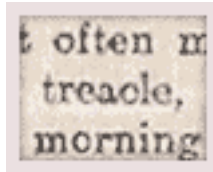
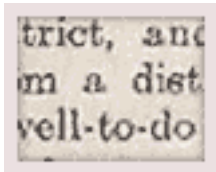


SOURCE 2

Extract from a letter by Mr William Hall to The Yorkshire Post on the health of children, published in 1903

(PRO ref:PC8/584)



SOURCE 2A

SOURCE 2B

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 health of children at the time?
- What does it tell me about the scale of the problem of unhealthy children?
- What reasons does Mr Hall give for the poor health of children?
- Do you think Mr Hall's attitude towards the parents is fair?
- Do his points agree or disagree with your own knowledge or other sources?
- Does his language and tone give you confidence in him?
- Does it surprise you that the Liberals introduced free school meals (1906) and compulsory medical inspections (1907)?

SOURCE 2A

By the kind permission of the Leeds School Board, and by the help of the schoolmasters, I have examined 100 school children in Leeds; 50 boys and 50 girls, aged 10, 11, and 12 years respectively.

Twenty-five boys and twenty-five girls were taken indiscriminately from a Board school in a very poor district, and the same number of corresponding age from a district inhabited by working men of the "well-to-do" class. Each child was examined separately.

As to Rickets.—It was manifest in 30 out of 50 children at the poor-class school; in only 10 out of 50 at the well-to-do.

As to Teeth.—In the poor-class they were bad in 27 out of 50; in the well-to-do they were bad in 22.

As to Weight.—In the poor-class each child averaged nine pounds less than the well-to-do school child.

As to Height.—Each poor child measured on average 6 inches less than the well-to-do child.

SOURCE 2B

I followed some of these poor-class children to their homes. There I found that they rarely have milk in their food, not often meat, and that bread with margarine or with treacle, and tea without milk, form the staple of their morning and evening meals. In one of these poverty stricken homes I found that a man, his wife, and six children were subsisting upon his weekly wage of 18s., out of which 4s. was paid for rent. In another, the weekly wage and the rent were about the same as in the case just mentioned, and here the wife had been mother to eight children, four of whom were dead, one was dying before his first birthday, and the three surviving "remnants" were very rickety.

Is this state of society to continue?