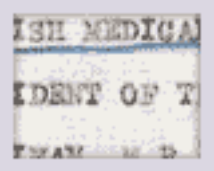
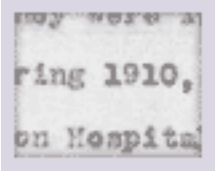
# SOURCE 7

**The views of the British Medical Association on medical inspection and treatment of children in London 1911**
**(PRO ref: ED 24/282))**




SOURCE 7A SOURCE 7B

## 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 is wrong with medical inspections in London?
- Do you find this accusation convincing?
- What is wrong with treatment?
- Is this accusation well supported?
- What does the BMA see as the solution?
- The Liberals introduced school clinics in 1912. Does this prove they listened to the experts?

# SOURCE 7A

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS of a DEPUTATION from the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION which waited upon THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (THE RIGHT HON. WALTER RUNCIMAN, M.P.) on the MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN LONDON on Tuesday, 27th June, 1911, at 12 o'clock noon, at the Office of the Board of Education, Whitehall, London, S.W.

You are aware, I believe, that the method adopted by the London County Council with respect to the examination of entrants amongst school children is exceedingly inadequate. At the present time the method appears to be mainly that the children are inspected by a teacher and a nurse, and are, as it were, paraded before a School Medical Officer who selects certain of them for examination and according to the report of their own Medical Officer in 1909 it is very evident that this system is not really inspection of the entrants and that by it a very large proportion of the defects amongst the children are overlooked, that probably at least one half of the defects which exist are certainly over-looked

# SOURCE 7B

~~and~~ of those children in whom defects are detected, the treatment is exceedingly inadequate. A large number of them, as you know, are supposed to be sent to hospitals. But, as a matter of fact, in many hospitals the numbers of children were were led to expect have not attended. In the case of the Throat Hospital, for example, they were informed that 1,000 children would be sent during 1910, whilst only 131 were actually treated. At London Hospital, something like one-third of the expectant cases were treated;

it will be presented by Sir Victor Horsley, to point out how much more efficient, how much easier, how much more rapid in its application, would be the system of school clinics, and that in regard to many diseases or ailments, particularly we will say, discharging ears and the treatment of teeth and so on, this system is really the only possible one which can meet the case. In some places, you know, school clinics have been established with great success on very economical lines from the point of view of expense,