

The child help, who is selected with great care, performs the usual household tasks normally undertaken by the mother and sleeps in the home.

Immunisation and Vaccination.

It is estimated that at the end of 1953, the proportion of children under five years of age who had been immunised against diphtheria has fallen to a little over a half and was at its lowest level since the immunisation scheme came into full operation. The present rarity of diphtheria makes it difficult for parents to appreciate the potential danger of the disease. If the continuation of the present freedom from diphtheria is to be ensured, the number of immunised children under five, and particularly under one, should be substantially increased and no effort is being spared to achieve this object though the measure of success will depend ultimately on the parents.

The number of vaccinations of children under one year against smallpox has increased steadily over the past five years; the number in 1953 was 76 per cent. above that for 1949 and approximated to one-half of the total live births.

London Ambulance Service.

The demand on the London Ambulance Service was again very great, 868,826 patients being conveyed by the General Section (including agency and supplementary services) as compared with 810,002 in 1952. Over five million miles were involved in these arrangements. In the accident section there were 90,896 calls with a mileage of 458,602.

Tuberculosis.

The fall during recent years in the death rate from tuberculosis was maintained during 1953 and this, paralleled by the decrease in the number of new cases, gives ground for encouragement. A further tuberculosis hostel was opened in Fulham for homeless men who are infective but not confined to bed. At the end of the year 2,451 necessitous patients who were being cared for at home were receiving extra food through the Council's extra nourishment scheme and the home help service was being provided in 618 tuberculous households.

Recuperative Holidays.

Recuperative holidays were arranged, on medical recommendation, for 7,150 persons (including 3,390 children).

Mental Health Services.

The officers responsible for the removal to mental observation wards of patients in need of care and attention because of mental disorder, dealt with 8,081 cases compared with 7,863 in 1952. A special welfare clinic for mentally backward children under five was established in East London as an experiment and in view of the success of this service the Council decided to provide similar clinics in other parts of London. At the end of the year there were 18 occupation centres with accommodation for 805 mentally deficient children and young persons for providing occupation and training.

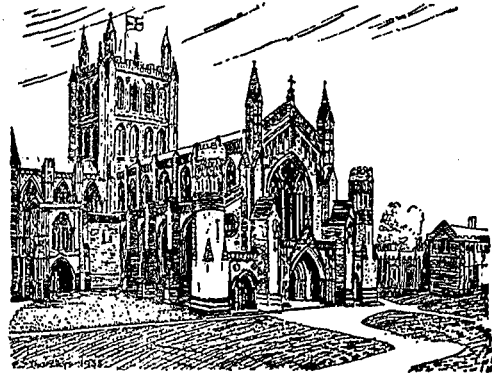
School Health Service.

The school health service is reviewed in detail in the report. 449,597 medical inspections were carried out during the year and 15.8 per cent. of the children examined required to be referred for further medical advice or treatment compared with 16.2 per cent. in 1952, 17 per cent. in 1951 and 17.6 per cent. in 1950. In 1953, the number of dental inspections in schools was greatly increased, being about two-and-a-half times the number in 1952, and this resulted in an increased volume of dental attention for children.

Reports from the nine divisional medical officers (which will, no doubt, be of particular interest to local newspapers) are included and full statistical tables are printed in an appendix.

* The Report, published by the London County Council, may be purchased from the Information Bureau at the County Hall, S.E.1, or from Staples Press Ltd., Mandeville Place, W.1, either direct or through any bookseller. The price is 2s. 6d., by post 2s. 10d.

A Walk Round Hereford Cathedral.



Cathedral from West

THE SEE OF HEREFORD is one of the oldest in England and Hereford Cathedral has much within its precincts which is rich and rare. In A.D. 676 Bishop Putta, of Rochester, after the sack of his own city and cathedral by Ethelred, was given a church and a plot of ground at Hereford. A new diocese seems to have come into being as a result. In 741 Cuthbert, said to be the fifth Bishop of Hereford, was made Archbishop of Canterbury.

Putta's church was probably of oak beams with the interstices filled in with wattle daubed with clay; but in the year 1012, Bishop Athelstan commenced, and carried on for over forty years, a rebuilding on a much grander scale and possibly re-dedicated it to SS. Mary and Ethelbert. (Ethelbert, King of the East Angles, beheaded by Offa, King of Mercia, in 793). Lady Godiva (of the famous Coventry story) and her husband Leofric, Earl of Mercia, endowed it with certain marks, which it still retains.

This Cathedral was burnt by the Welsh, who slew seven of the canons at the West door, when they sacked Hereford in 1055.

The present Cathedral was begun by the Norman Bishop Robert de Losinga (1079-1095) and continued by another Norman, Bishop Reinhelm (1107-1115).

Seen from the inside, the Cathedral is still a substantial example of early Norman architecture. To that style belong the columns, arches and triforium of the choir, the great arches under the tower, the columns and arches of the nave and the east and west walls of the South Transept.

However, in the Middle Ages, whenever extensions or reconstructions were desired, no attempt was made to match the original structure; any new work was carried out in the style fashionable at the moment. Since, then, the Cathedral exhibits examples of each of four later styles of English Gothic—viz., the Early English, the Geometrical Decorated, the (Curvilinear) Decorated and the Perpendicular—our "walk round" will result in a kind of bird's-eye view of the development of church architecture in England.

Seen from the outside, the general effect is that of a building in the Decorated style of about 1310, of which the tower, with its "ball-flower" ornamentation, is a fine example. The Lady Chapel (1220) is a fine example of pure Early English.

On the south side, the Audley Chantry Chapel, remarkable for having two stories, was added in 1502 in the Perpendicular style. Here one notices the handsome vaulting of the upper story and the remains of the original colouring on the stone screen.

The glass in the pair of windows to the right of the Audley Chapel dates from the thirteenth century.

Under the Lady Chapel is a crypt; the chapel above being dedicated to the Virgin Mary, that below is appropriately dedicated to St. Anne, whom tradition names as her mother. It contains an interesting tomb, dated 1497, of A. Jones; the crypt was used as a charnel house, but the bones were cleared

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