

January 17, 1939

Dear Haldane,

I have read Bradford Hill's two letters, which I think are very helpful, and ~~should~~<sup>which</sup> strongly suggest that the Medical Research Council enquiry has not, in fact, covered the complete population of the L.C.C. schools, apparently due to omission of many schools each year, these omissions having tended to increase.

I can have little doubt that the medical inspections are, in fact, conscientiously done, and cover essentially the whole school population. I would, therefore, suggest that Thompson should discuss the question personally with the chief Medical Officer of the L.C.C., and see whether more thorough co-operation could be made possible. I think he might make it clear (a) that a partial enquiry purporting to cover the whole area would be, not only waste of time, but positively misleading in the results obtained; (b) that a partial enquiry covering a known child population, both in respect of ordinary children and of those from the same area receiving special treatment, would be of material assistance, but that many of the defects on which it is desirable to obtain data are sufficiently rare to require an area almost as big as

that covered by the County Council.

I think it should be possible in a personal interview to ascertain whether the County Council is, or is not, willing to cooperate, with these facts in view.

Yours sincerely,