult to distinguish than others. The letters I used for the normal vision were L, T, R, F, P. Of these, the difficult letters are R, F, and P. Frequently R was mistaken for H or A or B, and F for P, and P for F.

No. of Children.	Eye.	Good.	Fair.	Bad.
1,000	Right.	22.1	66.6	11.3
1,000	Left.	20.4	69.6	10.0
712	Right & Left (eyes equal)	22.5	69.1	8.4

Of the children examined, 12.9 per cent. had either the right or left eye very defective—"Bad." (This is not shown in the above table.)

In other words, of the 1,000 children examined in Standard III. in Swansea, the vision of the right or left eye of 12.9 per cent. was so defective as to interfere with their reasonable progress in school. There were 712 of the 1,000 who had both eyes equal—8.4 per cent. of these having eyesight so defective as to interfere with their reasonable progress in school.

"Good" in the above table means that children standing 20 feet from the test letters could see the letters that ought to be seen at that distance, that is, had normal vision (%).

"Fair" means that children standing at twenty feet from the test letters could only see the letters that the normal eye could see at distances varying from 30 to 60 feet. (% to %.)

"Bad" means that children standing at 20 feet from the test letters could only see the letters that the normal eye could see at 80 feet or further. (% and above.)

The letters used in Snellen's Type were—

%—L, T, R, F, P.
% to %—R, T, B, D, F, O, E, G, L, Z.
% and above—E, F, L, A, V.

(B.) Colour Vision.

One thousand and fifty boys and 550 girls were examined in Holmgren's Test for colour vision.

Of the boys 4.6 per cent. failed in this test. None of the girls failed.

Professor Swanzy gives 3.5 per cent. of boys and less than 1 per cent. of girls as affected.

(C.) Acuteness of Hearing.

I have examined 1,561 children and seventy-nine pupil-teachers for acuteness of hearing: of these, 1,011 children were in Standard II., and 550 in Standard III. The pupil-teachers were in their first and second years' apprenticeship. The children in Standard II. and the pupil-teachers were examined by means of a dictation test—whispering voice—and the others by the watch test. The ears were not tested separately.

Dictation adapts itself readily to this special work. It is a part of the ordinary school curriculum; the children can be examined in groups; the same test can be used throughout the school; and thus data for valuable comparisons and deductions may be quickly collected. Slight degrees of deafness can be detected by using words which are nearly alike in sound. The nervous element, a common actor that often leads to errors, is usually eliminated. This method of giving dictation, too, may be used as an exercise for cultivating the acuteness of hearing; and in the hands of intelligent and resourceful teachers it may be still further used as a means of cultivating the mental faculties. In an ordinary dictation lesson, were

(2.) Some of these mistakes arise from the lack of intelligent teaching in the infants' class, e.g., in the letters F and P the difference in the forms of these two letters had not been sufficiently emphasised.

(3.) Other circumstances, such as the health of the child, the "personal factor," and the amount of light in the classrooms, have to be considered.

(4.) To delay, if not to prevent, the oncoming of short-sightedness, I have recommended to some teachers the value of long-distance eye exercises. I trust that in the near future suitable exercises will be devised to develop all the senses of the child.

(5.) I think the eyes of children with defective vision and of those of poor nutrition are often strained in the schools, and that eye-ache, and head-ache, which are rather common, are often the subjective symptoms of this overwork.

The following table gives the percentage of the acuteness of vision:—

the familiar words and phrases dictated occasionally in a low tone, the hearing ability of a class as well as its spelling power could be readily tested; and such an exercise, too, might tend to induce the teacher to cultivate distinctness of enunciation—and distinctness of enunciation would certainly in time lessen the bad habit of shouting in the schools.

Simple familiar words that neither test the spelling nor the vocabulary of the child are better tests than phrases or sentences.

In eleven of the schools I tried 1,011 children with the six words—school, table, board, free, fire, shot. Each of above words was dictated once in a low voice, and no lip-reading was allowed. The children wrote as many of the words as they could hear on a slip of paper, and added their own names and that of their school. Of these, 100 children were afterwards tried with another set of words. The results were about the same.

Fifty girls in eleven different schools were tried with the watch test. The hearing distance of each classroom was first found. This varied considerably—from 3½ feet to 13½ feet. (In some reports published this precaution has not been taken.) In applying the test the watch was kept behind the child, who was instructed to lift her right arm as soon as she heard the tick and to keep it up as long as the watch was audible. As soon as the child failed to hear the tick the hand was to be dropped to the side. The simple process of covering the watch with the hand made the sound inaudible and so gave a ready means of testing the hearing. (One must not forget that many children have never heard the tick of a watch.)

It is a great advantage to carry on the examination in the presence of the whole class. The children soon learn in this way what to do, and how easy it is to detect those who guess.

They thoroughly enjoy the examination and take the keenest interest in the work. Indeed, when a child was unable to hear the watch I noticed, at times, marked signs of surprise and sympathy.

The disturbing factors in this test, as in the dictation test, were eliminated as far as possible. But to listen intently, even for a few seconds; to discriminate between the various sounds that reach the ear; and to concentrate all one's attention on one particular sound, however distinctive, require considerable practice, and, undoubtedly more mental discipline than many of these children have yet attained. Still, the methods described are sufficiently reliable for school work.

I have impressed on the teachers the need of remembering the following facts which are based on the results found in Swansea:—*In every class of fifty boys there are probably two or three who are colour blind; and in every class of fifty boys or girls there are probably six whose eyes, and seven whose ears, are so defective as to hinder their progress in the school very seriously.*

A table showing the acuteness of hearing of 1,561 children and seventy-nine pupil-teachers:—

Sex.	Number.	Percentages.			Test.
		Good.	Fair.	Bad.	
Boys and Girls - - -	1,011	31.7	54.6	13.6	Dictation.
Boys and Girls - - -	79	25.3	60.7	13.9	"
Girls - - - - -	550	24.0	37.0	39.0	Watch Test.

Dictation Test:—

Good=five or six words right. Fair=three or four words right.

Bad=two or fewer words correctly heard.

Watch Test:—

Good=full distance for each room. Fair=half distance. Bad=less than half distance.

(D.) The Cleanliness of the Head of 600 Children.

I have examined three groups of twenty-five boys and twenty-five girls in each of four schools, of the ages of six to nine; nine to twelve, and twelve to fifteen.

Two of these schools A and B, were in the cleanest parts of the town; and two, C and D, were in the dirtiest parts.

The following table of percentages partly explains itself:—

School.	Good.	Medium.	Bad.	Children with Nits.	Children with Vermin.
A - - - - -	94.0	6.0	0	66	0
B - - - - -	98.0	1.3	0.7	5.3	0
C - - - - -	80.6	17.3	2.1	16.0	2.66
D - - - - -	74.0	16.6	9.4	27.33	8.7
Totals - - - - -	87.33	9.65	2.5		
300 boys - - - - -	87.6	10.0	2.3		
300 girls - - - - -	87.0	9.3	3.6		

I conducted this inspection in the central hall of each school—first the boys in a line of twenty-five, three deep, and then the girls in the same way. In this way one can readily compare the children of the same age, group, and then the three groups, with one another.

This somewhat unpleasant examination must be conducted with care, otherwise both child and parent will justly resent it. I felt it my duty to consider the feelings of the clean children in all the schools. I explained that they were inspected so as to get a standard of cleanliness, and that the examination was undertaken for the double purpose of detecting the dirty children and protecting the clean ones.

All the boys of school B are examined weekly by the head teacher for general cleanliness, and much individual attention is given to the dirty children in school C. The head teachers in school D often speak to the children collectively, but not individually. The explanation given for this was that if they were to do so the parents would at once remove the dirty children to a neighbouring school.

In my report to the Swansea Education Committee I lay stress on the pressing need of much more systematic attention being paid to general cleanliness in the schools. With this object in view I suggest to them:—

(a) Surprise visits by the medical officer of the schools.

(b) Periodical parade of children for inspection.
(c) Daily systematic inspection by class teachers.
(d) Occasional competition between different classes and between boys and girls.

As further treatment for dirty children who remain unaffected by ordinary school discipline:—

(1) Bathrooms should be attached to every school.
(2) More co-operation should exist between different local authorities, e.g., between the Education Committee and the police; and also between the Education Committee and the medical officer of health.

(3) If these powers fail by the ordinary means at their command the education authority should refuse to admit the child, and then should take legal proceedings against the parents for wilful neglect.

(E.) Examination of Teeth.

Mr. H. J. Thomas, dentist to the Swansea Hospital, has kindly examined for me 150 boys and 150 girls in two of the town schools, for the purposes of this enquiry. School A is in a clean and healthy part of the town, and is the same school as that marked A in the report on cleanliness of the head. School B is in a dirty and poor part of the town, and is the same as that marked C in the report on cleanliness of the head.

CLEANLINESS OF TEETH. PERCENTAGES.

School.	Sex.	Number.	Good.	Medium.	Bad.	Teeth Brushed.
A - - - - -	Boys.	75	17.3	54.7	28.0	16.0
B - - - - -	Boys.	75	14.65	70.7	14.65	8.0
A - - - - -	Girls.	75	36.0	56.0	8.0	57.3
B - - - - -	Girls.	75	25.3	69.3	5.3	22.6
A and B - - - - -	Boys and Girls.	300	23.17	62.6	13.97	25.97
A - - - - -	Boys and Girls.	150	26.65	55.35	18.0	
B - - - - -	Boys and Girls.	150	19.97	69.55	9.97	

TWO SCHOOLS COMPARED—DECAYED AND EXTRACTED TEETH.

School.	Boys.	Girls.	Average per child.
A. - - - -	4.96	4.46	4.71
B. - - - -	5.12	3.8	4.46

School A had 78.6 per cent. of the children with permanent teeth either decayed or extracted, while school B had only 70 per cent. of the children so affected.

School A had 21.4 per cent. of the children with perfect permanent teeth, while school B., in poor locality, had 30 per cent. of the children with perfect permanent teeth.

The school in the poor locality had 8.6 per cent. fewer children with decayed teeth than that in the good locality; and an average of .25 fewer teeth decayed per child (of those affected).

Of the 300 children 25.7 per cent. had normal teeth, and 74.3 per cent. had decayed teeth.

Of the 150 boys examined, 71.3 per cent. had some of their permanent teeth either decayed or extracted, giving an average number of 4.9 per child.

Of the girls 77.3 per cent. were so affected, giving an average of 4.1 per child.

2. THE PUBLIC HEALTH ASPECT OF THE WORK DONE.

In my quarterly reports, I have dealt with the following, amongst other, subjects:—

- The ventilation of the schools.
- The latrines and w.c.'s.
- The drains—in one school a cause of the chronic sore throat and biliousness of the head teacher; in another school the cause of constant absence of some member of the school staff.
- The playground drinking tap—a cause of spread of scarlet fever.
- The dangers of school filters.
- The great and pressing need of larger and better ventilated cloakrooms.

III. BOROUGH.

(1.) CLITHEROE.

MEMORANDUM BY DR. BARBER, MEDICAL OFFICER.

Sir,—In accordance with the request of your Committee that I should report to them on the medical inspection of school children in this district, I beg to state that I was appointed by the Education Committee of the Clitheroe Council in May, 1904, the terms of my appointment being: "That I should test all the schools in the borough once every three months, to examine each scholar for the purpose of cleanliness and health, and to pay special attention to eyes, hair, and teeth, and to report fully to the Committee after each visit." This work is in addition to my private practice, and to my appointments as medical officer of health, etc. There are five schools in the town, and not less than one half day per three months, for each school, has been occupied in the work, and each three months I have singled out a particular school and made a more minute and detailed examination of the scholars in attendance. This school has, of course, varied on each occasion, which practically ensures a fairly thorough examination each year of each scholar.

No nurses are employed, and no other supervision is exercised beyond the ordinary supervision of the school attendance officer.

With regard to the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, the Notification Act is in force here, but not as

(g) The need of some knowledge of school sanitation among the caretakers.

(h) The great need of convenient w.c.'s for infants. In 1897, I reported—"Several of the w.c.'s are situated at inconveniently great distances from the schools. This is quite unnecessary with good drainage and, for infants and babies, especially, is open to grave objections.

The infants at Cwmbwria schools have to walk fifty-three yards, those at St. Thomas forty-five yards, and those at Danygraig, sixty-six yards, each way. They are thus exposed, often without hats or cloaks, to all kinds of weather. They waste time, and they often catch cold which results in their being absent from school the following days."

3. THE RESULTS OBSERVED.

From my evidence and from this memorandum, it is clear that the medical inspection of schools in Swansea, though in existence for some years, has been, for reasons stated in my evidence, very limited in its scope. It is, therefore, too soon to expect many results. Enough work, however, has been done to show that a large number of children are physically defective—so defective as to be very seriously handicapped in their school work. It is only just to add that this grave condition is chiefly due, not to any neglect or indifference, but to the lack of knowledge, in the past, of the actual state of affairs, on the part of the school authority and the parents. But there are undoubted signs that the medical inspection has already done much good. I have, in my evidence, referred briefly to this good effect on the child, the teacher, and the parent.

RHYS DAVIES.

might enable them on another occasion to recognise any evident disease, and, so far as their knowledge permits, I have usually found the teachers alive to the importance of this question.

Any child found defective in any direction has been instructed to inform its parents of the fact, with the request that no time should be lost in having the matter rectified by the ordinary medical attendant. I am, too, in frequent communication with the school attendance officer, and he has been of great service in drawing the attention of parents to matters mentioned to him by me. There is no voluntary organisation for the provision of spectacles, etc.

I have not found any instance where a parent has objected to the examination of his or her children, though naturally in one or two instances mothers have disputed the suggestion that their children were not everything desirable as regards cleanliness, but as the term is somewhat a relative one, this is not remarkable. There is no notification by teachers of infectious disease, but they understand that children suffering from such affections as whooping-cough must not attend school, and, as mentioned above, I have taken such opportunities as have arisen, to acquaint them with the symptoms of such affections as impetigo contagiosa, etc.

Beyond this I know of no special instructions issued to them, and they only learn indirectly of any outbreak of infectious disease. There is no frequent visitation of schools by myself for the purpose of the prevention of spread of infectious disease.

The total cost to the district is my salary of £15 per annum inclusive.

The system has been in force for twelve or fourteen months, the idea being that the health and general conditions of the children would thereby benefit. It has worked smoothly and to an extent satisfactorily. I am

(2.) KEIGHLEY.

MEMORANDUM BY DR. SCATTERTY, MEDICAL OFFICER.

NOTES.

A.—STAFF.

(1) Six years ago the Keighley School Board appointed me their medical officer,—which appointment has been continued by the Keighley Education Committee. Am also the Borough medical officer of health and engage in private practice.

The time devoted to educational duties connected with the schools varies from week to week. Some weeks only one hour, at other times, e.g., when making an annual systematic inspection, many hours daily may be occupied in school work.

(2) No nurse or other person employed.

B.—ORGANISATION.

(1) The system of inspection includes as follows:—A detailed systematic examination and report on the general sanitary condition of all school buildings, e.g., ventilation of class-rooms, arrangement of desks, sanitary conveniences, etc.

Detection and prevention of infectious disease whether "notifiable" or otherwise.

The inspection of children kept at home who are alleged to be unfit to attend school. The inspection of all backward or defective children—records being kept of the nature of the defect (mental, epileptic, physical), etc.

The eyesight and hearing of every child is tested for such defects as would interfere with the efficiency of their school work, and records kept.

(2) No records of weights and measurements are kept, nor of what infectious diseases children have had.

(3) Every elementary school in the borough is inspected.

(4) A school may be visited daily for weeks, or may be visited only once in many weeks according to the presence or absence of sickness among the scholars.

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of opinion that the mere fact that a system of school inspectors is in existence has had a salutary effect in improving the standard of cleanliness and tidiness of the children, and it has impressed the importance of these matters on the children themselves. It enables such affections as eye defects to be detected at an early stage with the greatest benefit to the sufferers where appropriate treatment is obtained forthwith.

It is a great protection to tidy, cleanly children in that it guards against their contact with children suffering from ringworm, pediculi, impetigo, etc.

It will weed out mentally defective children, with advantage to themselves, and also to their school-fellows, whose progress they undoubtedly impede to some extent.

It brings generally and specially to the notice of parents various ailments and defects in their children of which they are unaware, or to which they are indifferent.

It is deficient in that recommendations will often appear arbitrary, and it may be unreasonable, to either parents or children, and it should be combined with the teaching of hygiene and domestic economy in the schools by the teachers, who should themselves by all means possess some sufficient, if elementary, knowledge of this subject. If it fails partially, it will fail because there is no machinery to enforce the carrying out of the recommendations of the school inspector in the case of careless and indifferent parents, or because such machinery, if it exists, is not put into motion by the local education authority.

There is without doubt an improvement already noticeable in the standard of cleanliness and tidiness of children. Ringworm, pediculi, etc., are largely excluded from school. Several children have had suitable spectacles provided, and all these points must, I think, tend to permanent in addition to temporary improvement. I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM E. BARBER.

(5) The eyesight, etc., of every child is tested annually, but at other times only such children are inspected when the teacher suspects some condition likely to prove injurious to the child or to others, e.g., swollen glands of neck (suggestive of mumps or diphtheria), vermin, eczema, etc.

(6) Teachers are encouraged to note symptoms of disease, and to call my attention thereto. Only verbal instruction are given to assist in diagnosis.

(7) Parents are informed of any condition likely to interfere with health or progress, e.g., defective vision.

(8) There is no organisation for providing spectacles, etc.

(9) So far, I have not heard of any parent objecting to medical examination. I take it that parents recognise medical inspection as the rule of the education authority and accept it as such.

(10) Teachers are directed to immediately notify any complaint which to them may seem infectious, whether "notifiable" or not. Such notification is sent to the Education Office, and to the medical officer of health. At the same time the medical officer of health notifies the education authority of the existence of infection in any house where children are found, and this information is transmitted to the teachers. The notification is mutual.

C.—COST.

The only cost is the salary of the medical officer—£50 per annum, equivalent to about one-fifteenth of a penny in the pound rate.

D.—RESULTS OBTAINED.

(1) This system of medical inspection has been carried on since 1899. It was adopted by the late School Board for several reasons: e.g., Parents resented compulsory attendance at school, without any inspection either of the fitness of the schools, or of their children to attend.

2 L

Teachers found that defective eyesight interfered with progress.

Outbreaks of infectious disease in schools could not be sufficiently controlled, seeing that under the Public Health Act the Medical Officer of Health had no right of entry nor power to inspect children in school.

(2) The present system works smoothly and satisfactorily.

The special appointment of a medical officer to the education authority gives that officer freedom of entry and of inspection. This is recognised as official (if not strictly legal), and is appreciated by parents and the public generally.

(3) Year by year children supposed to be dull or backward are found to have defective vision, and now wear suitable spectacles.

(3.) KIDDERMINSTER.

EXTRACT FROM MEMORANDUM BY DR. DUDLEY, MEDICAL OFFICER.

The Medical Officer concerns himself generally with all that relates to the health of scholars, but devotes most of his time to examining children whose sight is, or is suspected to be, defective. These are examined with test types (without atropine), and where it is thought advisable printed notices, with written addenda, if necessary, are sent to the parents, calling attention to the defect. Owing to the liberality of certain residents in the district, notes for the Birmingham Eye Hospital are offered to those who will use them, as far as they will go. But it is often found that, owing to prejudice, apathy, inability, or unwillingness to bear the expense of travelling, many children, even after repeated notices, are still unprovided with glasses. These children are put in the front row as a rule, and the teachers spare

Threatened epidemics, e.g., mumps, whooping cough, etc., have been detected and checked by the medical officer to the education authority acting as such. Previously the first intimation of the prevalence of a non-notifiable disease such as measles or whooping cough was the receipt of a death certificate.

Another example of the beneficial results of medical inspection can be understood better than demonstrated, namely, the exclusion of children in whose sputum tubercle bacilli have been found.

WILLIAM SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D.

Certificated Teacher.

Medical Officer to Education Authority.

(4.) WIDNES.

MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

SIR,—I have the honour to report, for the information of your Committee, on the work of medical inspection of the children attending the public elementary schools in the borough of Widnes.

A. STAFF.

1. My Committee were in negotiation with the medical officer of health for this borough, to undertake the work as set forth in paper marked "A" (List of Duties), but, unfortunately, before the arrangement was complete, he died. My Committee have made representations to the town council to embody the foregoing list of duties in the appointment of a successor. The town council readily acquiesced, and have submitted the same amongst the other list of duties to the Local Government Board for approval.

2. A thoroughly competent Queen's nurse is, however, employing her whole time for the purpose of the supervision and care of the health of the children.

3. There are no other persons employed in this work as my Committee think for a population of 30,000, one nurse under the supervision of the medical officer of health would be able to cope successfully with this work.

B. ORGANISATION.

1. We have not yet got the medical inspection we require but temporarily it is undertaken by the nurse. Of course my Committee had in view the objects as set forth in—

- Prevention of the spread of infectious diseases.
- Inspection of children kept at home who are alleged to be physically unfit to attend school.
- Nutrition and general personal condition.
- Inability, whether physical or mental, to profit by instruction given.

- Defective children—
 - Mental.
 - Physical.

- Epileptic children.
- Eyes.
- Ears.
- Teeth.

(j) Heads, cleanliness and freedom from vermin, by a medical gentleman, but they are performed pretty well by the nurse, but not as efficiently as we might expect from a medical officer.

2. No records as yet kept pending the settlement of the whole question.

3. The organisation extends over the whole borough.

4. The nurse works to the following rota, viz. :—

School.	Day of Visitation.
St. Marie's - -	Monday morning and afternoon.
St. Bede's - -	Tuesday morning.
Farnworth - -	" afternoon.
Widnes National -	Wednesday morning.
St. Patrick's - -	" afternoon.
Warrington Road -	Thursday morning.
West Bank - -	" afternoon.
Simm's Cross - -	Friday morning and afternoon until three.

5, 6, and 7. Every child is not inspected weekly, but the teachers in every department are encouraged to do what they can to notice defects or infection, and to report to the nurse at her weekly visit, when she deals with each case promptly.

8. We have no voluntary organisation for providing spectacles, etc., but immediately the attention of parents is called, they readily subscribe something weekly in order to get the spectacles or appliances.

9. The parents did raise some slight objections in the first instance to their children being examined, and reported on, but when they found that it was entirely for their children's good, they gave way and now they seek the aid of the nurse, and consult her both at the weekly visit to the school and at her private residence if they are at work and cannot get to the school.

10. With a view to the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, the teachers are instructed to be on the alert and notify any cases they suspect to the attendance officers, who, in turn, notify the inspector of nuisances, who deals with the cases at once, and reports to the Medical Officer of Health.

C. COST.

We have no cost except the salary of the nurse who is paid at the rate of £30 per annum for the first year, rising annually £5 to a maximum of £100, together with £5 for uniform. Her dressings, bandages, etc., run to about £10 or £12 per annum. Our annual expense is at present £95.

Salary - - - - -	£30
Uniform - - - - -	5
Dressings, etc. - - - - -	10
	£95

A penny rate produces £613.

D. RESULTS OBTAINED.

We commenced this system of inspection in September, 1904, and the reason it was adopted was the great prevalence of sickness and continual epidemics of itch, sore heads, and ringworm.

The present system works smoothly and satisfactorily and almost from the first visit of the nurse there was a marked improvement in the appearance and condition of the children. Sore heads, sore and running ears, itch, eczema, ringworm, etc., have almost disappeared from the schools, and the children are now beginning to take a pride in keeping themselves clean. Epidemics of scarlet

fever and measles have been kept under control, and many other minor ailments and dressings, being done at the school, obviate the necessity of keeping the children at home or sending them to the hospital, and thus saving time and much trouble.

Another very satisfactory result is the increased and more regular attendance of the children. I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) G. H. DANBY,
Secretary.

A. MEDICAL OFFICER'S DUTIES.

The duties to be carried out by the medical officer for the education committee would be as follows, viz. :—

1. To examine any children in the Borough reported to the committee to be defective or feeble-minded, and to decide whether they should be instructed at a special centre.

2. To advise the committee as to the course of study, etc., of the children in attendance at a centre if one were found necessary.

3. To examine blind and deaf children; to decide whether they are suitable cases to be dealt with under the Blind and Deaf Children Act; and to give the necessary certificates.

4. To examine all candidates selected for appointment under the committee, or employees, when required by the committee, and to issue the certificates.

5. To examine all candidates for pupil-teachership and pupil teachers at the end of the first year, and issue certificates required in each case by the board of education.

6. To visit when required by the committee any employee who is absent from duty on account of illness, and to report in writing.

7. To make arrangements for the periodical examination of the eyesight and hearing (and, if desirable, of the teeth) of the children in the schools.

8. To examine, when required by the committee, any child who is stated to be physically unfit to attend school and to make out a certificate.

9. To give the committee the benefit of his advice on special occasions, and to attend the meetings of the committee when required.

In the exercise of these duties, the medical officer himself would be responsible to, and to take his instructions from, the education committee or its committees, and would make his reports to such committees.

IV. URBAN DISTRICTS.

(1.) ERITH.

REPORT BY DR. C. E. BADDELEY, ON THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITION OF THE CHILDREN ATTENDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

ESSENDEN HOUSE,
BELVEDERE.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Erith Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I have now finished my investigation of the physical condition of the children, attending the elementary schools in your district and send herewith detailed forms for each—and a general report as to each heading in the sheet.

I wish to express my obligation to the teachers in the various schools for their courtesy and consideration in presenting the children for my examination.

I have individually examined 433 children, and at some of the schools I have also made a general inspection of the children in their classes. Speaking generally I think the condition of the children is good and would compare favourably with those in neighbouring districts. The general sanitary

condition of the various schools also appears satisfactory, but in this respect the newer schools are naturally superior. Good lighting, heating, and ventilation are very important to the health both of the children and teachers, as also are proper lavatory accommodation and furniture. The conservancy of the schools is also an important factor in preserving the health of the school population; upon this I have ventured to make a suggestion for your consideration under the heading of "Hearing." Other suggestions are made under the heading of "Pediculi and of Acute Infectious Disease."

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT.

On the whole I have been favourably impressed by the physical development of the children, presented for examination. Assuming that I have seen most of the worst cases, but a small percent-

age of undersized and emaciated children have been brought to my notice, and where the malnutrition is not the result of disease it seems to be due rather to injudicious than to insufficient feeding.

Comparatively few children also were excessively dirty and neglected in their persons and clothes. At one school I was informed that a number of the worst cases were absent "hopping," and the same may apply to a certain extent to the other schools; but on the whole the physical condition of the children I have seen speaks well for the average of parental care, especially as employment is not at present active. But it is by no means the children of the poorest who are most neglected. In the way of clothing foot-wear seems to be the greatest difficulty, and where there is a large family this is hardly surprising.

In the way of personal cleanliness a good deal can be done in the lavatories, and where there is good accommodation of this kind the teachers make every endeavour to induce the children to take advantage of it. Every school should be provided with adequate lavatories, but, even these may in certain circumstances become a source of danger, and towels and hairbrushes used in common are to be deprecated. Parents should provide children with their own towel and comb to be kept with their other materials. The lighting and seating of the schools as a rule is good, but the heating and ventilation of some appears to be defective. These are factors which all have an influence on the physical development of the children. Attention is given to "Physical Drill" at all the schools.

MENTAL DEVELOPMENT.

In most of the schools a few children were brought to me who were mentally dull and incapable of much intellectual training. The condition was due to a variety of causes: infantile paralysis, chronic hydrocephalus, epilepsy &c. None of the cases amounted to complete imbecility.

It is difficult to advise any general line of treatment for such cases, which each demand individual consideration. I have recommended "Mechanical training" which may take any form that may be available. The total number of these cases is small and there are but very few epileptics, which are the most difficult to deal with.

The mental development of the great majority of the children is good and the standards are passed without difficulty in the school age. I have been especially pleased by the intelligence shown in the infants' schools and the discipline maintained by the mistresses.

What to do with "backward and dull children" is not an easy question; without showing any distinct signs of physical or mental defect a certain number of children seem to be incapable of intellectual training. Retaining them in the infants' schools and lower standards does not seem satisfactory for several reasons, and passing them into the higher standards deranges the work in them. The provision of separate classes for these and the more serious cases of mental degeneration may be feasible. In such classes the instruction should be of mechanical and moral character in contra distinction to intellectual.

EYESIGHT.

Defects of vision have formed a large proportion of the cases which have come to my notice. Most of these are due to "errors of refraction," some to "squint" and a few to "cataract and opacities."

Many of these cases have already been treated at ophthalmic hospitals and the improvement of vision effected by properly adjusted glasses is most marked

and enables children to pursue their education who without them would be quite incapable. But it is necessary to impress upon parents that it is essential that spectacles should be properly adjusted and that the glasses which may suit a child of three or four years of age will not do for the same child at six or eight years. I have marked all such cases as in my opinion require this treatment: "Hospital for examination of eyes."

It might be possible for the Committee to obtain some "letters of recommendation" for ophthalmic hospitals and by giving them to parents induce them to avail themselves of this treatment. The cost of spectacles from 5s. to 7s. 6d. per pair is also a matter for consideration. I am glad to be able to report that I have not met with any case of infectious ophthalmia in the schools.

A small number of defects of the eyelids have been brought before me. As a rule they have received some treatment and are of no great importance.

A few children suffer from weak eyes (asthenopia) from malnutrition or other cause and I have also seen cases of "Nystagmus" and other rare defects.

HEARING.

A considerable number of cases of partial deafness have been brought to my notice. This defect is almost invariably due to throat troubles, enlarged tonsils, adenoid growths and similar conditions. In a proportion of cases inflammation in the middle ear has caused a perforation of the drum and there is a purulent discharge from the ear. These cases of "Throat Deafness" are of great importance and if not properly treated lead to increasing and permanent deafness. The defect often varies with the condition of the throat being worse when the child has a "cold" and the condition of the throat is some index of the hygienic condition of a school.

Enlarged tonsils and adenoid growths are, no doubt, hereditary, but the inflammatory conditions of the throat to which children so affected are especially liable are of an infective character and communicable from one child to another. A number of serious infectious diseases also obtain access by the throat and nose—mumps, measles, whooping cough, scarlatina and diphtheria—and children with inflamed throats are especially liable to contract these diseases when exposed to the specific infection; so that where a number of children in a school show inflamed throats it is always necessary to be on the look out for cases of more serious illness. In purulent discharges from the ear or nose infective organisms are always present, so that it is an open question whether children suffering from them should be admitted to a school; but, in my opinion, the main source of distribution of the infective organisms is "dust" sputa, or other infected discharge becomes dried and disseminated as dust in the atmosphere of the schoolroom and so conveys the organisms to the nose and throat. The floor and furniture of the schoolroom should be sprayed with an "atomizer" containing such a disinfectant as formic aldehyde solution before sweeping and dusting, and the windows left open during the night. In more than one of the schools a number of children exhibited an inflamed condition of the throat with enlargement of the cervical glands and several cases of acute inflammation (tonsillitis) have since my inspection come to my knowledge.

The value of formic aldehyde as a disinfectant is that being of a gaseous nature it to some extent acts as an atmospheric disinfectant, and the solution is not poisonous and does not injure fabrics or furniture and does not leave a disagreeable smell and is not very expensive.

The treatment of "Throat Deafness" is always tedious, often unsatisfactory, and prevention of the inflammatory condition so frequently leading to it is far more satisfactory than the cure. The cases of deafness I have marked "Hospital for Examination of Throat" are mostly cases of enlarged tonsils or advanced growths which might benefit by operation.

Defect of hearing is very difficult for a teacher to judge of, and a child may easily be accused of inattention or idleness, especially when the defect only manifests itself periodically.

OTHER DEFECTS—CONSUMPTION.

But few cases of consumption have come under my notice. Children suffering from confirmed tuberculosis of the lungs should not, in my opinion, be admitted to the elementary schools, for three reasons:—

- (1) They are a source of danger to other children, the infective nature of tuberculosis being now well established.
- (2) Any chance which a child so affected may have of ultimate recovery will be seriously prejudiced by attendance at school.
- (3) A child suffering from consumption is not as a rule in a state of health to acquire knowledge, and will probably be unable to make use of such as it may acquire.

Sanatorium treatment would seem to afford the best chance for consumptive children.

Tubercular disease of glands and joints, of which I have seen a few cases, have not the infective character of consumption and do not necessarily incapacitate a child from attending school. Tubercular disease of the spine, hip joint, and knee are the most serious, but such cases as have come to my notice are as a rule under hospital treatment. They are usually long and tedious cases, subject to relapse and it is hardly to be expected that children suffering from them can make very regular attendance at school.

I have not observed any case of tuberculosis of the skin (lupus). I saw one case in which I had reason to suspect laryngeal tuberculosis (laryngeal phthisis). A confirmed case of this disease would be in the same position as a case of consumption as regards attendance at school.

OTHER DEFECTS—VALVULAR DISEASE OF HEART.

Valvular disease of the heart has come to my knowledge in the case of several children sometimes associated with St. Vitus' Dance (chorea) and generally due to rheumatism. The importance of this very serious condition is that there is a close casual relation between the rheumatism and the inflammatory sore throats of which I have written under "Throat Deafness."

SKIN DISEASES.

Scabies.—I discovered one case of itch in Picardy Infants' School and advised the mistress to send the child home. I have since by direction of your secretary visited the family and found three other children affected. The disease had not been recognised and the mother was treating the children with medicines which were quite ineffective. A sharp look-out should be kept for this disease and any suspected case excluded. It is so easily cured when properly treated that a week or so absence from school ought to be sufficient.

Impetigo.—(*Impetigo Contagiosa*).—A number of cases of this disfiguring condition (for which I do not know any popular name) were brought before me. There is an eruption generally beginning about the face with unsightly yellow crusts. It is highly

contagious and children suffering from it ought not to mix with others, but when recognised it is even more easily cured than the last.

Ringworm.—A few cases of this have been found and the exclusion of the sufferers advised. In contra distinction to the last two diseases this is most troublesome to cure and a bad case may often take six months or more. No case of ringworm should be readmitted to school until a medical certificate of cure has been received.

Eczema.—Eczema mostly of the scalp has been found in several schools. The common cause is the scratching caused by the irritation of pediculi (lice), and such cases should not be admitted to school, and told to seek medical advice. A few cases of chronic eczema, not of a contagious nature have been observed.

Pediculi Capitis.—Children affected by these parasites were brought to my notice at almost all the schools, most numerous amongst the girls and infants. What to do with children so affected is a most difficult question. I am convinced that the teachers all use their best endeavours to get parents to attend to children, and even send away from school bad cases. Anything the Committee can do to strengthen their hands will be gladly welcomed. It is a real hardship that parents who try to keep their children clean should find them time after time contracting these or more serious troubles at school, and yet it seems inevitable unless the children of careless and neglectful parents are excluded. It is obviously no use waiting until a child becomes really bad before sending it home; by that time scores of others may have contracted the parasites. The only way seems to be to make periodic searches and send home all children who have any parasites. It is very easy to destroy them in the early stage but it is quite different when the irritation and scratching have set up eczema of the scalp, enlargement and inflammation of the cervical glands with perhaps abscess, and the child's condition has become really serious. It might be possible for the Committee to institute some central establishment where children could be taken by their parents and properly treated and the latter instructed in the method for a small fee. As a measure of discipline cutting the hair on a second conviction might be tried. When there is extensive eczema this is necessary as a matter of treatment, and it is to the close cropping encouraged by the masters that the comparative freedom of the boys' schools is to be ascribed.

Pediculi Corporis.—There is no doubt that in a certain proportion of children the clothes are infested by another species of pediculus, but this is more amenable to ordinary methods of cleanliness; still the finding of them creates a prejudice against the schools amongst cleanly people. A hot bath and stoving of the clothes is an effectual remedy.

ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

With the exception of a doubtful case of mumps I did not meet with any acute infectious disease in the schools. This speaks well for the care of the teachers. But the problem of the prevention of infectious disease in schools is one of great importance. There is a moral if not a legal onus on school authorities to safeguard the health, as far as it may be possible, of the children while under their charge. No general measures of sanitation can ensure this unless a constant watch be kept to detect the introduction of infectious disease from without and its dissemination within the school. It is to the minor class of complaints (if I may so call them) that this especially applies. For example, a child may come to school suffering from what appears to be an

ordinary "cold" and next day be sent home with the rash of "measles" out. But the mischief is then done and in a week or nine days a large percentage of children in the class who are not protected by a previous attack, will develop the disease. The same applies to whooping cough. These are counted slight diseases, yet it is to be remembered that the aggregate annual death rate of these two is larger than that of any other infectious disease, and that in the case of whooping cough for each death at least three children are left with permanently crippled lungs.

To prevent the spread of infectious disease in a school frequent systematic inspection of each child and the exclusion of any showing "suspicious" symptoms seems to be the only method. Each child should be examined by a person trained for the purpose at least once a week, and the result entered in a Register kept for the purpose. The examination should include scalp, eyes, ears, nose, tongue and throat, neck, and chest and skin of hands, and where there is a suspicion of fever the clinical thermometer should be used. Undressing would not

October 10th. 1904.

(2.) STRETTFORD.

MEMORANDUM BY DR. HESLOP, MEDICAL OFFICER.

A. STAFF.

1. W. J. Heslop, F.R.C.S.E., is the school medical officer (a and b). He is also medical officer of health for the Stretford Urban District, and is in private practice, but is assisted in the educational work by Dr. Allan Forde.

(c) He visits the educational department at the district council offices every morning with the object of ascertaining if there is any matter in which his services may be required.

2. There are no nurses employed for the supervision of the health of children.

3. No.

B. ORGANISATION.

1. Yes.

(a) Inquiries are made into the non-attendance of children at school. Where this non-attendance is due to infectious disease, the sanitary department, acting under the instructions of the medical officer, visit the house or homes where the infected children reside, and leave with the parents a pamphlet of instructions re the prevention of the spread of infection, and which also states the period of time that the child must be kept away from school. At the same time a card is sent to the headmaster or mistress of the school informing him or her that the child must not return to school without a medical certificate that the case is no longer infectious.

(b) From time to time the school medical officer visits children who are alleged to be physically unfit to attend school, that is, if they are not under private medical care.

(c) The nutrition and general personal condition of the children attending the Stretford schools are very good.

(d and e.) The children are examined as to their mental condition. So far there has been but one case of mental deficiency, and this case I have recommended to be sent to a special school for defective children.

(f to j.) The eyes, ears, teeth and heads of all children are periodically examined.

2. (a and b.) No records have as yet been kept as to the measurements of the children, nor of the infectious diseases from which they have suffered.

3. Organisation extends over the whole area.

4. The medical officer visits the schools whenever requested, but once a quarter every school is independently visited.

be necessary, and the examination should be made class by class so as not to derange the work of the school. Any child showing abnormal symptoms should be set aside for examination by a medical man who should decide as to its fitness to attend school, and if unfit shall give to the child a card stating the cause of exclusion.

I wish to suggest, if it meets with the approval of the Committee, that the detailed lists should be gone through and that where treatment is recommended a notice in the appended form should be sent to the parents stating the nature of the defect and the treatment advised.

In conclusion I wish to say that the examination has been of great interest to me and I hope may prove useful to the Committee, and to the children for whom I have advised treatment.

I remain, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) C. E. BADDELEY.

M.D. (in State Medicine),
University of London.

5. All children are periodically examined, but those specially selected by the headmaster or mistress whenever requested.

6. Teachers are encouraged to assist in the inspection.

7. Steps are at once taken to notify parents of any defect or infectious disease.

8. Spectacles are provided by arrangement with a local optician at a reduced price.

9. I have, so far, had no objection raised by parents to the examination of children.

10. (a) Teachers are directed to notify any infectious disease, whether notifiable or not. These notifications are made to the medical officer of health who is also the school medical officer.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

C. COST.

1. (a) £50.

4. Product of penny rate = £1,050.

D. RESULTS.

1. The system has been in operation for twelve months.

2. Yes.

3. The system has not been in force long enough to enable me to speak as to its beneficial results, except that I have been able to attend to all children having defective eyesight, also as school medical officer I find it of great benefit in being also medical officer of health as it gives me more power in preventing the spread of infection.

E. FURTHER POINTS.

1. Supervision of the sanitary condition of school buildings.

2. Supervision over all infectious diseases occurring in schools.

3. Periodical visits to all the schools in connection with the above two duties.

4. The examination and certification of children who are deaf and dumb.

5. The preparation of special reports on any point as desired by the committee.

6. Attendance at committee meetings when desired.

(Signed) W. J. HESLOP, F.R.C.S.E.

(3.) TOTTENHAM.

MEMORANDUM BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

A. STAFF.

1. Yes

(a.) No, he is also Medical Officer of Health for the district.

(b.) No, he is prohibited from discharging any duties but those of Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer to the schools.

(c.) A very considerable portion, but one not capable of being defined with mathematical accuracy, and which indeed varies greatly at different times.

(2 and 3.) No, but there are two lady health visitors under the control of the Medical Officer of Health, a large portion of whose duty it is to look after the health of school children, moreover the six sanitary inspectors help very considerably in this respect.

B. ORGANISATION.

1. Yes, it is chiefly directed to the prevention of the spread of infectious disease and the inspection of children kept at home who are alleged to be unfit to attend school either from mental or physical causes. Special examinations are made of epileptic children and those suffering with diseases of the eyes, ears, teeth, and throat, and particular attention is directed to condition of the heads and skin and their freedom from vermin. Apart from the information supplied to the Education Committee on the above points, the medical officer has for some considerable time past been making private notes on all abnormal cases, and hopes ultimately to publish the results of his observations and enquiries regarding same.

2. (a.) The medical officer takes the heights and weights of abnormal cases brought under his notice and also occasionally makes bacteriological examinations in doubtful cases of disease.

(b.) Yes.

3. It extends over the whole area.

4. The desire of the medical officer is to visit each school weekly, but he also always holds himself in readiness to make special visits on receiving a message to that effect from the teachers or Clerk to the Education Committee.

5. Selected children only are inspected by the medical officer, the teachers directing his attention to anything unusual in the condition of the children. In addition, of course, he uses his own power of observation on his visits to the various classrooms.

6. One lecture has been given by the medical officer

to the local teachers' organisation, dealing chiefly with the points to which attention should be directed in making the observations upon school children, and last year the medical officer gave a series of lectures on elementary hygiene to the children of the upper standards.

7. The parents are notified of "any defect or infectious or contagious disease discovered."

8. There is no "voluntary organisation for providing spectacles, surgical appliances, etc.," but of course the medical officer helps suitable cases by giving them letters or cards to hospitals, etc.

9. There has so far been no objection by parents to the examination of their children.

10. (a.) Teachers are directed to notify any cases of infectious disease whether notifiable or not. Such notification is sent to the Clerk and by him to the medical officer.

(b.) Yes, the medical officer has issued leaflets which have been distributed to every teacher in the employment of the Tottenham Education Committee.

(c.) Yes, the medical officer being also the medical officer of health.

C. COST.

1. (a.) The salary of the medical officer is £150 per annum.

(b.) Nil.

(c.) Nil.

(2.) The incidental expenses are so small as to be hardly worth mentioning.

(3.) The total cost would not in any case exceed £175 per annum.

(4.) A rate of $\frac{1}{16}$ th of a penny in the pound would more than cover this expenditure.

D. WHAT RESULTS OBTAINED.

(1.) Since December 1903, the Education Committee considered it most desirable to appoint a medical officer in order that the work covered by the list of duties could be efficiently carried out.

(2 and 3.) Yes, it is considered in many ways an advantage in having the medical officer of health as the medical officer to the Committee. The examination by the medical officer of children kept at home who are alleged to be physically unfit to attend school has greatly facilitated the work of the Byelaws Department in enforcing attendance, and many difficulties previously experienced have been removed.

(4.) WILLESDEN.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Owing to the system instituted by which notifications were received from the public elementary schools, it has this year been possible to gain some notion of the

nature and prevalence of a large number of cases of infectious disease of which hitherto no knowledge was attained.

The details of these are set out in the following table:—

TABLE 28.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1904, INTIMATED FROM THE SCHOOLS.

DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES.					PERCENTAGE INCIDENCE.				
	Visited.	Suffering.	Contacts.	Doctor in Attendance.	Isolated.	Under 5 Years.			5 Years and Upwards.	
						Cases not Attending School.	Cases Attending School.	Percentage Incidence.	Cases Attending School.	Percentage Incidence.
Measles - - -	1,323	730	593	274	378	260	110	7.4	369	1.7
Whooping Cough - -	119	90	29	35	11	27	17	1.1	46	.22
Chicken Pox - - -	364	103	256	102	60	4	35	2.3	69	.3
Mumps - - -	105	62	43	18	17	11	5	.3	46	.22
Tuberculosis - - -	6	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	.02
Influenza - - -	27	13	14	4	3	3	—	—	10	.04
Ringworm - - -	262	262	—	103	79	11	28	1.9	223	1.08
Ophthalmia - - -	45	45	—	9	6	4	5	.3	36	.17
Other Diseases - - -	212	212	—	74	16	35	17	1.1	160	.77
Verminous Heads - -	26	26	—	2	—	2	—	—	24	.11

Perhaps the most striking fact in connection with these returns is the greatly increased incidence upon children under five years of age of nearly all the infectious diseases notified from the schools. This is shown in the above table.

It will be observed that the higher incidence upon children under five years is not confined to those attending school. The attack rate, however, upon the children under five attending school is so disproportionate to that upon children above five as to exhibit the extreme risk of aggregating large numbers of children of tender years in the infant departments of public elementary schools. Susceptibility to zymotic diseases is in the main a question of age. If young children can be shielded from infection, their chance of contracting zymotic diseases when they grow older is greatly reduced, while the risk to life should they do so is immensely lessened. Especially is this the case with measles and whooping cough. All the deaths from whooping cough during the year occurred in children under five years of age. Forty out of the forty-four deaths from measles occurred in children under five. It is difficult to conceive stronger argument for protecting to the uttermost the younger children from risk of infection. Aggregating large numbers of highly susceptible children in class-rooms where the risk of exposure to infection is extreme is courting disaster. Whatever advantages there are in very young children attending the infant departments they are purchased at a price set out in our sickness and mortality bills, and there can be no question that to send a child to school under five years of age is seriously to imperil its health and its life.

VISION OF SCHOLARS ATTENDING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

In my report of last year on the hygienic control of schools, I prepared a scheme whereby it was arranged to test the vision of all scholars attending the schools controlled by the council. I prepared detailed instructions for the guidance of the teachers, which were incorporated in the regulations of the Education Committee, and are here produced.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SCHOOL TEACHERS AS TO TESTING THE EYESIGHT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Each department will be supplied with sets of test types for testing the vision of scholars, and with cards for entering the results of such tests thereon.

When not in use, it is of the first importance, in order that the scholars may not be familiarised with the letters, that the types be not exposed to view. It is desirable, where practicable, for the same reason, in testing a scholar's vision, to keep the test card out of view of the class. The cards should be placed in a good light, coming

from the side of the card, and so placed that when the scholar whose vision is being tested is looking at the card he or she shall not be facing the light itself.

After placing the card in a good light, a distance of 20 feet (6 metres) in a straight line should be measured off and all scholars should stand at this distance when having their vision tested. Each eye should be examined separately, but the scholar must not be asked to close the eye not under immediate examination, nor be permitted to obstruct its vision by pressing the hand or fingers over the lid. A card held close to the nose should be used to obstruct the vision of each eye alternately. By this means will be avoided that temporary disturbance of vision which arises from pressure on the eyeball.

After standing the scholar at 20 feet from the test type, he or she should be asked to read the letters in their order from above downwards, first with the right eye and then with the left. The letters should be read easily without facial distortion or stressful efforts at advancement of the head. No suggestion should be made by the teacher to help the scholar read any letter in the recognition of which difficulty is experienced.

The Object is to Test the Vision, not to Read the Letters.

Where the letters cannot be read, that is the fact to be observed.

Each scholar should, if the vision be normal, be able to read the line under D 6, with each eye separately. Where this can be done, the vision is stated to be $\frac{6}{6}$, or as "D" = 6 meters, $\frac{6}{6}$ ths, similarly with the letters under the line $\frac{5}{5}$. If they be the last which the scholar can read, the vision is stated to be $\frac{5}{5}$ ths. The results of the test are to be entered on the "scholar's card." The vision of the right eye "R.V." will then be expressed as a fraction $\frac{6}{6}$ ths, $\frac{5}{5}$ ths, $\frac{4}{4}$ ths, $\frac{3}{3}$ ths, $\frac{2}{2}$ ths, $\frac{1}{1}$ th or $\frac{1}{1}$ th, according to the line which the scholar can read with his or her right eye, while the vision of the left eye is obstructed by a card as above described. The vision of the left eye "L.V." will be similarly expressed. These results, together with the other entries relative to vision and hearing, are to be entered on the "scholar's card" at the time the vision is tested.

The vision of every child should be tested once in the course of each year, and all new scholars should have their vision tested and recorded on their admission to the school.

Where the vision of either eye falls short of $\frac{6}{6}$ ths, the parents of the child should be informed by means of form—

I have analysed and tabulated the results of these tests in the following table:—

TABLE No. 29.

SHOWING THE STATE OF VISION OF 10,771 SCHOLARS ATTENDING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

	No. of Schools.	Total No. of Scholars.	Normal Vision.	Percentage with Normal Vision.	Vision = $\frac{5}{5}$ (slightly defective).	Percentage with Vision = $\frac{5}{5}$.	Below $\frac{5}{5}$ (markedly defective).	Percentage with Vision less than $\frac{5}{5}$.	Below $\frac{5}{5}$ Vision, different in each eye.	Percentage.	No. of Children with Squints.	State of Vision of scholars complaining of Headache.			
												Normal Vision.	Percentage.	Abnormal Vision.	Percentage.
Boys - - -	20	5,690	3,252	57.15	963	16.92	545	9.57	806	34.16	96	256	7.8	336	14.5
Girls - - -	19	5,081	2,414	47.5	1,143	22.49	558	10.98	920	18.10	77	147	6.6	337	14.1

Boys: Below $\frac{5}{5}$, 24 per cent.

" " $\frac{4}{4}$, 41 "

Girls: Below $\frac{5}{5}$, 29 per cent.

" " $\frac{4}{4}$, 51 "

The vision of over 10,000 children was tested under the scheme. On the whole, the teachers have done the work satisfactorily, and the resulting advantage to scholars with defective vision is very great. In some of the schools, however, the regulations of the Education Committee have been wholly disregarded, no attempt having been made to test the vision of any of the scholars. In others the instructions have been followed so carelessly that the results are quite unreliable, and children reported with seriously defective vision have been found to possess quite normal sight. The inadequate lighting of some of the older schools is in some measure responsible for the errors in testing, while in still larger measure it is responsible for many of the visual defects themselves.

The vision of 41 per cent. of the boys and 51 per cent. of the girls was found to fall short of the normal, while 24 per cent. of the boys and 29 per cent. of the girls tested exhibited, according to the returns, serious visual defects.

Headache is a common symptom of defective vision, and of the scholars reported subject to this affection 14.5 per cent. of the boys and 14.1 per cent. of the girls were found to have defective sight; 7.8 per cent. of the boys and 6.6 per cent. of the girls reported as so suffering had normal visual acuity.

Considerable difficulty is experienced in many cases in getting the parents to have the eyesight of their children attended to when the existence of error is pointed out to them. Even of the gratuitous attention they can receive at the hospitals they will not avail themselves, and one is tempted to think, in many cases, that everyone is more careful of the welfare of the children than the parents themselves.

Neglect to relieve the remediable defects of vision is a grave offence against the child and against the community. Defective sight is responsible for serious mental and physical incapacity, and the state loses incalculably in the efficiency of its members through these remediable defects.

WEIGHTS AND HEIGHTS OF SCHOLARS.

It will be within the recollection of the Council that in my Report in 1903 on "The Hygienic Control of Schools," I recommended the systematic weighing and measuring of scholars attending the public elementary schools in the district.

TABLE No. 30.

TABLE SHOWING THE WEIGHT AND HEIGHT OF BOYS AND GIRLS ATTENDING KENSAL RISE AND LOWER PLACE SCHOOLS.

Distributed according to Age.

School.	Boys.					Girls.				
	Age.	Average Weight.		Average Height.		Average Weight.		Average Height.		
		No. of Scholars.	Kilogr.	No. of Scholars.	Inches.	No. of Scholars.	Kilogr.	No. of Scholars.	Inches.	
Lower Place - - -	7	39	21.46	39	45.52	10	20.87	10	45.15	
Kensal Rise - - -	7	21	22.13	21	43.50	20	22.48	19	48.12	
Lower Place - - -	8	23	23.48	23	47.64	26	22.04	26	47.01	
Kensal Rise - - -	8	60	24.12	60	49.55	63	23.64	63	48.92	
Lower Place - - -	9	22	25.39	22	49.06	35	23.68	35	47.97	
Kensal Rise - - -	9	76	25.58	75	50.45	53	24.62	53	50.12	
Lower Place - - -	10	40	27.07	40	52.42	22	24.85	22	49.38	
Kensal Rise - - -	10	48	27.87	48	52.06	64	27.34	64	52.61	
Lower Place - - -	11	24	29.99	24	53.4	20	29.51	20	53.05	
Kensal Rise - - -	11	42	30.3	42	53.57	55	28.42	54	53.65	
Lower Place - - -	12	23	33.15	23	54.80	8	33.	8	55.16	
Kensal Rise - - -	12	54	33.12	54	55.49	54	32.14	54	56.06	
Lower Place - - -	13	12	35.4	12	56.35	20	34.86	20	55.97	
Kensal Rise - - -	13	45	36.2	45	56.91	61	36.66	61	58.71	
Lower Place - - -	14									
Kensal Rise - - -	14	15	37.4	15	57.50	12	38.23	12	59.81	

TABLE No. 31.

TABLE SHOWING AVERAGE WEIGHTS OF BOYS IN KENSAL RISE AND LOWER PLACE SCHOOLS.

Compared with the average weights of Boys at the same ages as ascertained by other observers.

Ages.	Kensal Rise School.	Lower Place School.	Averages from totals of British and American Statistics.	Averages of American Boys (Bowditch).	Averages of Anthropometric Committee (British).	Averages of Artisan Class in Towns.
	Kilogram.	Kilogram.	Kilogram.	Kilogram.	Kilogram.	Kilogram.
7 - - -	22.1	21.5	22.4	22.4	22.5	—
8 - - -	24.1	23.5	24.6	24.7	25.8	—
9 - - -	25.6	25.4	27.1	26.6	27.4	—
10 - - -	27.9	27.1	30.1	30.2	30.6	30.0
11 - - -	30.3	30.0	32.2	32.8	32.6	31.5
12 - - -	33.1	33.1	34.8	36.2	34.8	33.4
13 - - -	36.2	35.4	37.9	40.0	37.4	35.5
14 - - -	37.4	—	42.4	45.0	41.7	38.3

TABLE No. 32.

TABLE SHOWING THE AVERAGE WEIGHTS OF GIRLS ATTENDING KENSAL RISE AND LOWER PLACE SCHOOLS. Compared with the average weights of Girls at the same ages as ascertained by other observers.

Ages.	Kensal Rise School.	Lower Place School.	Averages from totals of British and American Statistics.	Averages of American Girls (Bowditch).	Averages of Anthropometric Committee (British).
	Kilogram.	Kilogram.	Kilogram.	Kilogram.	Kilogram.
7 - - -	22.5	20.9	21.3	21.8	21.5
8 - - -	23.6	22.4	23.6	24.0	23.5
9 - - -	24.6	23.7	25.5	26.1	25.1
10 - - -	27.3	24.8	28.2	29.1	28.1
11 - - -	28.4	29.5	31.0	31.9	30.8
12 - - -	32.1	33.0	35.0	36.9	34.7
13 - - -	36.7	34.9	39.8	41.4	39.4
14 - - -	38.2	—	44.2	45.5	43.8

TABLE No. 33.

TABLE SHOWING THE AVERAGE HEIGHTS OF BOYS ATTENDING KENSAL RISE AND LOWER PLACE SCHOOLS. Compared with the average heights of Boys at the same ages as ascertained by other observers.

Ages.	Kensal Rise School.	Lower Place School.	Averages from totals of British and American Statistics.	Averages of American Boys (Bowditch).	Averages of Anthropometric Committee (British).
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
7 - - -	43.5	44.8	45.9	46.2	46.0
8 - - -	49.5	45.5	47.4	48.2	47.0
9 - - -	50.4	47.6	49.7	50.1	49.7
10 - - -	52.1	49.1	51.8	52.2	51.7
11 - - -	53.6	52.4	53.5	54.0	53.5
12 - - -	55.5	53.4	55.0	55.8	55.0
13 - - -	56.9	54.8	57.1	58.2	57.0
14 - - -	57.5	56.4	59.6	61.0	59.2

TABLE No. 34.

TABLE SHOWING THE AVERAGE HEIGHTS OF GIRLS ATTENDING KENSAL RISE AND LOWER PLACE SCHOOLS. Compared with the average heights of Girls at the same ages as ascertained by other observers.

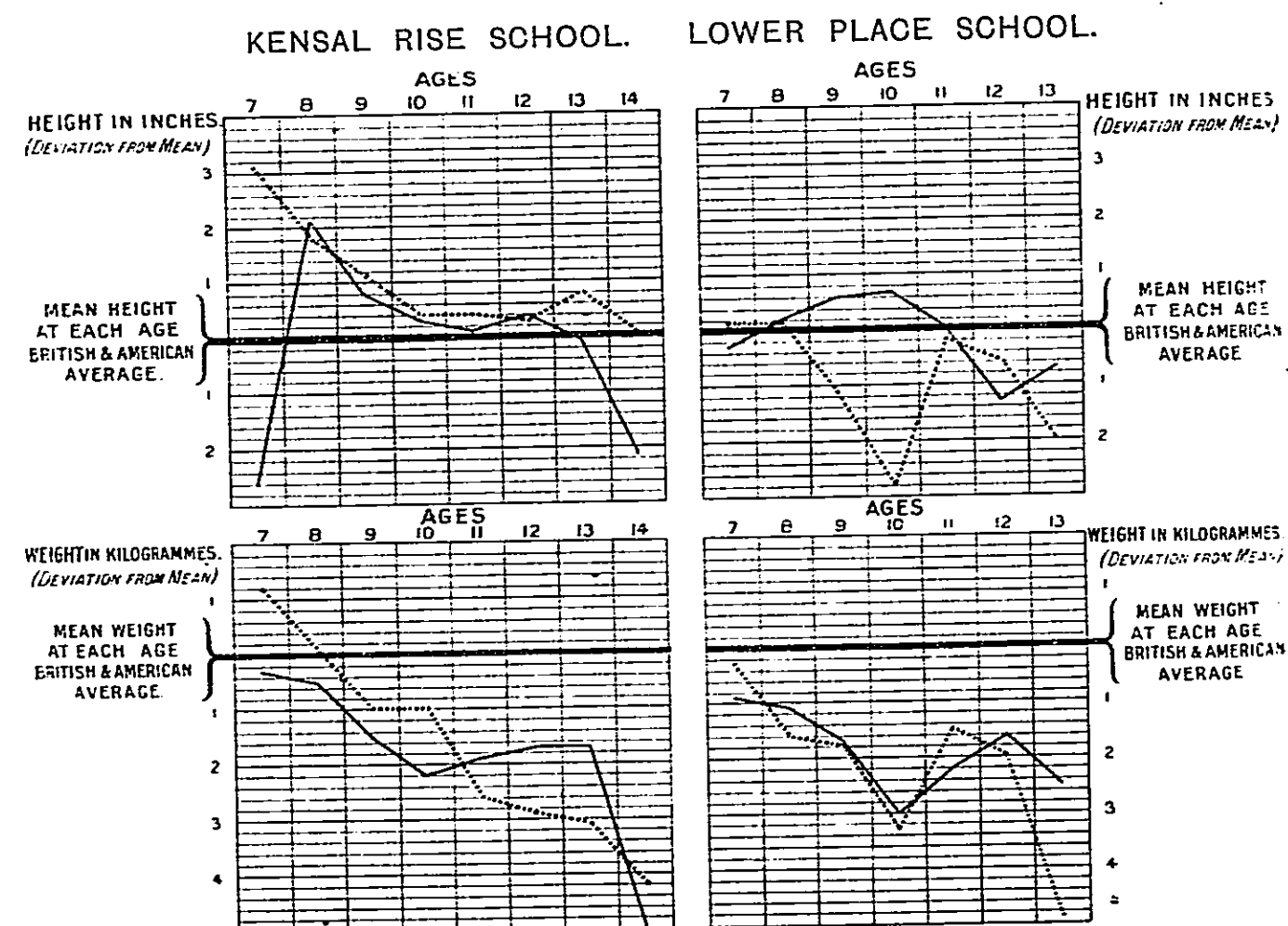
Ages.	Kensal Rise School.	Lower Place School.	Averages from totals of British and American Statistics.	Averages of American Girls (Bowditch).	Averages of Anthropometric Committee (British).
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
7 - - -	48.1	45.1	45.0	45.9	44.0
8 - - -	48.9	47.0	47.1	48.0	46.5
9 - - -	50.1	48.0	49.0	49.6	48.7
10 - - -	52.6	49.4	51.2	51.8	51.0
11 - - -	53.6	53.0	53.3	53.8	53.0
12 - - -	56.1	55.2	55.8	57.1	55.5
13 - - -	58.7	56.0	58.0	58.7	57.7
14 - - -	59.8	—	60.0	60.3	59.7

These tables exhibit a less satisfactory state of affairs in respect of the physique of Willesden children than one could wish.

To exhibit still further the differences, I have charted the curve of deviation for Willesden scholars from the mean weights and heights at each age and for each sex, as calculated by Dr. W. Stevenson, from the tables of British and American statistics. These mean weights and heights are represented in the charts by the straight line. The deviations of the averages of Willesden scholars above and below this mean are so represented in the curves. It will be observed in respect of weight that at the age of seven Kensal Rise girls start well above the average; at eight their average is the same; while at each age after that they steadily lose ground, at 14 having fallen furthest below the mean. Kensal Rise boys at seven have an average weight just below the mean, and they lose ground less steadily, yet in the end to a greater degree than the girls. Lower Place scholars exhibit a deviation below the mean even more marked, and with the same downward tendency of the average weight curve at the higher ages.

The height curves similarly charted are, on the whole, more satisfactory, though the converse of this holds when taken in conjunction with the weight. For subnormal weight averages are found to be associated with the height averages for the most part in excess of the mean. How far these observations justify a pessimistic view of the physique of the rising generation in Willesden it would be premature to conclude. The data are too few to warrant the startling conclusions to which they point; yet they cannot be viewed with complacency. For it must be remembered that Kensal Rise is a picked school, where the most satisfactory results were anticipated. Compared with other schools in the district this would doubtless hold good, but this makes the comparison with the mean weights and heights for the English-speaking race of all classes the less pleasant to contemplate.

The rapid urbanisation of our population makes it increasingly important to measure by every means at our command the effect of the changed conditions upon the health and physique of the people; and there is no more promising field of inquiry to this end than that which has been opened by the observations now reported.



GIRLS.....

BOYS.....

APPENDIX VI.

MEMORANDUM IN REGARD TO THE CONDITION OF THE TEETH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

PREPARED BY THE BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON MEDICAL INSPECTION AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

This memorandum is based on the investigations undertaken by a Committee of members of the British Dental Association during the years 1890 to 1897.

The work was voluntary, and, therefore, the inspection had necessarily to be undertaken by different dentists at different schools. This should be remembered in comparing the statistics obtained at one school with those obtained at another, though, by the use of a common chart and system of record, it was sought to make the results as uniform as possible. For the most part the children were at poor-law or charity institutions; the choice of the institutions selected depending somewhat on its proximity to the home of a member sufficiently enthusiastic to devote his spare time to the work. For this reason the statistics obtained fail to throw

light on many matters needing elucidation, *ex.gr.*, a comparison of the teeth of the town and country child, of the influence of the water supply, hard or soft, &c., &c., of the nature of the employment of the parents, or of the neighbourhood of factories polluting the air, which has been alleged on insufficient evidence to affect the condition of the teeth.

An investigation of the teeth of the children in elementary schools, carried out preferably by the same examiner in carefully chosen parts of the country, would do much to solve these and other problems, apart from the fact that it would, we think, undoubtedly demonstrate the teeth of such children to be quite as bad and to stand as urgently in need of attention as is shown in the statistics compiled by ourselves. Of the latter we offer some typical instances:—

TABLE I.—SPECIAL TABLE SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE TEETH OF INFANTS (*i.e.*, Children who have not yet erupted any Permanent Teeth), YEADON NATIONAL AND BOARD SCHOOLS, NEAR LEEDS.

	3 years.	4 years.	5 years.	6 years.	7 years.	Total.	Per cent.
Number of infants - - - -	11	50	95	27	3	186	100
Teeth not erupted - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
A. Requiring Filling - - - -	65	393	638	181	12	1,289	687.5
Carious, but too decayed for filling -	0	18	207	63	0	288	155
Prematurely lost - - - -	2	1	20	5	0	28	15
B. Requiring Extraction - - - -	0	10	51	13	2	76	40.8
Total A.B. - - - -	65	403	689	194	14	1,365	733
Total Carious - - - -	65	421	896	257	14	1,653	888
Perfect Dentures - - - -	0	3	0	0	0	3	1.6
Fistulae (from abscesses) - - - -	0	7	29	6	2	44	23.6
Protruding Roots - - - -	0	1	4	1	0	6	—

Note.—This table is useful, because it shows the condition of the child's first set of teeth—which, though "temporary," should serve the child, in whole or in part, till about 10 years of age, the years of most active growth.

The tables show that not one of the 122 children, aged 5 and 6, had perfect dentures, and that an average of over 45 per cent. of the teeth were carious in addition to those prematurely lost. Fistulae,

or openings upon the gums or cheeks, due to abscesses in connection with foul roots, were present in an average of about 35 per cent. of the children.

Only three dentitions were recorded as perfect, and in no other instance would the permanent teeth have erupted into a perfectly clean mouth, even if their development had not been interfered with by the inflammation around their deciduous predecessors.

"EXMOUTH" TRAINING SHIP.

TABLE II.—SHOWING THE RELATIVE NUMBER AND RATIO OF BOYS HAVING DEFECTIVE PERMANENT TEETH.

Number of Defective Permanent Teeth.	Number of Boys, Average Age 14 Years.	Ratio per 100 Boys.	Summary.	Classification.
0	118	24.6	24.6	Good.
1	54	11.25	44.9	Fair.
2	61	12.8		
3	45	9.4		
4	55	11.45		
5	39	8.1	22.9	Bad.
6	33	6.9		
7	26	5.4		
8	12	2.5		
9	10	2.1	5.25	Very bad.
10	5	1.05		
11	4	0.8		
13	6	1.2		
17	1	0.1		
Total	469			
Defective Temporary Teeth	11	2.25	2.25	
Grand Total	480	99.9	99.9	

On account of the occupation to which the boys are destined the importance of sound teeth to them is apparent from the following table :—

TABLE III.—TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF BOYS ADMITTED TO THE "EXMOUTH" FROM ITS ESTABLISHMENT ON MARCH 25, 1876, TO DECEMBER 31, 1891 :—

Total admissions	4650
Entered the Royal Navy	1289
Shipped as ordinary seamen, deck or cabin boys, apprentices, assistant steward, and in the Mercantile Marine	1648
Enlisted as band boys in the Army	583
Engaged in other callings	1130

Note.—A dentist has now been appointed to this school with beneficent results. But the table suggests the thought whether there are not elementary schools in certain towns, *ex.gr.*, Portsmouth, many of the children at which are potential candidates for the Services—and would be found on examination to have quite as large an average of bad, or very bad teeth as had the boys of the "Exmouth," yet these children probably never have their teeth attended to.

TABLE IV.—SHOWING SOME OF THE RESULTS OF AN EXAMINATION OF THE MOUTHS OF 903 BOYS AND GIRLS AT HANWELL SCHOOL.

Age.	Number.	Temporary teeth requiring		Temporary teeth requiring		Temporary Total.	Permanent Total.	Unsound teeth.	Regulation cases.	Sound dentition.
		Filling.	Extracting.	Filling.	Extracting.					
3	17	34	—	—	—	34	—	34	—	6
4	43	145	4	—	—	149	—	149	—	10
5	60	196	15	15	—	211	15	226	—	10
6	66	169	50	35	—	219	35	254	—	10
7	70	167	42	72	—	209	72	281	—	11
8	83	134	127	125	2	261	127	388	—	10
9	113	158	135	205	2	293	207	500	6	13
10	131	92	114	188	34	206	222	428	14	23
11	106	18	97	207	54	115	261	376	16	12
12	90	6	87	171	73	93	244	337	21	13
13	67	—	56	95	49	56	144	200	15	15
14	38	—	12	69	45	12	114	126	10	2
15	17	—	4	27	12	4	39	43	1	2
16	2	—	2	13	—	2	13	15	—	—
	903	1,119	745	1,222	271	1,864	1,493	3,357	83	137

Note.—This table is interesting, being the result of the investigation of children who were being reared under advantageous circumstances. The date of the examination was May, 1891, when, even more truly than now, the school was situated in a healthy country district. The fact that these children were pauper children might suggest the idea that the imperfections of their teeth were specially

associated with poverty, therefore the table following is placed next in sequence to show the condition of teeth in high class schools. As a result of this investigation a dentist was appointed and a room fitted up for his use, at a cost of £30. There are now about 800 children in the school and the dentist is paid £100 per annum—the cost of materials is from £3 to £4 per annum.

TABLE V.—GENERAL TABLE SHOWING SOME OF THE RESULTS OF AN EXAMINATION OF THE MOUTHS OF CHILDREN AT TWO HIGH CLASS SCHOOLS.

School.	Number examined	Temporary teeth requiring		Permanent teeth requiring		Temporary total	Permanent total	Unsound teeth	Teeth extracted	Sound dentition	
		Filling	Extracting	Filling	Extracting					Number	Ratio per 100
Mundell's High Class	159	0	39	810	130	39	940	979	161	1	0.6 %
Rayner's " "	46	0	0	147	3	0	150	150	32	2	6.5 %

An examination of 1,200 boys of an average age of 13 years, at Haileybury College showed that only 3 per cent. had dentures free from decay or loss of teeth, though many had dentures "artificially sound," *i.e.*, the carious teeth had been filled or extracted.

APPENDIX I.

REPLIES RECEIVED IN ANSWER TO A REQUEST ADDRESSED TO THE DENTAL OFFICERS OF POOR LAW SCHOOLS.

Salford Union School (Culcheth Cottage Homes).

"I certify that in my opinion the health of the children is considerably improved by a regular and systematic attention to the teeth.

"(Signed) RICHARD SEPHTON.
"July 12, 1905. (Medical Officer.)"

"The appointment of a dentist who periodically attends to the teeth of the children in these homes benefits the children greatly, as there is a general freedom from toothache amongst them—their teeth are regarded as a part of the body requiring care and attention for their cleanliness and preservation

"(Signed) J. MORGAN.
"July 12, 1905. (Superintendent.)"

Burnley Union Workhouse.

"Mr. Thomas Jackson was appointed dentist to the Burnley Union Workhouse in 1898, especially to attend to the teeth of the children in the cottage homes.

"We have on an average about 130 children, and the opinion I had when advocating the appointment of a dentist seven years ago has been more than confirmed by the improved condition of the children's teeth and their consequent general health. Dentists' work is a special one, for which ordinary medical men are neither trained nor fitted, and have no hesitancy in saying that all children in schools and workhouses, or other institutions, should be under the care of a duly qualified dentist.

"(Signed) H. J. ROBINSON,
"July 8, 1905. (Medical Officer.)"

Kensington and Chelsea District School.

"As far as I am concerned I can say that in my opinion your work here is most necessary, and the results very gratifying to us and beneficial to the children.

"(Signed) GEO. LANGLEY,
"July 13, 1905. (Superintendent.)"

"The advantages of dental supervision are known to all, and our school is a case in point. The mouths of the children are always in good condition, and stomatitis, indigestion and gastric troubles are rare comparatively.

"(Signed) GEO. H. HOOPER,
"July 13, 1905. (Medical Officer.)"

Oxford Poor Law Schools.

"On the recommendation of the Local Government Board's Inspector, Mr. E. C. Hale-Jessop was appointed in 1897 as dentist. Our numbers average 150 children, of ages from three to fifteen, and they are inspected by the dentist six times in the year. Since the arrangement was made there has been a marked improvement both in the health and appearance of the children. By such frequent inspections the teeth, which show signs of decay, are at once properly cleaned and filled, and extractions, except in the case of temporary teeth, are often unnecessary. Another great benefit derived is the interest the children themselves learn to take in the preservation of their teeth and the consequent attention given to cleaning them—and this has caused a marked decrease in the numbers of those who periodically suffered from toothache.

"(Signed) W. G. LEGGATT,
"July 11, 1905. (Superintendent.)"

APPENDIX II.

Book..... Page..... Boy's Name..... Age..... years..... months

MARK EXTENT AND POSITION OF DECAY.	RIGHT										LEFT										SYMBOLS.
	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2	1	3	5	7	9	11	13	15					
																	Tooth Lost (temporary) ... — Tooth not Erupted ... | Tooth Extracted ... X Tooth requiring Xt. / Tooth with Fistula ⊙ Tooth Erupting ... V				

OPTIONAL—Underline any of the following conditions if present.

If possible add up numbers, and fill in below.

STATE OF TEETH—	HONEYCOMBED.*	TEMPORARY TEETH—	No of
(a) Clean; (b) fairly clean; (c) dirty; (d) foul; (e) stained.		A. Carious savable - -	
TARTAR—		Aa. Carious but not requiring filling - - -	
(a) Little; (b) much.		Ab. Prematurely lost - -	
TOOTHBRUSH—		B. Requiring extraction -	
(a) used; (b) not used; (c) has none.		Total A.B. - - -	
Natural arrest of caries, No. of....		PERMANENT TEETH—	
Fractured teeth, No. of....		C. Carious savable - -	
FISTULE, No. of....		Ca. „ unsavable - -	
„ opening on face, No. of....		D. Already extracted -	
Supernumerary, No. of....		E. Requiring extraction -	
Germinated teeth, No. of....		Total C.D.E. - - -	
TEETH FILLED, No. of....		F. Sound teeth to be lost -	
Hare lip. Cleft palate (a) hard (b) soft		G. Teeth absent - - -	
Mouth breather. (a) much caries; (b) little caries; (c) enlarged tonsils.			
Closure of jaws. Cicatricial attachments.			
Necrosis of bone.			

* Signifies "see instructions."

REMARKS:

APPENDIX VII.

CONTAINING SPECIMEN LISTS OF DUTIES OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

(1) SURREY.

SCHEME ADOPTED BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Medical Inspection and Certification.

A memorandum dealing with this subject was received and considered, which shows that the matters which can be included in a comprehensive scheme, as coming within the sphere of a medical officer's work, is as follows:—

- (1) Inspection and certification of school children suffering from or having contact with contagious or epidemic illness.
- (2) Inspection and certification of school children absent from school on account of illness. (For school attendance purposes, and award of school attendance medals 7th report Appendix L (6) p. 235.)
- (3) Inspection of the physical condition of children for the purposes of physical training. (See circular and syllabus thereon.)
- (4) Examination and registration of the weight and measurement of school children for the purposes of physical development.
- (5) Examination of the teeth, eyes, and ears, for report to the parents.
- (6) Examination of blind, deaf, and dumb, and the preliminary examination of defective or epileptic children.
- (7) Syllabus of instruction in hygiene and temperance. (See petition of the medical profession, November, 1904.)
- (8) Sanitary inspection and report on school buildings.
- (9) Medical inspection and certificate of teachers applying for absence from illness. (4th report, Appendix S. (5) p. 138.)
- (10) Medical examination and certificate of teachers on new appointment. (Form 42.)
- (11) Examination and certification of pupil teachers before engagement.
- (12) Medical examination of successful candidates for county scholarships as to physical fitness for entering the teacher's profession.
- (13) Medical examination and certificate of candidates for appointment on the headquarters staff of the Committee.

Dr. Seaton, county medical officer of health, addressed the Special Committee on the subject.

It was thereupon *Resolved*—

- (1) That the Committee be recommended to undertake and supervise, in conformity with the recommendations of this report, the carrying out of duties and matters mentioned in the memorandum submitted to the Committee, number one to thirteen.
- (2) That in the opinion of the Special Committee these multifarious duties cannot be efficiently undertaken by any medical officers, or officer, having any other public duties to perform, or private practice to attend to, but that they will require the undivided attention of a whole time officer.
- (3) That the Committee be recommended to appoint, in the first instance, a duly qualified medical officer to undertake the organisation and superintendence of this work at a salary not exceeding £500 per annum and travelling expenses.
- (4) That such medical officer shall in the first instance prepare and present to the Special Committee a scheme for organising medical inspection and certification throughout the county.
- (5) That the Special Committee present the above recommendations in the form of an interim report pending the receipt and consideration of the medical officer's scheme, and that the Special Committee be

then authorised to present a further report as to what further developments are required, as to its adaptability to secondary education in the county, and consequent thereon as to the apportionment of the cost between the higher, the elementary, and training of teachers' accounts.

(6) That so far as the scheme is at present recommended, the Special Committee report that the probable first cost of organisation would involve an expenditure during the financial year commencing April 1st, 1905, of £600, but that in view of any probable future developments of the scheme during such financial year resulting from the consideration and adoption of the medical officer's report, which may entail a future appointment of assistant officers, the Finance and General Purposes Committee be recommended to include in their estimates for that period a further sum of £750.

Co-operation of Part III. Authorities.

It was *Resolved*—

That the Committee be recommended to invite the co-operation of the Part III. Authorities in the county with a view to the proposed scheme of instruction and inspection of physical training, and of medical inspection and certification being applied to the schools under their authority upon terms to be settled between them and the Committee.

Resolved—

That the Committee be recommended to add to the Special Committee, the following:—

Mrs. Woodhouse, of Clapham High School;
Dr. Tatham, of the General Registry Office and Surbiton.

(A Member of the Inter Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration.)

(Signed) A. W. CHAPMAN,

Chairman.

1st February, 1905.

(2) YORKSHIRE (WEST RIDING)

PROPOSED DUTIES.

The Local Education Authority have not yet formally appointed a medical officer specially for their educational work. It has, however, been decided that the department of the County Medical Officer (Dr. James Robert Kaye, M.B., Ph.D.) shall be re-organised, and the staff increased, so that Dr. Kaye will be in a position to deal with the work. The following is a short statement of the duties proposed to be assigned to Dr. Kaye.

I. SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION AND ATTENDANCE.

School Attendance and School Attendance Officers.

Certifying Medical Officer under the Defective and Epileptic Children Act, 1899.

Preparation and circulation of statistics and health bulletins.

Bacteriological and chemical investigations on matters affecting health, e.g., water supplies, disinfection, ventilation.

To secure uniformity in school closure on account of infectious sickness. To formulate and carry out measures for coping with epidemics involving several schools in neighbouring districts. Rules for admission of returning absentees. Investigation of recurrent outbreaks in particular schools, e.g., ophthalmia. To investigate certified cases of illness where required.

Utilisation of school attendance and other officers and their information as to infectious cases. Preparation of handbook on infectious diseases and school accidents.

Amount and Nature of School Accommodation Required.

Vital statistics of locality, particularly birth rates and age distribution.

Choice of School Sites.

Investigation in rural districts of:

- (a) Existing water supply as to purity and adequacy;
- (b) Proposed supplies where none at present exist;
- (c) Action on lead pipes.

Inquiry as to salubrity of site; as to offensive trades and surroundings in urban districts.

Approval of Plans.

Inspection of plans as required from medical standpoint. Points of construction affecting health, e.g., flooring, heating, etc.

Requirements in Respect of Non-provided Schools.

Medical notes on Inspection Form E 6 (print of Form accompanies).

2. SCHOOL MANAGEMENT.

As to Curriculum and Choice of Books.

Hygienic aspect of curricula; intervals of recreation, physical training and drill. Influence of books on spreading infection.

Health.

Inquiries into causes and prevention of myopia ("short sight") said to exist to the extent of 6 per cent. amongst school children; defective hearing, etc. Any anthropometric investigations undertaken by local education authority.

Instructions to managers and teachers affecting children's health. Rules for caretakers as to hygienic cleaning of schools, temperature charts.

School Staff.

Medical examination of candidates and pupil teachers under special circumstances. Organisation of special lectures to staff enant school life, as desired by local education authority.

School Supplies.

Advice on desks, seats, etc., in relation to posture, lighting, anatomy, clean towels, drinking cups, etc. Sanitary cloak-room arrangements. Disinfection of books and slates after epidemics.

3. HIGHER EDUCATION.

The Higher Education Committee would use the services of the medical department on many lines similar to the foregoing. In addition, there might be organisation of training for certain teachers in relation to eye sight, hearing, and infectious disease. Oversight of syllabuses in connection with lectures on health, infant feeding, cookery, etc., etc.

Expert medical evidence may be required in legal cases.

(Signed) W. H. BROWN.

Dated 7th July, 1905.

(3.) MANCHESTER.

DUTIES OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER.

1. To visit each school at least once a year, and report in writing as to the sanitary condition of the premises, and to attend, when requested, any meetings of the Education Committee or Sub-Committees.

2. To examine blind and deaf children; to decide whether they are suitable cases to be dealt with under the Act, and to give the necessary certificates.

3. When required, to examine any plans for new buildings, or alterations of existing buildings, and to report as to their sanitary arrangements, ventilation, lighting, etc.

4. To examine medically, all candidates selected for appointment under the Committee, or employees, when required by the Committee, and to make out certificates.

5. To examine medically, candidates for pupil-teachership, and pupil teachers at the end of the second year, and to make out the certificates required in each case by the Board of Education.

6. To visit, when required by the Committee, any employee who is absent from duty on account of illness, and to report in writing.

7. To examine, when required by the Committee, any child who is stated to be physically unfit to attend school,* and to make out a certificate.

8. To give the Committee the benefit of advice on special occasions when required.

9. The medical officer to devote the whole of his time to the duties of his office.

* *Note*.—Special arrangements are made for the examination, etc., of feeble-minded children.

(4.) ROTHERHAM.

DUTIES OF MEDICAL OFFICER.

1. To examine, when required by the Committee or the School Attendance Sub-Committee, children who are said to be physically unfit to attend school.

2. To examine candidates for pupil teachership; and also pupil teachers at the end of the second year of their apprenticeship, and to make out the certificates required by the Board of Education.

3. To visit and report in writing, when required by the Local Authority or any of its Sub-Committees, on any employee who is absent from duty on account of illness.

4. To examine candidates for employment under the Committee, or employees when required by the Committee or any of its Sub-Committees, and to make out certificates.

5. To examine and report upon cases of blind and deaf children, and children committed to Truant and Industrial Schools, and to make out certificates.

6. To visit each department of a school not less than once every three months, or oftener if required, and report in writing on any sanitary defect of the premises to which his attention may be called, and on the general health of the scholars.

7. At such periodical visits to examine and test the eyesight, hearing, or other physical or mental condition of any scholar to whom attention may be called by the head teacher. Also to report on cases where children should be excluded on account of contagious and infectious diseases.

8. To examine and certify as to children to be dealt with under the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899.

Note.—In these Regulations it is the wish of the Committee that they shall not interfere with the private practice of other medical practitioners.

(5.) SALFORD.

DUTIES PERFORMED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND HIS ASSISTANT.

1. To visit each department of the Council schools once a year, and report in writing as to the sanitary condition of the premises, and to attend, when requested, any meetings of the Committee.

2. To examine any children in the Borough reported to the Committee to be defective or feeble-minded, and to decide whether they shall be instructed at a special centre.

3. To advise the Committee as to the course of study, etc., of the children in attendance at the centres for defective children.

4. To examine blind and deaf children, to decide whether they are suitable cases to be dealt with under the Blind and Deaf Children Act, and to give the necessary certificates.

5. To make arrangements for the periodical examination of the eyesight and hearing (and, if thought desirable, of the teeth) of the children in the schools.

6. To supervise the taking of anthropometric records of the children in the schools.

7. To examine, if required, any plans for new buildings, or alterations of existing buildings, and to report as to their sanitary arrangements, ventilation, lighting, etc.

8. To examine all candidates selected for appointment under the Committee, or employees, when required by the Committee, and to make out certificates.

9. To examine candidates for pupil teachership, and pupil teachers, at the end of the second year, and to make out the certificates required in each case by the Board of Education.

10. To visit, when required by the Committee, any employe who is absent from duty on account of illness, and to report in writing.

11. To examine, when required by the Committee, any child who is stated to be physically unfit to attend school, and to make out a certificate.

12. To give the Committee the benefit of his advice on special occasions, when required.

19th April, 1905.

(6.) KEIGHLEY.

DUTIES, ETC., OF MEDICAL OFFICER.

1. To examine, when required by the Committee, children said to be physically unfit to attend school.

The School Attendance Committee may require in every case of non-attendance where a child is alleged to be physically unfit, a certificate on a form supplied by the Committee, from the child's own duly qualified medical man.

A fee of 2s. 6d. to be paid by the Committee for each such certificate.

2. (a) To examine all probationers and candidates for the office of pupil teacher, and pupil teachers at the end of their second year, in accordance with Schedule V. of the Code.

(b) To examine special cases when requested by School Management Committee, and report.

To make out the necessary certificates in each case.

3. To examine and report, when requested by any Committee, on any candidate for employment under the Committee, and make out a certificate.

To visit, at the request of any Committee, any employe who is absent from duty on account of sickness and report in writing.

4. To examine, and report in writing when required, on cases of blind and deaf children, and children committed to truants' schools, industrial schools, or training ships, and make out certificates.

5. To visit, examine and report on any child suffering from an infectious disease when requested by the secretary.

6. To visit each department, and the Pupil Teachers Central Classes at least once a year, and also when required by the School Management Committee, and report in detail in writing on: (a) The general sanitary condition of the school premises; (b) The eyesight, hearing, and general health so far as they affect the school work of scholars and teachers; (c) Any special points he may consider desirable.

To attend any Committee meeting concerning his own work on written notice from the secretary.

To make a detailed report, as soon as possible after his appointment on the eyesight, hearing, any special

defects, and general health so far as they affect the school work of the scholars and teachers under the Committee's care, and to make a similar report on any department at the request of the School Management Committee, but not oftener than once a year as a rule.

7. To examine all building plans submitted to him, and report on their sanitary, lighting, heating and ventilating arrangements.

The salary will be £50 per annum.

The engagement to be for one year from date of appointment, after that to be terminable by three months notice, in writing, on either side.

H. MIDGLEY,

Secretary of the Committee.

(7.) PONTYPRIDD.

DUTIES OF MEDICAL OFFICER.

1. To examine, when required by the Education Committee, children who are said to be physically unfit to attend school, and to make out certificates.

2. To examine probationers and candidates for pupil teachership; also pupil teachers at the end of the first year of their apprenticeship, and to make out the certificates required by the Board of Education.

3. To visit and report in writing, when required by the Committee or any of its sub-Committees, on any employe who is absent from duty on account of illness.

4. To examine candidates for employment under the Committee, when required by the Committee, or any of its standing sub-Committees, and to make out certificates.

5. To examine and report upon cases of blind and deaf children, and to make out certificates.

6. To examine and report upon cases of children of defective intellect, and to make out certificates.

7. To examine all truants committed by the magistrates to truant schools, and to make out certificates.

8. To visit each department not less than once every three months, and report, in writing, on the sanitary condition of the premises, and the general health of the scholars.

9. At such periodical visits, to confer with the head teacher as to whether certain children mentioned by the head teacher are physically capable of proceeding to a higher standard or class.

10. At such periodical visits, to examine and test the eyesight, hearing, or other physical condition of any scholar to whom attention may be called by the head teacher.

APPENDIX VIII.

SPECIMENS OF INSTRUCTIONS TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS FOR DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(1.) DERBYSHIRE.

IN THE FOLLOWING DISEASES ALL CHILDREN FROM INFECTED HOUSES SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL.

Disease.	Period of Exclusion of Infected Child.	Quarantine for Children exposed to Infection.	Symptoms.
SCARLATINA OR SCARLET FEVER	Six weeks, and then only admit if no sore throat or skinning	Fourteen days when case is removed to hospital; when case remains at home, until M.O.H. gives certificate.	Hot, dry skin, sore throat, and high temperature before rash appears; headache and sickness; bright red rash appearing on covered parts, e.g., chest and neck. Copious skinning in later stages. Infection chiefly conveyed by discharges from throat, nose, and ears.
GERMAN MEASLES	Three weeks	Fourteen days from date of last exposure	Rash appears first day, first on cheeks; temperature rarely high; sore throat, but no symptoms of cold; glands at back of neck enlarged.
MEASLES	Four weeks	Sixteen days from date of last exposure	Begin with cold in the head, running of the nose and eyes; temperature goes up, and rash comes out first on forehead and face. Face has a puffy appearance. Child disposed to bronchitis and pneumonia.
SMALLPOX	Until scabs have gone and skin is clear	Fifteen days from date of exposure	Pain in the back, shivering fits, headache and feverishness. On third day of illness, minute red spots appear, and turn to hard, shotty pimples, first on face and wrists. In two days these contain clear matter which turns yellow in two days more.
CHICKEN POX	Until scabs have gone and skin is healthy	Eighteen days from date of last exposure	Prononitory symptoms only slight. Red spots appear on body; fluid comes in them in twenty-four hours; fresh spots appearing; spots soon scab.
DIPHTHERIA	Till throat is reported healthy. (Two negative bacteriological examinations desirable)	Ten days from last exposure. (Bacteriological examination desirable)	Great weakness and depression; sore throat with white patches; followed by dragging of the feet. Infection spread by discharge from nose and mouth.
WHOOPING COUGH	Until cough is completely gone. At least six weeks	Twenty-one days from exposure to infection	Severe cough, sputum tinged with blood, bleeding from the nose, spasms of coughing, followed by characteristic in-drawn "whoop."

IN THE FOLLOWING DISEASES THE CHILD AFFECTED SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL.

Disease.	Period of Exclusion of Infected Child.	Appearance and Symptoms.
RINGWORM	Until no broken off or diseased hairs can be seen	Round patches, with scaly surface, on face or hands; on head hair grows thin, and patch becomes bald.
ITCH (SCABIES)	Until all pimples and itching have disappeared	At first small pimples, particularly between fingers and on wrists; if neglected, leads to scabs. Continuous itching when child is warm.
OPHTHALMIA (INFLAMMATION OF EYES)	Until all discharge from eyes has ceased	Swelling of eyelids, sensitiveness to light, running of the eyes; discharge soon becomes yellow matter. This disease is most catching, and a separate towel should be kept for patient.

SIDNEY BARWISE, M.D. (LOND.),
COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER.

(2) GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

DIRTY HEADS.

When it is difficult to keep the head clean, it is healthier to cut the hair quite short.

Dirty heads can be cured in about seven days, if the following directions are carried out:—

All hairs with nits on them, and all hairs within a quarter of an inch of a sore place should be cut away.

Then brush the hair thoroughly and comb it carefully with a small tooth-comb. After use, the brush and comb must be washed thoroughly with carbolic soap and water.

The head must then be washed with carbolic soap and water, and afterwards rubbed with paraffin alone, or with a mixture of paraffin and olive oil in equal parts.

This washing and rubbing is to be repeated once a day for seven days, and afterwards once a week until no more nits are seen.

At the same time iron daily with a hot iron the collar part of the clothes worn.

When the lice and nits have been removed, sore places with scabs on the head and enlarged glands about the neck will get much better.

Children with dirty heads should not sleep with other children.

CAUTION.—Be careful not to use the paraffin near a fire or naked light.

(3) CROYDON.

STANDING ORDERS RESPECTING HEALTH

Communicable Diseases.

1. No child, teacher, or other officer of the Committee shall attend school while suffering from small-pox, scarlet fever (or scarlatina), enteric (typhoid) fever, diphtheria whooping cough, chicken-pox, measles, German measles "sore throat," mumps, ringworm, itch, or other communicable diseases.

This needs little explanation. "Other communicable diseases" includes "impetigo contagiosa" and verminous conditions. "Sore throat" is important because it often betokens mild diphtheria or incipient scarlet fever.

2. No child shall attend school from a house where there is or has been recently a case of small-pox, scarlet fever (scarlatina), enteric (typhoid) fever, or diphtheria until the Medical Officer certifies that the house is free from infection.

3. No child shall attend an infants' school from a house where there is a case of measles, German measles, whooping cough, chicken-pox or mumps, but children in departments for older scholars who have previously suffered from the diseases in question need not be excluded under similar circumstances.

4. Teachers and other officers of the Committee living in infected houses must consult the Medical Officer, who will advise as to the desirability of their continuance at school.

Full particulars should be supplied as to the nature of the illness, the date of onset, available isolation, and whether the teacher or other officer has previously suffered from the disease in question. The Medical Officer can be consulted personally by appointment. Appointment can be made by letter addressed to the Town Hall, or by telephonic message. (Telephonic No. 394 Croydon.)

5. Should a teacher suspect that any child is suffering from an infectious disease mentioned in Standing Order 1, or comes from an infected house, he or she should at once exclude the suspected child and notify the Medical Officer (Form A), who will advise thereon (Form B). The cause of exclusion should be notified to the parents on Form D. Special attention should be paid to cases of "sore throat."

Notification of suspected cases is to be sent to the Medical Officer. In order to assist in the detection of suspected cases of communicable disease, the following general notes should be carefully studied. It is hoped that every teacher will become familiar with these facts, as such knowledge would be of inestimable service in insuring the prompt detection of infectious cases.

Special care should be taken to examine children on their return after some temporary indisposition.

6. Should it be reported to any teacher or attendance officer that a child is absent from any school on account of any of the diseases mentioned in Standing Order 1, the

teacher or attendance officer shall forthwith notify the Medical Officer (Form A), who will advise thereon (Form B).

It is important that the Medical Officer should have early information of all infectious cases, and that he should be supplied with the correct addresses of the children. Notification is to be made direct to the Medical Officer of the Education Committee, Town Hall, Croydon. Addressed envelopes will be supplied for this purpose.

7. Where a child is known to be suffering from any of the above diseases, or where a child is known to be attending school from an infected house, the Medical Officer will, if necessary, issue a certificate requiring the exclusion of the child in question (Form E). The child must thereupon be excluded for such a time as may be mentioned in the certificate, or until the receipt of a further certificate (Form F) from the Medical Officer assenting to the return of the child to school.

This refers to the certificate issued by the Medical Officer of Health in connection with notifiable diseases and such other cases of communicable diseases as come to his knowledge otherwise than through information supplied by Head Teachers or Attendance Officers.

8. Children suffering from the following diseases must be excluded from school for the undermentioned periods:—

In the case of measles or German measles, for three weeks from the appearance of the rash.

In the case of whooping cough, for as long as the whoop continues and not less than five weeks from the commencement of the whooping.

In the case of chicken-pox, for at least two weeks and until every scab has fallen off the body and scalp.

In the case of mumps, for at least three weeks.

9. Children living in infected houses and excluded from school under the terms of Standing Order 3 must be excluded for like periods, except in the case of whooping cough, for which the period need only be four weeks.

10. *Treatment of Verminous Children.*—Verminous heads are extremely common in all schools and are a constant source of anxiety to all concerned.

The parents of all children attending school should be advised to constantly be on the watch for this condition. Every parent should therefore be given one of the cards marked A when a child enters the school.

Teachers should examine the heads of children on admission and at intervals during the session. Any child found to be affected with vermin should be given one of the cards marked B. If this is not effectual and the child's head is not clean at the expiration of the week, card C should be issued.

Children in an extremely filthy condition should be excluded forthwith and the attendance officer attached to the school notified immediately.

It is intended that a systematic examination of the children's heads should be gradually introduced. Verminous conditions can only be eradicated by such means.

General Health.

11. *Cleanliness.*—The head teacher shall daily inspect or provide for the inspection of the scholars with a view to promote cleanliness of person. Whenever a scholar is sent home in consequence of being in a dirty state, notice must at once be given to the school attendance officer of the district.

This refers to ordinary cleanliness of the child and its clothes. Special directions are given in respect to verminous children.

12. *Ventilation.*—Every room occupied by children must be properly ventilated.

An adequate supply of fresh air is essential to the health of both teachers and scholars. It must be admitted, however, that it is not always easily obtained. Much can be done by flushing the rooms with pure air during the intervals allowed for recreation, and accustoming children to widely open windows whenever possible. Complaint of draughts is likely to arise when the windows are not opened widely enough.

In cold weather the windows on the side of the room protected from the wind should be left open. Use should be made of the special air inlets and outlets provided in many of the class-rooms.

12. Teachers should draw the attention of parents to any apparent defect in the general health of the children. Chronic cough, muscular weakness and pallor are symptoms which should attract the attention of the teacher.

It is impossible to give more than a few hints as to the general health of the scholars. Every child with a chronic cough, especially if wasted, should be advised to seek medical attention, as consumption may be threatening. St. Vitus' Dance or Chorea is another disease which may be first noticed in school. Children suffering from Chorea become inattentive, jerky in their movements, liable to drop things from their hands and prone to make grimaces. They are awkward in their movements and cannot pick up small articles such as pins. Any child exhibiting such symptoms requires medical advice.

Adenoids.—A large number of children suffer from large tonsils and what are known as adenoids. These obstruct respiration and lead to mouth breathing, and may also produce deafness. Severe cases can usually be detected at a glance as the expression is quite characteristic. Parents should be advised to seek medical advice when children are observed to constantly breathe through their mouths.

Spitting should not be tolerated inside a school. If a child has a cough with expectoration it is too ill to be in attendance at school. Children should be taught that promiscuous spitting is a filthy and dangerous habit.

14. *Consumption or Phthisis.*—Children who are said to be suffering from consumption should be reported to the Medical Officer, who will deal with these cases according to circumstances.

15. *Light.*—No writing, sewing or other fine work should be permitted unless the light is sufficient to prevent the least strain. Blackboards should be so situated that a sufficient quantity of light shall fall upon them. All writing on the blackboards should be large enough to be easily seen by those pupils who are seated farthest away.

16. *Use of the Eyes.*—In no case should any child be permitted to occupy itself with work less than a foot distant from the eye. In the choice of occupations for infants special care should be taken to avoid any opportunity of eye strain.

Eye strain results from bringing the eyes too near the work. Any child which constantly does this should be referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon. Special attention is necessary when sewing or writing lessons are being given.

17. *Posture.*—Teachers should be careful that children do not assume any strained or awkward position when in school.

18. A young teacher or child sent to enquire after an absentee must be forbidden to enter the house. Where there is reason to suspect that a child is absent on account of some infectious disease, enquiries should only be made through the Attendance Officer.

General Notes.

19. General symptoms which would warrant temporary exclusion from School:—

Any rash, especially a diffuse or blotchy redness. Headache coming on suddenly in a child not subject to this complaint.

An attack of vomiting.

An attack of shivering.

Sore throat, especially if the throat looks red inside, or white patches can be seen at the sides or back of the throat, or if lumps can be felt at the angles of the jaws.

Nasal discharge following an illness which began with "sore throat."

Rise of temperature above normal. This may be ascertained by noting any undue heat of the child's skin, or better by use of a thermometer.

20. Special symptoms.

Scarlet Fever. (Scarlatina).—The onset is usually sudden and frequently attended by vomiting. There is more or less sore throat, followed within 24 hours by a red rash on the chest, which extends to the rest of the body. The rash may be only slightly marked, being little more apparent than a slight blush, or may be dark or blotchy. Later on the skin peels off the body in larger or smaller flakes. This peeling or desquamation is usually most noticeable on the hands, especially

about the fingers, to which it gives a ragged appearance. Any child found to be desquamating should be excluded from school, unless the Medical Officer reports that there is no danger. Children convalescent from scarlet fever sometimes develop a discharge from the nose. This is probably infectious, and should be reported.

Diphtheria and Sore Throat are often indistinguishable without special knowledge. It is therefore wise to exclude all children suffering from sore throat. Diphtheria often begins insidiously, and no complaint may be made of pain in the throat, though the disease is none the less diphtheria. In some children diphtheria attacks the nasal passages and a chronic nasal discharge may be the only symptom. All cases excluded from school and not receiving medical treatment will be examined bacteriologically by the Medical Officer.

Measles may begin with vomiting or convulsions in a young child. More commonly for the first few days the symptoms are those of a common cold, viz., sneezing, running at the eyes and nose, and some sore throat. About the fourth day a red blotchy, slightly raised rash appears, being first visible on the face, behind the ears, and on the wrists. Children with symptoms of an ordinary cold should be excluded when the School is known to be infected with Measles.

Smallpox usually begins with vomiting, headache, and pains in the back. About the third day an eruption appears which consists first of pimples, which later on become vesicular, that is, they have fluid contents. These eventually pass into small sores which dry and scab. The number of pimples and therefore of scabs varies from one or two to countless numbers.

Chicken-Pox.—The child rarely complains of any thing beyond slight indisposition, but within a few hours a number of white clear vesicles, or "watery heads" appear on various parts of the body. At first they look like little drops of water, but soon dry and scab.

Whooping Cough begins like an ordinary cough. When the disease is fully developed, the child has attacks in which one cough follows another without interval until the child is out of breath, when it takes a deep inspiration. The curious sound accompanying this inspiration is the characteristic "whoop." A fit of coughing is often followed by vomiting, and any child in whom this is observed would rightly be suspected of having Whooping Cough.

Mumps.—The child is out of sorts, complains of pain about the jaw, and develops a tender swelling on one or both sides of the face. This swelling usually begins in the hollow below the ear, and spreads forwards and downwards. Mumps must not be disregarded, as the complications are occasionally severe.

Ringworm.—Any bald patch, or any scaly round patch, occurring on a child's scalp is almost certain to be ringworm. If the suspected patch be ringworm, it will be found that many of the hairs have broken off short, lost their lustre and are bent and twisted and readily pulled out. If suspected hairs are examined by the microscope, the characteristic fungus can be detected if present. Children are infectious as long as any diseased stumps can be seen.

Impetigo Contagiosa is an infectious skin disease in which scabbing sores form on various parts of the body, usually on the face and scalp. Most sores about the head and face are communicable, but may be readily cured in a week by appropriate treatment.

Itch is a communicable disease, due to a small insect (the itch mite), which burrows under the skin, especially on the hands. Any eruption of the hands which is attended by itching should arouse suspicion.

Verminous Conditions.—Head Lice are the commonest pest of school children. Their presence would be suspected in children who are constantly scratching

their heads. They can be detected by actual observation, or by finding their eggs (nits) attached to the hair about half-an-inch from the scalp. The back and sides of the head are their commonest habitat.

Body Lice are sometimes found in badly nourished and neglected children. They give rise to irritation and scratching, and, if present, will usually be seen under the collar of the child's shirt or vest.

(4) SWANSEA.

SIGNS OF DEFECTS IN EYE AND EAR.

(Suspended in Every Class-room).

1. *Eye Signs.* Children with defective eyesight arrange themselves, roughly, according to the following classification of peculiarities :—

- (a) Bending over reading books, etc.
- (b) The writing tends to become unduly small.
- (c) Eyelids more or less closed on looking at distant objects.
- (d) Squinting.
- (e) The appearance of white or milky spots over any part of the centre of the eye.
- (f) Red or watery eyelids, rims of eyelids red or prominent, with or without discharge.
- (g) Eyelashes matted or partially absent, with or without scabs at their bases.
- (h) Temporary pain, swelling and inflammation of the lid.
- (i) Headaches, etc., due to defective sight.

2. *Ear Signs :—*

- (a) Child often watches the movements of speaker's lips.
- (b) Face often dull and vacant, mouth open and nostrils compressed.
- (c) Frequently there is earache and discharge from ear or ears.
- (d) There is tendency to sore throat and lumps under the ear.
- (e) Child turns the best ear towards the speaker.
- (f) As child does not hear, he is apt to copy from his neighbour.

Teachers should remember that in a class of fifty children there are probably two or three who are colour blind, five or six who have more or less defective eye sight, and seven or eight who are more or less deaf.

N.B.—Young teachers should commit these points to memory.

Eye Drill.—A simple eye drill, which will prove of great value to :—

- (a) Bright, intelligent children, with poor sight.
- (b) Dull children, with immobile, vacant stare.
- (c) Dull children, with over-mobile action of the eyes.

Let children look, say, at the end of a pointer held by the teacher some yards in front of them. Let them follow the pointer with their eyes, *without moving their heads*, right, left, up, down, in a circle from right to left, and *vice versa*. This exercise is chiefly for the "vacant stare" (Class (b)) children, but it will also strengthen the weak eye muscles of intelligent children (Class (a)), and of those with over-mobile eyes (Class (c)). The best exercise for the last class of children, however, is to fix the eyes on a definite point on the wall opposite to them, and to keep looking at it for some minutes at a time.

E. RICE MORGAN. | *Medical Officers to the*
RHYNS DAVIES. | *Swansea School Board.*

(5) KENDAL.

(Subsequently adopted by the Local Education Authorities for Cumberland and Westmoreland).

DEFECTS IN SCHOOL CHILDREN WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

It having been found that a large number of school children have their education seriously interfered with by a number of common complaints, many of which may be remedied

the attention of parents is earnestly drawn to the following points :—

1. Eyesight.

Every scholar needs good sight in both eyes.

Children with faulty sight, by continually straining their eyes, become liable to headache, squint, sore eyes. Sore eyes, squint, and headache may often be prevented and cured by wearing proper spectacles.

If a "cast in the eye" is neglected, the squinting eye gets gradually weaker and at last blind. The squint can then be cured only by an operation; and even this will not cure the blindness.

Parents, whose children have faulty sight, or sore eyes, or a "cast in the eye" (squint), or frequent headaches, should consult their doctor, to see if spectacles or other remedy be needed.

2. HEARING.

Every scholar needs good hearing in both ears.

Earache often leads to a discharge from the aching ear, and a neglected discharge often leads to deafness, and sometimes to serious brain disease.

Parents, whose children have earache, or an ear discharge, or are at all deaf, should consult their doctor before any serious damage arises.

3. BREATHING WITH OPEN MOUTH.

Everybody should breathe through the nose, not through the mouth; the air thus gets warmed before it reaches the lungs. In school-drill children are taught to breathe deeply with the mouth closed.

Children who breathe with open mouth have for a long time previously suffered from either large tonsils or some blockage in the nose, which has caused a thick voice, "wax kernels" in the neck, and a badly shaped chest ("pigeon chest").

Breathing with open mouth causes a tendency to catch cold, a still further blockage in the nose, deafness, headache, a daff look, and stupidity.

Parents, whose children breathe with open mouth, or have large tonsils or a blockage of the nose, or who frequently catch cold, or who have "wax kernels" in the neck, or a badly shaped chest, should consult their doctor at once, for the health may be greatly improved by removing the obstruction.

4. SHORTNESS OF BREATH, HABITUAL COUGH, FRAILTY, DEFORMITY, FITS.

An important part of children's education consists of outdoor games, swimming, drill, and other exercises; and in order to get the full benefit of these, every child needs a sound heart, sound lungs, good general health, freedom from deformity, and freedom from fits.

Parents, whose children get out of breath from too slight a cause, or are troubled with habitual cough, or are weak and frail and pale, or have any deformity (such as bow leg, knock knee, club foot, flat foot, hip disease, curved spine), or are subject to faints or twitchings or fits, should consult their doctor without delay, as special precautions may be needed about games and other exercises, clothing, or food.

5. RINGWORM, SORE HEAD, HEAD-LICE, SCABBY FACE, ETC.

It is very important to prevent children from communicating their ailments to one another.

Head-lice and nits are exceedingly common in children. Boys' heads are best kept closely cropped. To destroy lice and nits, the hair should be kept wet with paraffin for several hours and then washed with soap and water; the same should be done next day and the day after; then the hair should be combed daily with a very fine comb, soaked in vinegar, till no more nits can be found. Children should not exchange caps.

Ringworm often takes months to cure; children, with doctor's permission and under proper treatment, may mix with other children and even attend school, if they continually wear some kind of cap until certified as cured.

Parents, whose children suffer from ringworm, scabby sores (orusts) on the head or face, itching spots on the hands or wrists, or any complaint that might possibly be communicable to another child, should consult their doctor at once, as most of these complaints are much more easily cured in the early stage.

APPENDIX IX.

LONDON.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON UNDERFERD CHILDREN.

In 1889 the School Board held their first inquiry into the question of underfeeding, with the result that the London Schools Dinner Association was formed as a central organisation in order to carry out a more economical and efficient system for the provision of cheap or free meals for children in the elementary schools who were found on inquiry to be in want of food, and this association, along with other bodies working on similar lines, have provided the greater part of the meals given in connection with our schools.

In 1894-5 a second inquiry was made with the following results. The Board decided that all its head teachers should be invited to keep a continuous record of all children receiving charitable meals, admission to which was given through the agency of the school staff, together with the names of the associations or other donors supplying such meals, the prices, if any, of the meals, and the places where the food was consumed; and expressed the opinion that the evidence adduced showed (a) that charitable funds existed in sufficiency to relieve this special form of distress; (b) that the need of the future was such an effective method of administration as would prevent the overlapping and misuse of such charitable funds; (c) that there was no reason to doubt that the organisation of the London Schools Dinner Association, which was due to the initiative of the Board, was the most desirable machinery for dealing with the need; (d) that the lack of food, intermittent as it was, was probably only a symptom in many cases of a state of distress which was not effectually and permanently met by the provision of a meal, and (e) that, whilst it was neither necessary nor wise that the Board should directly take part in this work, the Board ought to encourage those who were undertaking the work efficiently and to place its organisation more directly in touch with such efforts.

A third and still more exhaustive study of the question was undertaken in 1898-9. Inquiries were made from all head teachers and all school managers (1) as to the number of children attending public elementary schools in London who were probably underfed, and (2) how far the present voluntary provision for school meals was or was not effectual. Replies to these inquiries were received from all Board schools and from a large number of voluntary schools, though many of the latter either omitted to answer at all or answered in a vague and indefinite manner. These replies were carefully tabulated and are to be found in the volume issued in 1900 containing the report of the Committee and a record of the proceedings subsequently taken by the School Board thereon. The information given upon the first question varied greatly in fulness and value. In cases where the head teacher had paid special attention to the question of relief, the answers were for the most part distinct and precise, often giving the exact number of children who had benefited in previous years or basing the answer on past experience. In other cases the answers were vague and general, such as "about 20 per cent." or "about 30 per cent." of the roll. In some instances pains were taken to distinguish between what might be expected to be the minimum in a mild year and the maximum in a severe year, while some only stated that the number was "very few" or "a good many" or "variable," thus supplying nothing of statistical value. As a result of the tabulation, the Committee reported that the number of children underfed might be stated to be about 55,000.

As to the second question, the replies showed that there were six principal supply associations ready to

provide funds when applied to, viz., the London Schools Dinner Association, Mrs. Pennington's Board School Children's Free Dinner Fund (now amalgamated with the London Schools Dinner Association), the East Lambeth Teachers' Association, the *Referee* Fund, the Destitute Children's Dinner Society, and the Southwark Free Meals Association. Besides these, no less than 287 local agencies were stated to exist, making provision for the most part either for one school or for all the schools in one parish or in the vicinity of one chapel. With this evidence before them, as well as reports as to what was done in the principal towns of England and also in many parts of the Continent and America, the Committee drew up their report. They found that there was an enormous volume of want and neglect affecting a considerable section of the school children, and that large numbers of them were fed by some kind of charitable help. They thought that the total figure of 55,000 might be taken as a fair approximation to the total number of underfed children, understanding that phrase to represent children who would, if no means of relief existed, come to school in such a state of malnutrition from the lack of food or from improper feeding as not to be in a fit state for school work.

The provision of funds and the arrangements for meals were considered unsatisfactory. Many necessitous schools had not applied for grants, others had applied and received assistance from more than one quarter, and in certain schools more dinners were given than were needed.

The resolutions passed by the School Board on this report were to the effect that it was clearly shown that general charity was sufficient to meet the necessities of the children, that no expenditure ought to be incurred from public funds but that charitable agencies should be so organised as to carry out the work efficiently, and that the nature of the organisation should be as follows—

1. A sub-committee should be appointed in each necessitous school or group of schools, consisting of the head teacher, the attendance officer and one or more managers, with power to co-opt outsiders for the purpose of local inquiries.

2. The duties of this sub-committee should be—

(a) To ascertain the existence of want, and to draw up lists of the children who are underfed.

(b) To communicate with some one of the sources of supply (whether individuals or local charitable bodies or general associations for providing help), to obtain the funds necessary for feeding the children.

(c) To make all necessary arrangements for the provision and distribution of the meals.

3. The system for ascertaining the existence of distress and preparing a list of underfed children should be as follows—

(a) A provisional list is to be drawn up before the end of October by the head teacher of each department, assisted by the class teachers and the visitors, of those children who, from personal observation or from knowledge of their family circumstances, he believes are underfed. Special care shall be taken to exclude from this list the names of children who are known to be sufficiently provided for in any way.

(b) When the list of underfed children has been drawn up it shall be shown to the sub-committee who will take whatever steps they can to verify the existence of want in doubtful cases.

(c) The list thus corrected will be kept by some member who agrees to act as secretary to the sub-committee, and will be altered or added to from week to week according as information is received from the visitor or elsewhere as to any fresh cases or any change in the circumstances of old cases.

4. Every sub-committee should report periodically the number of children on the list of underfed, either to any local committee of the district, or else to the Joint Committee [referred to in paragraph 8]. Any such local committee of the district should be invited to forward similar information to the Joint Committee periodically in a tabulated form.

5. Every sub-committee should place itself in communication with some source of supply in order to obtain the means necessary for the relief of want. Ordinarily speaking, this would be the source from which assistance has been received in former years. If no such source exists, or if it is unable to make sufficient provision, the sub-committee would report either to the local committee of the district or to the Joint Committee [referred to in paragraph 8], who would take measures to place it in communication with a source of supply.

6. Every sub-committee should make the necessary arrangements for procuring and distributing food to the underfed children. Ordinarily, the system followed would be the same as has hitherto prevailed, the food being cooked and distributed by some voluntary agency at a centre—at which the children from various schools may be fed—or else at the school itself, in the hall or some class-room or covered shed set apart for the purpose under the Board's resolution.

7. The sub-committee would report to the local committee of the district, if such exist, or else to the Joint Committee [referred to in paragraph 8], the system adopted for procuring, cooking, and distributing the food; the days on which meals are given; the kind of meals; and the nature of the food supplied; and would also report periodically the number of children fed and the number of meals distributed.

8. There should be a permanent committee appointed for the purpose of supervising the work of organising relief for underfed children, which should be called the Joint Committee, and should be composed, for the time being, as follows—

Eight members of the School Board for London; two representatives of the London, and two of the Rochester, Diocesan Boards of Education; two representatives of Roman Catholic Voluntary schools—one for North and one for South London; two members appointed by the Committee of Representative Managers of London Board Schools, and one representative of each of the four largest Associations for supplying funds for relief, viz.—The London Schools Dinner Association; the Board School Children's Free Dinner Fund; the Destitute Children's Dinner Society; the *Refugee* Fund.

9. The functions of this Joint Committee to be—

(a) To receive reports from the sub-committees showing the source of supply to which they look for funds, the system adopted for procuring, cooking and distributing food, the days on which meals are given, the kind of meals and nature of meals supplied, and (periodically) the number of children on the underfed list and the number of meals distributed. Where a local committee of the district exists, it will be invited to forward these reports.

(b) To draw the attention of sub-committees to any defect which may appear in the selection of children who are really in want or in the arrangements for providing the needed relief.

(c) To give assistance, when necessary, to sub-committees by placing them in communication with a source of supply so as to enable them to obtain the necessary funds.

(d) To communicate with the chief associations of supply whenever there is reason to fear that distress is outstripping the charitable contributions intended to meet it.

(e) 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.

The Joint Committee was appointed in 1900, in accordance with these resolutions, and it carried out its duties for four years, under the School Board for London, the work being continued by the Council on succeeding to the work of the Board last year. The introduction of a new system of grouping of schools and of appointing managers has caused considerable alteration in the sub-committees, but since the appointment of the new managers on 1st January, 1905, sub-committees have been appointed for 246 London County Council schools as against 201 for the previous year. [Appendix D shows 287 sub-committees, but this list includes 41 schools for which sub-committees were appointed previously to 1st January, 1905, the appointment of which has not been confirmed by the new managers.] Of this number 47 have not reported any feeding, and it is therefore assumed that, in these cases, necessity has not arisen during the past winter. In the cases of eight schools we agreed with the managers that sub-committees were unnecessary. In the cases of two other schools, viz., Culloden Street (*Poplar*), and Walnut Tree Walk (*Lambeth*, N.), the managers decided not to appoint sub-committees, their reasons being in the first case that suitable arrangements for feeding the children were made at Shaftesbury Hall, and, in the second case, that meals were not required. We pointed out to the managers of Culloden Street school the necessity of having a sub-committee to select the children who were to receive meals, and with regard to Walnut Tree Walk school we were of opinion that, as the school was in a very poor neighbourhood, a sub-committee was necessary to watch for any case that might arise. Sub-committees were ultimately appointed for both of these schools, but no feeding has been reported from Walnut Tree Walk school. The managers of the Laxon Street and Snowsfields, Bermondsey, schools also declined to appoint a sub-committee on the grounds that suitable arrangements were made at Shaftesbury Hall, and that the teachers were able to select the children. These two cases were referred to the Day Schools Sub-Committee of the Education Committee, with a request that they would instruct the managers to appoint a sub-committee. A decision has not yet been arrived at by the Sub-Committee.

Of the non-provided schools 62 have formed sub-committees, and 31 of these have reported each week the number of children fed and meals given. The position of these schools during the past year has been unsettled, and we have not felt justified in insisting on the receipt of periodical reports from them, or the carrying out of the rules as to the appointment of sub-committees, and the performance of certain duties by them.

The experience of the past year agrees with what has been reported by the Joint Committee in previous years that there is no evidence to show that private charity has been unable to provide the funds requisite for feeding the underfed children in our schools. The contributions of the public to the different associations which appeal for and collect funds have, in most cases, been even more liberal than in previous years, and on every occasion when a school sub-committee has applied to us for assistance we have been able to place it in communication with one or other of the supply associations with a view to procuring for them the requisite funds.

The tables showing the weekly average number of children fed and meals given for the session 1904-5 will be found in Appendices A and C. The following summary gives the information with regard to London County Council schools for the past five years—

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 "

There has been greater distress than usual in some parts of London, but it has hardly been felt in the schools as severely as might have been anticipated in view of the general scarcity of employment in the Metropolis. The number of Council schools in which children have been fed has been 208 against 201 last year. Fourteen new schools have provided meals which did not do so before, and 7 which fed children last year have not done so this year, or have not reported as doing so. The total average number fed for a period ranging from 3 to 26 weeks has been 26,951 against 23,842 in 1903-4, and the average weekly number of meals 66,006 against 56,109.

There are 27 schools in which the number of children fed materially exceeds the number of last year, and these are principally in the electoral areas of Bermondsey, Deptford, and Central Finsbury. On the other hand there are 9 schools in which the number fed has been smaller, and these are scattered over 7 electoral areas.

The number of meals given weekly stands at the same average number as in the previous year, viz., 25; 16 schools gave only one meal, 90 gave two, 61 gave three, 41 gave 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 severer distress. Forty-four schools provided meals during 10 weeks or less, 91 from 11 to 15 weeks, 63 from 16 to 20 weeks, and 10 for over 20 weeks. Last year only one school continued the meals for a period exceeding 20 weeks. The average duration of the feeding was 13½ weeks against 12½ weeks in 1903-4.

A new item of statistical information has been provided this year, viz., the number fed at all, in addition to the average number fed. This shows the total number of names placed on the register of underfed children, some of whom are taken off in the course of the winter, while new names are added; and some whose names continue on the list only receive food occasionally, while some receive it on every occasion when meals are given. There was some discussion before the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration about this question, one witness asserting his belief that every child fed continuously represented three individual children fed for shorter periods. The figures now submitted show that while the number fed on an average was 26,951, the total number of individual children fed in Council schools was 40,432, giving a ratio of 1 to 1½. In other words, every child on the register of underfed children was fed on the average for 8 or 9 weeks of the period during which meals were provided. No doubt there are certain schools which under a more efficient system, would send fresh children to swell the number; on the other hand there are also schools in which some children who are not really in want would be eliminated by more careful inquiry. In non-provided schools the adoption of the system has been voluntary and partial, and, as the figures received from them are imperfect, we are unable to give any estimate of the actual number in those schools.

We have also tabulated in Appendix D, the information supplied by most of the schools (193 having replied out of the 208 schools in which meals were provided) as to the Association from which funds were received and as to the kind of meal, the number of meals per week, and the place of distribution. In Appendix E, we have set out a summary of the reports sent in by 16 of the associations which concern themselves in this work. Of these, three are large societies which collect funds and supply them to those who make application. Fourteen are associations more or less restricted as to locality which not only collect funds whether locally or from the public at large, or receive them from one or other of the three first-named societies, but also organise the supply and distribution of food for different schools.

The special schools, i.e., those for the blind, deaf, and mentally and physically defective children, have not come under the cognisance of the Joint Committee. The sub-committee in charge of these schools are at the present moment considering the advisability of affording facilities for the provision of meals in all the special schools, except the cripple schools in which the system is already established. Some information relating to these schools will be found in Appendix F.

What the future system of administering relief to underfed children should be is one of the most important problems with which the Council has to deal, and we feel that we should not be doing our duty if we did not place at the Council's disposal the fruits of experience gained in past years.

The defects which have been found to exist in the system established by the School Board and watched over by the Joint Committee are as follows—(1) The duty of the managers in respect of visiting the homes of the children and procuring information regarding their home conditions has been in the majority of cases imperfectly fulfilled; (2) Full use has not been made of the information possessed by attendance officers; (3) The care of the sub-committee has been generally confined to the provision of meals, and should be extended to the supply of boots and clothes; (4) Meals are generally provided on one, two or three days in the week, whereas they should ordinarily be given on at least four days, if not on all five days; (5) The Joint Committee have not been invested with sufficient power to see that the system is properly carried out, and the work of feeding the children efficiently done; (6) Power should be taken to regulate the connection between associations which offer to provide funds or meals, or boots, or clothing, and the schools to which the offer is made; (7) Meals should be continued, where found necessary, throughout the year.

With regard to the first of the defects enumerated above, we trust that the Council will place this duty in a prominent position; that managers will be asked to subscribe their assent to performing it when they take office; and that the regular performance of the duty will be considered in connection with the reappointment of managers.

We drew up suggestions last November for the amendment of Article 127 of the School Management Code, which were intended to remedy some of these defects. The following recommendations may be quoted—

(1) That a relief committee should be appointed in every school.

(7) That the term "relief" should be understood to include the provision of food, boots, clothing, and any kind of charitable assistance.

(26) Attendance officers are expected to give information when requested and to do all in their power to assist the relief committees of schools in their district in their work.

In Clauses 15 to 18 suggestions were made as to the manner in which inquiries and home visits should be systematised and carried on.

These recommendations are still under the consideration of the Day Schools Sub-Committee. They cover the second and third defects referred to.

With regard to the increase in the number of meals a week, we have shown above that at present they are mostly given on two or three days a week, and we think that the relief committee should be instructed to do all that is possible to secure that the provision shall be made on four days. We do not propose that five days shall be made the rule because there is a great deal of evidence that the children ordinarily get a good meal on Monday out of the remains of the Sunday dinner, but wherever this is not the case the meals should be given on Mondays also. We further advise the grant, in the poorer districts, of a glass of milk and a slice of bread and butter before school begins, or even a more substantial breakfast of porridge and milk.

With regard to the need of a strong central agency to see that the system laid down by the Council is carried out, we would refer to paragraphs 359-362 of the report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration, in which they treat of the relation of the school authority to the question. The Committee hold that there are three classes of cases: one where the necessary relief is provided by voluntary agencies, the school authority having only to help with moral support and in the oversight of the work, but incurring no expense. The second, where the complete organisation of relief is beyond the grasp of voluntary agencies, and where the school authority should help in the administrative work, and should be allowed to incur expense in providing officials and machinery for cooking and preparing the meals, the actual cost of the food purchased being still

contributed by public charity. A third class of cases is that where public charity fails to meet this cost, and where it, or a part of it, may be paid from the rates, subject to the consent of the Board of Education, and to such alteration of the law as shall enable the authority to recover the cost from the parent who can but will not pay. Whether London is regarded as belonging to the first or the second of these three classes, we consider that the Council should be empowered to appoint such an agency as is requisite for inspecting the work done and seeing that rules are carried out as to preparing the register of underfed children, inquiring into the home conditions of the families, obtaining funds and providing meals.

As to the sixth item referred to, it seems obvious that, if there is a central body watching over the carrying out of the Council's system in all the schools, it must be informed as to the sources from which funds are supplied to every school. Any new benevolent agency offering to provide money or meals or boots, etc., to a school should communicate first with the Council, and should be instructed as to what school should be allocated to it for the receipt of the assistance it proposes to give.

Although the severe pressure of unemployment is generally over by Easter, many cases must exist during the summer of both permanent and temporary distress calling for relief to the children. The number would be so much smaller than in the winter that it would not be necessary to keep up the large organisations which are then needed, and we draw attention to the cookery centres as places where small bodies of from 25 to 30 children can generally be supplied with a dinner made up from the food which has been cooked in the course of the day's instruction.

C. A. ELLIOTT,
Chairman.

Minute of Education Committee received by London County Council on 31st October, 1905.

93. The Council on 14th June, 1904 (p. 936), approved the formation of a joint committee to carry on the work in connection with underfed children.

The Joint Committee, although not one of our sub-committees, work in association with us, and their proposals are brought up for our consideration through our General Purposes Sub-Committee. The Joint Committee receive reports from local sub-committees appointed by the managers with reference to the source of supply to which they look for voluntary subscriptions and to their methods and organisation; draw the attention of these sub-committees to any defects in the selection of children, or in arrangements for the provision of relief; give assistance, when necessary, to the local sub-committees by placing them in communication with a source of supply, so as to enable them to obtain the necessary funds; communicate with the chief associations of supply whenever distress appears to be beyond the power of the charitable contributions intended to meet it; keep the public generally informed of what is being done, and stimulate public interest in the work.

The only important change in the work of the Joint Committee since their re-constitution by the Council has been the inclusion of the non-provided schools within the sphere of their operations.

We have had under consideration certain extracts from the annual report (1904-5) of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children with reference to the defects found to exist in the system established by the late authority. These defects are summarised in the subjoined extract from the report of the Joint Committee:—

- (i.) The duty of the managers in respect of visiting the homes of the children and procuring information regarding their home conditions has been in the majority of cases imperfectly fulfilled; (ii.) Full use has not been made of the information possessed by attendance officers; (iii.) the care of the sub-committee has been generally confined to the provision of meals, and should be extended to the supply of boots and clothes; (iv.) meals are generally provided on one, two or three days in the week, whereas they should ordinarily be given on at least four days, if not on all five days; (v.) power should be taken to regulate the con-

nection between associations which offer to provide funds or meals, or boots, or clothing, and the schools to which the offer is made; (vi.) meals should be continued, where found necessary, throughout the year."

We have availed ourselves of the experience and advice of the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children, and after full consideration we have prepared a circular letter which we propose to send to the managers of London County Council schools.

This letter outlines the history of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children, shows their constitution and duties, and gives similar information in respect of local sub-committees. The managers are advised that a local organisation is required only in schools likely to contain necessitous children; that it is important that information as to the home conditions of the children should be secured, and in this connection they are asked to take advantage of the knowledge possessed by the attendance officer. It states that meals should be given where possible on all school days; and that the system of administering relief should be extended so as to include relief of other forms of acute physical distress, e.g., want of clothing and boots. With a view to making the system of relief as efficient as possible the managers are advised that the local organisation should in the conduct of its work adopt a scheme which we have prepared. In this scheme it is suggested that a provisional list should be drawn up, before the end of October, by the head teacher of each department of a necessitous school, after consultation with the class teachers and the visitors, of those children who, from personal observation of their appearance in school, or from knowledge of their family circumstances, are believed to be underfed. When this list is submitted to the local organisation arrangements are to be made for the homes of certain of the children to be visited so as to verify the existence of want. The list thus corrected is to be retained by the head teacher of each department, and is, under the authority of the local organisation, to be added to or reduced from week to week, according as information is received in regard to other children, or as to modification of the circumstances in respect of children already on the list. The managers are informed that every local organisation should place itself in communication with some source of supply, in order to obtain the means necessary for the relief of want; that ordinarily this would mean the source from which assistance had been received in former years; and that if no such source exists, or if it is unable to make sufficient provision, the local organisation should report to the Joint Committee on Underfed Children. The managers are also informed that every local organisation should make the arrangements necessary for obtaining and distributing food to underfed children; that, as a rule, the system to be followed would be that which has hitherto prevailed, viz., that the food is cooked and distributed by some voluntary agency at a centre (that is, at a place at which children from various schools are fed), or at the school itself, in the hall or in some classroom, or other suitable place which may be utilised for this purpose. The attention of the managers is finally drawn to the order issued by the Local Government Board (26th April, 1905), having reference to the relief of underfed children attending public elementary schools. It is possible that Boards of Guardians may wish to take advantage of the facilities afforded by the local organisation, and the managers are accordingly asked to refer questions raised by Boards of Guardians to us, with a view to their being dealt with on some general plan.

It should be added that we are considering whether the various committees dealing with underfed children throughout the county should be asked to forward to the Joint Committee on Underfed Children full information as to their sources of supply of boots and clothing, and whether the head teachers should be requested to supply the committees dealing with underfed children with all possible information, and also whether a circular should be addressed to the town clerks of the metropolitan borough councils giving, for the information of such councils, particulars of the arrangements made for dealing with underfed and ill-clothed children.

APPENDIX X.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL ON JULY 11TH, 1905.

UNDERFED CHILDREN—PROPOSED EXPERIMENT OF SUPPLYING DINNERS.

6.—For some time past we have had under consideration the question of dealing with underfed and improperly fed children in London schools. It will be remembered that the Council on 11th April, 1905 (p. 1381), passed a resolution as follows:—

That, with a view of checking the physical deterioration existing among the London population and securing the best result from the expenditure on education, it be referred to the Education Committee to consider and report as to the necessary parliamentary power being obtained for the provision of food where necessary for the children attending rate supported schools in London, and as to obtaining powers to recover the cost of such food from the parents or guardians in cases where the need arises through causes other than poverty, and that the Education Committee be instructed to report upon the desirability or otherwise of seeking such parliamentary powers.

It will be observed that the resolution is so framed as to leave the whole question an open one for us to report upon.

Following closely upon the above resolution an order was issued by the Local Government Board in reference to providing for underfed children. (This will be found in a separate document, Appendix A.)

We subsequently referred the whole matter to our Day Schools Sub-Committee who have favoured us with their views thereon. (See separate document, Appendix D.)

We have also considered representations made by the Joint Committee on Underfed Children, and have received valuable reports from the educational adviser, the executive officer (Education), and the medical officer. (See separate document, Appendices B to E.)

Having considered the questions from various points of view, we are of opinion that the under-mentioned conclusions may be accepted:—

- (i.) That children do come to school underfed.
- (ii.) That others, and probably a larger number, are ill-fed.
- (iii.) That, looking at the matter from an educational standpoint, it is impossible to secure the best results in the case of either underfed or ill-fed children.

(In a separate document (Appendix F) will be found extracts from the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration, substantiating these propositions.)

- (iv.) That the Order of the Local Government Board is not likely to produce good results for the undermentioned reasons:—

- (a) It is permissive only.
- (b) It introduces a dual authority in every district, viz., the managers and the Local Poor Law authority, and therefore friction may possibly, and delay will certainly, result.
- (c) There is no provision for uniformity of rules in the various local districts and this will produce additional confusion.
- (d) A radical error of policy underlies the order, viz., that the cost incurred under the scheme falls upon the local authorities, which means necessarily that the poorer districts will have to bear the larger expenses while the richer will bear the smaller.

- (e) No order will be really effective unless the expenses thereunder are borne by Government funds or at least are thrown upon the rates of London as a whole.

- (f) The risk of fathers being disfranchised as a result of meals being supplied by the guardians to their children without their knowledge and consent militates, in our opinion, against the usefulness of the scheme.

(v.) That, although the Council should assist in carrying out the Order where local authorities desire it, it is not for the Council to initiate proceedings thereunder, nor is the Order one which can be regarded as materially helping the solution of the problem which we have to deal with under the Council's reference.

(vi.) That, while the necessity for feeding children as the last resort out of public funds is a proposition endorsed by the whole spirit of the poor law, there are strong arguments against seeking new legislative powers at the present moment:—

- (a) Feeding at school alone is insufficient.
- (b) Feeding out of public funds must tend to lessen parental responsibility, and the lessening of such responsibility would be a social evil.
- (c) The expense would be very serious, and the number fed, although at first it would be small, would inevitably tend to increase.

Assuming the cost of one meal a day were 1½d., the expense would be 7½d. a week per child or 7s. 6d. for twelve weeks a year, or for (say) 50,000 children £18,750 a year.

If ultimately the idea of treating all children alike were adopted the cost would be about £300,000 a year.

As to the number requiring to be fed, Sir Charles Elliott, chairman of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children, has stated, in an article from which the undermentioned is quoted, that:—

Dr. Kerr estimates that 10 per cent. of the children are suffering from debility or backwardness	- - - - - say	80,000
Mr. Libby thinks 12 to 18 per cent. require to be fed	- - - - -	100,000
Sir John Gorst holds that one-third are insufficiently or improperly fed	- - - - -	260,000
Dr. Macnamara says	improperly fed, 20 per cent.	160,000
	insufficiently fed, 10 per cent.	80,000

Sir Charles Elliott also states, and no doubt correctly, that these figures are general impressions only, not based on any positive data, and the estimates in his opinion are excessive. He says:—

"The least untrustworthy sources from which to arrive at the number of underfed children are the estimates made in 1899 by the head teachers of our schools that about 45,000 or, at the outside, 55,000 children in London, or from 7 to 8 per cent., are liable to be underfed in a severe winter, and the fact that in the Board schools alone from 20,000 to 26,000 children have been fed on an average during the last five winters. Add about two-fifths for the voluntary schools and these numbers become from 28,000 to 36,000. These are the average figures; that is to say, the number continuously fed for thirteen or fourteen weeks of the winter. The number actually fed for a shorter time is larger, and on the basis of the figures quoted above I should be inclined

to put it at about half as large again as the average number, not more than 54,000 for the highest year (the present) or about 7 per cent. of the school population."

The Joint Committee on Underfed Children in their annual report for 1904-5 supply information with regard to London County Council schools for the past five years as follows—

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 "

They say—"No doubt there are certain schools in which a more efficient system would send in fresh children to swell the number; on the other hand there are also schools in which more careful enquiry would eliminate some children who are not really in want. In non-provided schools the adoption of the system has been voluntary and partial, and, as the figures received from them are imperfect, we are unable to give any estimate of the actual number in these schools."

(vii.) That the non-sufficiency of present voluntary agencies to meet the money demands of the case does not yet appear to be proved.

The report of the Joint Committee on Underfed Children for the session 1904-5 seems to point to the fact that, although in some few places there has been difficulty experienced in coping with all the needs, the difficulty has arisen from want of complete organisation rather than from a deficiency of funds. And the Joint Committee apparently are of opinion that private benevolence is not by any means exhausted.

The report of our Day Schools Sub-Committee is a most valuable document. It deals with the subject from two points of view, viz., the immediate difficulty arising chiefly from want of sufficient and proper food and the effect of physical degeneracy generally. I would be most desirable to ask the Council to deal with both of these issues, but it may be thought better to present the two subjects to the Council in separate reports so as to prevent discursiveness. The present practical effect of the Day Schools Sub-Committee's recommendation is that a series of experiments should be tried in which children from selected schools should be fed once a day by meals arranged for by the Council. The work might or might not be done as part of the training given at the cookery centres, but in any event the meals should only be supplied on payment of the estimated cost, say, 1½d. or 2d. each meal. It would be expected that the parents or guardians of each child should find the necessary money, but, if in any case the parents or guardians state that they cannot do so, the suggestion is that they should be referred to the Joint Committee on Underfed Children who would deal with the case.

There is a good deal to be said in favour of this scheme.

If done through the cookery centres it would give a practical direction to the training at such centres.

It would prove by actual experience whether well-to-do parents would like to have a meal provided by the local education authority at the parents' expense.

It would afford statistics based on actual facts as to the number of underfed children whose parents are unable to pay for their meals, and it would give the Joint Committee on Underfed Children a full opportunity of perfecting their organisation and of testing the extent of their pecuniary resources.

In addition, it would obviate the necessity for asking immediately for additional legislative powers, as the meals would be provided at the cost price of food stuff only, and the provision would be a part of the educational work of the Council.

It will be convenient if we state our conclusions in the form of propositions as follows—

(a) Although we have not sufficient data to enable us to give exact figures, we are of opinion—

(i.) That a considerable number of school children are underfed.

(ii.) That a further, and again a considerable, number of school children are improperly fed.

(iii.) That it is impossible to secure the best educational results in the case of children who are habitually underfed or ill-fed.

(b) We do not think that it is probable that the recent Order of the Local Government Board will afford much relief, and, although we feel that we shall meet the wishes of the Council by co-operating whenever Local Poor Law Authorities request us to do so, we do not propose to taken any initiatory steps under the Order.

(c) That, having given very full consideration to the matter, we are not prepared to recommend any immediate application for additional legislative powers. At the same time we realise that there is an existing evil to be dealt with and remedied, and feel that, if the experiments now suggested are not successful, further consideration must be given to the matter.

We recommend—

That the Education Committee be authorised to make the undermentioned experiment and report the result at as early a date as possible, viz.—

That the food cooked in the cookery centres be utilised as far as possible in arranging for dinners at the undermentioned L.C.C. schools, the expenditure incurred to be recovered from parents or from charitable funds—

Dulwich-hamlet (*Dulwich*); Ackmar-road (*Fulham*); Old Woolwich-road (*Greenwich*); Columbia-road (*Bethnal-green, N.E.*); and Buckingham Street, Islington.

APPENDIX XI.

LETTER FROM THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY OF LIVERPOOL TO MR. H. J. LESLIE AS TO THE FEEDING OF CHILDREN.

LIVERPOOL CENTRAL RELIEF AND CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

2 Exchange Street East,
Liverpool,
27th March, 1905.

Dear Sir,—My Committee have had under their notice the report which you, as Chairman of the Elementary Schools Management Sub-Committee, have prepared for the Liverpool Education Committee on the subject of providing free meals for children attending the public elementary schools of the city, and they gather that you suggest that children attending school, whom it is believed are either without proper food, or without sufficient food, should have free meals provided for them by the Education Committee, an appeal being made for public funds to enable this to be carried out. As this is admitted on all hands to be a subject of very great difficulty, my Committee think it well to lay before you

their experience in past years in connection with the matter.

In the year 1885, at a time when there was a considerable amount of distress in the city, the managers of several elementary schools in the poorer parts of the city arranged in conjunction with the Council of Education, to prepare penny dinners for the children attending such schools. It was intended that the dinners should be paid for by the parents whenever this was possible, and should be self-supporting.

It was found, however, that some parents, through stress of circumstances, were unable to find the pennies, and this society was asked by the school managers to assist, and we agreed to do so in cases where we were satisfied from enquiry through our officers that parents were unable to provide them. In that and the following years up to 1889 dinners were distributed and paid for according to the following table:—

Year.	Total Dinners supplied.	How paid for.			
		Parents.	Central Relief Society.	Other Sources.	
1885	—	—	7,135	—	Other figures not supplied.
1886	47,436	18,439	19,091	9,906	
1887	—	—	18,458	—	Other figures not supplied.
1888	42,422	17,891	14,446	10,085	
1889	23,411	16,630	5,607	1,174	Including ½d. Dinners.

It is believed that in this way all cases of real hardship were met.

The Committee had reports from the managers each year which seemed to show that the dinners did a certain amount of good in securing attendance and enabling the children to work better, but there were cases in which it was reported that the parents of some of the children could well afford to feed them in a better way, and that the provision of the school was used by such parents as a mere convenience to save themselves trouble. The general result may be gathered from the report of the Committee of the Society to their subscribers in the year 1889 as follows: "While your Committee are willing, if necessary, to give assistance in this way, and so secure that the children of indigent parents shall be saved from the strain of doing their school work without food enough to support their physical strength, they would again repeat the opinion expressed in last report, that this form of assistance should be confined to times of more than ordinary distress, and that at other times where aid is required, it should be given in the ordinary way through the parents."

Some years subsequently to this, the Committee were again invited from an outside source to pay for ½d. dinners in certain schools, where it was reported that children were going without food. The names of the schools referred to were obtained, and the school managers were communicated with, and careful enquiry made into the cases of alleged hardship. On this occasion it was found that few (if any) children were actually attending school as alleged without food, and that cases where the parents were unable to provide could be better dealt with by assistance given to the family, which the Society was glad to furnish in suitable cases. On the other hand it was found that many cases of insufficient feeding were due

to neglect of parents, who had quite sufficient means to enable them to provide what was necessary, but whose intemperate or improvident habits led to their means being wasted, and their children neglected.

It is clear, in all cases of the latter class, that the proper remedy is not to feed the children, and allow the parents to go on in their careless and neglectful ways, but to bring pressure to bear upon the parents to fulfil their elementary duty of providing for their family, when they have the means to do so, and to restrict the provision of relief to those cases where the parents have not the means of properly feeding their children, and, even in such cases to carefully consider whether it would be better to provide them with the means of doing so at home.

This method of dealing with the question may involve more trouble, but the Committee are quite sure that in the long run it will repay any trouble that may be taken. If any public authority were, on account of the neglect of parents, to undertake the feeding of children, without at the same time bringing home their duty to the defaulting parents, it could not fail to have an extremely bad moral influence both over parents and children.

It is evident that in order to classify the cases and secure proper discrimination as to which should receive free meals, and in which payment should be insisted on, careful enquiry will require to be made, and my Committee will be glad to be of assistance to the Education Committee in this, or any other way.

Yours faithfully,
WM. GRISEWOOD,
Secretary.

F. J. Leslie, Esq.,
Chairman of the
Elementary Schools Management Sub-Committee.

APPENDIX XII.

(I.) BRADFORD.

CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF GUARDIANS WITH REFERENCE TO THE UNDERFED CHILDREN IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, 19TH JUNE, 1905.

Circular No. 527, from the Board of Education, addressed to the Education Authority, together with the explanatory Circular and Order of the Local Government Board, Relief (School Children) Order, 1905, were considered, and it was resolved that the Education Committee be recommended to adopt the following proposals:—

- (a) That all applications for feeding children sent to school without proper nourishment be sent to the Guardians through the Clerk.
- (b) That the Guardians classify the children in the following manner:—
 - (1) Those whose parents are permanently impoverished.
 - (2) Those whose parents have been incapacitated from making necessary provision for the child through temporary illness, loss of employment, and other unavoidable causes.
 - (3) Those whose parents, though capable of making this provision, have neglected to do so.

(c) That an officer of the Guardians make the necessary enquiries and report on forms to be provided.

(d) That the Guardians undertake to deal with all cases in classes (1) and (3).

(e) That the forms containing the particulars of cases coming under class (2) be forwarded to the Education Authority as suitable to be dealt with by the various voluntary and charitable agencies.

(f) That the Education Authority make all arrangements for this class (2) being so dealt with.

(g) That the Education Authority supply the Guardians with the names and addresses of the officers or teachers empowered by such Authority to make special applications under the order.

The City Council adopted the arrangement on the 26th July, 1905.

(II.) MANCHESTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

UNDERFED CHILDREN AT PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Report of Children's Meals Sub-Committee, dated 15th September, and subsequently adopted by the Education Committee.

I.—INTRODUCTION.

The Sub-Committee appointed to deal with the provision of meals for children in attendance at the Public Elementary Schools of the City submit the following report and recommendations regarding procedure under the provisions of the "The Relief (School Children) Order, 1905," issued by the Local Government Board with a covering letter to guardians on the 27th April, 1905.

A copy of the Order is attached to this report, together with a letter from the Board of Education, dated 28th April, 1905, addressed to Local Education Authorities, having reference to the Order of the Local Government Board indicating the extent to which, in the opinion of the Board of Education it is desirable that education authorities should co-operate with the Guardians. (For Order, etc., see Appendix.)

On the issue of the Order the Education Committee were approached by the three Boards of Guardians having jurisdiction within the City with a request that the Committee would appoint representatives with the view of conferring with representatives of the guardians as to the best means of carrying the Order into effect. This request was complied with and referred to the Children's Meals Sub-Committee. Meetings with the guardians have taken place, and a joint Consultative Sub-Committee, consisting of two members of each of the boards of guardians for the township of Manchester and unions of Chorlton and Prestwich, four representatives of the

Education Committee, and Mr. H. E. Gaddum, Honorary Secretary of the District Provident Society—was appointed to consider and report on the whole subject. This Consultative Sub-Committee met on the 15th September instant.

At the meeting of the Elementary Education Sub-Committee, held on the 11th September, a deputation representing (1) The Manchester and Salford Trades Council, (2) the Independent Labour Party, and (3) the Social Democratic Federation, attended at their own request and submitted a recommendation "That, in view of the hardships endured by the children of the working classes especially in the winter months, and of the urgent necessity for making adequate provision for the feeding of underfed school children, the deputation urge upon the Education Committee of the City of Manchester to co-operate with the several boards of guardians in the City area, and to undertake the proper feeding of underfed children attending the schools under the control of the Manchester Education Committee."

At the conference with the representatives of the boards of guardians the Sub-Committee of the Education Committee thought it well that the guardians should be made acquainted with the views contained in this Report.

The Children's Meals Sub-Committee, believing that it is of the highest importance that the matter should be reported upon to the City Council, have now the honour to submit this Report.

For a right understanding of the position it is needful to bear in mind what has been done by voluntary effort by the Manchester Education Authority during the past winter.

II.—PROVISION OF FREE MEALS IN CERTAIN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, 1879-1905.

The following particulars are supplied of the method hitherto adopted in Manchester:—

The giving of free meals during the winter to destitute children attending the day schools was commenced by the School Board in 1879, and was continued by the Education Committee during the past two winters.

The work up to the passing of the Education Act, 1902, was restricted to schools controlled by the late School Board, and the cost was defrayed by voluntary contributions, such expenses not being a legal charge upon the school fund. The work was also assisted by the proceeds of school concerts, etc., promoted by the teachers.

The operation of the fund was considerably extended during the winter of 1903-4. This was in consequence of the extension of the scheme to include some of the non-provided schools of the city, which came under the control of the authority under the Education Act, 1902.

The extended provision was also maintained during the last winter (1904-5), and applied to twenty-three municipal schools and eighteen non-provided schools, total forty-one schools, all within the area shown in the appended map.

In 1904-5, the experiment was tried of charging 1d. each for dinners, whilst cases of necessity were furnished to the office by the teachers. The demand for 1d. dinners gradually decreased, and when the number of meals supplied was at the highest point, there were about 200 paying 1d. and 2,300 who were on the free list. (One meal per day for five days.)

The meals consisted of pea soup and bread, varied in certain cases by the provision of milk and bread on Fridays.

The meals were served in the schoolrooms on the school desks, and the teachers kindly gave voluntary assistance in serving the children.

There was no expense of administration other than a small allowance made to the school caretakers, and practically the whole of the money raised was spent upon the relief of the children.

In all cases where relief was afforded, enquiry was made through the school attendance officers into the circumstances of the parents, and due care was taken that only really necessitous children were relieved.

A poverty scale was applied in dealing with each case, and the cases were revisited monthly. The reports on all the cases have been preserved so far as last year's work is concerned.

It may here be stated that for the purpose of dealing with the evil of overlapping, the Sub-Committee during the winter of 1904-5 arranged a conference of representatives of various organisations dispensing relief to children, and well attended meetings were held at regular intervals during the winter months.

Adverting to the monthly conferences thus held with representatives of various voluntary bodies giving relief to children, the Sub-Committee have pleasure in stating that though tentative they were in many respects satisfactory, and the Sub-Committee have no reason to be dissatisfied with their attempt to organise the work of giving relief from charitable sources. It is true that no binding arrangement was entered into, yet by the full and free discussion at these monthly conferences much valuable information was obtained; and, apart from the new position of affairs now created by the Order of the Local Government Board, it is believed that in the future better results would have ensued in the distribution of charitable aid by means of improved organisation for dealing with the general relief of distress, particularly in the direction of avoiding overlapping in the work of the different voluntary bodies.

The particulars here set forth as to past procedure show that the Education Committee have as far as was possible been alive to the need of providing meals for destitute children upon wise and economic lines.

III.—FUTURE PROCEDURE.

Looking to the new conditions created by "The Relief (School Children) Order, 1905," attention must in the first place be drawn to the fact that both the Local Gov-

ernment Board and the Board of Education look for the co-operation of the Local Education Authorities with the Poor Law Guardians.

The order deals with cases where an application is made to the Guardians or 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.—[See paragraph in Circular of Local Government Board of 27th April, headed "Effect of Order" and Article I. of the Order of 26th April, 1905.]

Touching upon the same point, the Board of Education conclude their circular of the 28th April, 1905, by the following paragraph:—"It should be borne in mind that in areas where distress and want are habitual, or frequently recurrent, Local Education Authorities, by encouraging and promoting the establishment of proper organisations for inquiry where distress is alleged, and for distribution of relief where relief is needed, may greatly facilitate the treatment of cases of destitution under whichever class they fall."

All this points to the assistance which can be given by the Education Authority—assistance, however, which, in the nature of things, must be strictly limited to administration, as opposed to actual expenditure in providing the food, etc., such expenditure having to be met by the guardians, the Education Authorities having no power to incur expense.

The experience gathered by the Manchester Education Authority during the 26 winters they have been engaged in administering this form of relief enables them to understand to a very considerable extent the necessities of the present position, and on this ground they may perhaps claim to indicate the lines upon which, in their opinion, the efficient administration of the Order should proceed.

1.—Scheme.

The object of the Local Government Board Order is to adapt certain provisions of the Poor Law to the relief of children (under the age of 16) who may be sent to public elementary schools by their parents in a state of destitution for want of sufficient nourishment.

This Order entirely alters the conditions under which in former years free meals, provided from voluntary sources, have been given to necessitous children in some of the public elementary schools of the city.

This voluntary supply of relief has only been rendered possible by voluntary subscriptions and by the generous personal service of the teachers, who have sacrificed a portion of their own meal times to the work, and by the putting up with the inconvenience of having the free meals served on the school desks in rooms used immediately afterwards for school purposes. The serious disadvantage of using schoolrooms, coupled with the want of proper cooking appliances,* make it absolutely impossible for the former provision being continued under the new condition of affairs.

It is hence assumed that special provision must needs be made in certain districts for supplying children with food. The number of daily meals to be provided for each child is a matter which the guardians will have to decide, and this will have an important bearing upon the effective carrying out of the Order in the direction of improving the physical condition of under-fed children.

In dealing with the nature of the various steps which may have to be taken, it has been thought best to arrange the recommendations under various headings.

2.—Proposed Area of Relief.

The plan of the City attached shows the area within which the Education Committee supplied free meals during the winter of 1904-5, and this may be taken as the district which would require such provision. It is not overlooked that outside this area there are isolated districts of a poor class, but for the present purpose it has been thought best to deal with the contact area shown on the plan.

* Note.—The food was invariably cooked in an ordinary washing boiler in the caretaker's cellar, and these boilers were only capable of providing a uniform meal of pea soup. Attempts to vary the dinners inevitably failed, owing to the want of proper cooking appliances.

The area embraces nearly the whole of the Township of Manchester, and congested portions of the Chorlton and Prestwich Unions.

There are in this area eighty-four public elementary schools attended by 59,000 children (numbers on books), and the population represented by these schools is estimated at 295,000.

The plan shows the forty-one schools (coloured red) at which the meals were given last winter. In these forty-one schools there are eighty-three departments. It will be seen that there are a large number of schools (forty-three with 105 departments) in the area at which relief was not supplied.

3.—Probable Number of Cases.

Assuming that the number of children likely to need help may be arrived at by a calculation based on the proportion of the total number of children in the selected schools of last winter who were supplied with food,† and applying the calculation to the whole of the public elementary school children of the area, the number equals an estimate of 10 per cent. of the 59,000 in attendance—viz., 5,900 divided among the three poor-law districts in the following estimated proportions:—

Prestwich	-	-	-	-	1,923
Manchester	-	-	-	-	1,984
Chorlton	-	-	-	-	1,993
Total	-	-	-	-	5,900

The cases dealt with last winter mainly belonged to children from necessitous homes. In addition to these the Order covers the cases of underfed children belonging to parents able to make provision, but who have neglected to do so. As a set-off against this addition, and also the further addition of cases which may arise in isolated districts outside the special area, it may be claimed that trade is likely to be better this year, and consequently that there may be fewer cases arising from poverty. Assuming that a provision for 5,900 children would be sufficient to meet all the classes covered by the Order, it follows that the number represents about 5 per cent. of the children on the books of the public elementary schools of the City.

4.—Investigation of Applications.

The Order provides that applications may be made to the guardians or the relieving officer, and may be made by—

- The managers of a public elementary school,
- A teacher empowered by the managers, or by
- An officer duly empowered by the local education authority.

As pointed out by the Board of Education in their circular dated 28th April, 1905, these applications relate to children who may be sent to school without proper nourishment—

- (1) Because the parents are permanently impoverished.
- (2) Because temporary illness, loss of employment, or other unavoidable causes, have for the time incapacitated the parents from making necessary provision for the children.
- (3) Because the parents, though capable of making this provision, have neglected to do so.

The school attendance officers, of whom there are fifty, each with a separate district, have hitherto visited and reported upon applications for the free meals supplied from voluntary sources. They are well acquainted with the parents and children, and would be able to give information necessary when prosecution of a delinquent parent is decided on under the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, etc. (Paragraph in Local Government Board Circular to Boards of Guardians headed "Proceedings against Father.")

5.—Provision of the Meals.

As pointed out by the Local Government Board in their circular of 27th April, 1905, addressed to Boards of Guardians, it is highly desirable that the child shall get the full benefit of the relief ordered. Hence it will

†Note.—The largest number reached on any one day last winter was 2,483, and of these 223 paid for their dinners.

be necessary to provide convenient centres where food can be cooked and served—i.e., the provision of suitable means of cooking and of dining rooms, etc. The suggestion of the Local Government Board that in some districts the food might be supplied through a charitable organisation, or by a shopkeeper, is not one which can be carried out effectively in Manchester.

6.—Centres for Meals.

Assuming that the calculation is correct that there may be 5,900 in need of the meals, at all events during the winter months—that 250 would be quite as many as could be conveniently catered for at one meal, and that each centre would be worked on a double-shift system, then twelve centres would be required, namely:—

Prestwich	-	-	-	-	4
Manchester	-	-	-	-	5
Chorlton	-	-	-	-	3
Total	-	-	-	-	12

Twelve convenient centres have been indicated on the map at which rooms might be provided for supplying the meals. No doubt in many cases the rooms could be rented, but funds would be needed for equipment, and there would be also the wages of cooks and of persons to serve the meals, etc. [For power of Guardians see Appendix, "Correspondence with Local Government Board."]

Poor Law District.	List of Proposed Centres.	
	Neighbourhood of Proposed Centre.	
Prestwich	-	1. Lord Street, Cheetham.* 2. Varley Street, Miles Platting. 3. Mill Street, Bradford. 4. Devon Street, Beswick.
Manchester	-	5. Churnett Street, Collyhurst. 6. Livesay Street, Rochdale Road. 7. Union Street, Ancoats. 8. Deansgate. 9. London Road.
Chorlton	-	10. Silver Street, Hulme. 11. George Street, Hulme. 12. Clowes Street, West Gorton.

7.—Prosecution of Delinquent Parents and Recovery of Money.

As already pointed out cases will arise where negligent parents will need to be proceeded against under the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, etc., and a rigid system of securing the payments from the parents will be necessary.

At the present time the school attendance officers collect the contributions levied upon the parents of children sent to the Mill Street Lay Industrial School and the payments for maintenance of children at special schools, etc.

8.—Summary of Recommendations.

In conclusion the Sub-Committee present the following recommendations, based upon the foregoing information. For the purpose of convenience it has been thought desirable to arrange the recommendations under two headings showing.

- (1) The work which may be done by the Education Authority, and
- (2) The work which may be done by the Poor Law Guardians.

* Jewish children from Southall Street and Waterloo Road Schools.

NOTE.—Some of the foregoing centres would serve the needs of more than one Poor Law District.

(1)—Work which may be done by the Education Authority.

Applications to be reported upon by the school attendance officers, duly examined and classified, and a list of cases recommended for acceptance or rejection to be periodically supplied to the guardians. Parents to be duly notified.

All cases where relief has been granted to be revisited monthly.

The attendance officers' reports shall at all times be open to the inspection of the guardians or of their officers.

The attendance officers shall collect the parents' contributions for the Guardians, and account for the same on a prescribed form to be sent with the money to the Guardians each week.

The attendance officers shall give evidence, when required, in connection with any police court proceedings against delinquent parents.

The foregoing instructions to be carried into effect for the Education Committee by the Director of Elementary Education.

(2)—Work which may be done by the Poor Law Guardians.

The Poor Law Guardians to supply centres and service for the supply of the meals, and to defray the cost of providing and serving the food.

It is further recommended that there shall be a Standing Joint Committee, consisting of representatives of the Education Committee and of the three Boards of Guardians, such Standing Joint Committee to consist of two members of each of the three Boards of Guardians, four representatives appointed by the Education Committee, and Mr. H. E. Gaddum, Honorary Secretary of the District Provident Society, with power to carry into effect all the various details of the work and to ensure uniformity and efficiency of action.

JAMES HOY,
Chairman of the Education Committee.

JAMES FILDES,
Chairman of the Children's Meals Sub-Committee

C. H. WYATT,
Director of Elementary Education.

September 15th, 1905.

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