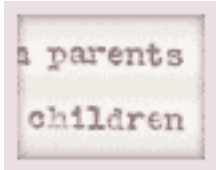
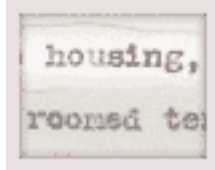


SOURCE 1

Notes from a meeting of officials looking into the health of children in London schools 1903
(PRO ref:PC8/584)



SOURCE 1A



SOURCE 1B

HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :

You need to study the source carefully before you decide whether it supports or contradicts any of the reasons in the Big Question.

ASK YOURSELF:

- What does the source tell me about the mental health of children at the time?
- Does it give any clues about the extent of problems of children's health?
- What does it tell me about the reasons for the health of children?
- Is Dr Eicholz a good source of information?
- Do his points agree or disagree with your own knowledge or other sources?
- Does his language and tone give you confidence in him?

SOURCE 1A

In the slum Schools he found that 66 per cent of the children were unable to keep pace with the Curriculum and were backward to the extent of 1, 2, 3, 4 or even 5 years. The children were permanently imperfect in physical development and as one out of every six London Schools was a slum School it might be taken as a low estimate that there were 60,000 physically inferior children in London alone.

The cause of this was want of food; the London slum parents were not up when they should be preparing the children for School. The children consequently went to School without a proper meal in the morning. In one School he estimated that 75 per cent of the children suffered for this reason.

SOURCE 1B

Another fruitful cause of inferior physique was the inferiority of the housing, more especially the prevalence of the one roomed tenement. There were 12,000 of these in Lambeth and though Housing Schemes were carried out they only resulted in a spreading of the evil as people of the slum class will not go to better accommodation.

Besides these causes the poor and dirty clothes, want of sleep and drunkenness among the parents all contributed to physical degeneration.

Other causes were overwork, some children had to take out milk and crossed the river walking one or two miles before School. Then there was the influence of heredity, the parents married at too early an age, and the children grew old rapidly, children of 15 looking many years older and they died young.