

of Dr. H. E. Corbin in 1922, died in 1925, and was succeeded by Dr. N. Gebbie, who in August, 1931, was appointed Medical Officer of Hull, being succeeded by Dr. E. K. Macdonald.

The Local Government Act, 1929, came into operation on April 1, 1930, and the duties of the Poor Law Guardians were on that date transferred to the County Borough Council.

The functions are now carried out by the Public Assistance Committee of the Corporation, under the chairmanship of Alderman Henry Patten, J.P. Mr. Harry Barlow, barrister-at-law, who succeeded Mr. F. Pidgeon in 1923 as Clerk to the Stockport Board of Guardians, was appointed Clerk to the Public Assistance Committee, and the Borough Medical Officer of Health was appointed Chief Medical Officer to the Committee. Dr. Howie Smith, who was for many years Medical Officer of the Union, died on January 9, 1930. Dr. E. C. Dutton is the Medical Superintendent of the Stepping Hill Hospital and Medical Officer of the Shaw Heath Institution. At Shaw Heath Institution many structural alterations have been carried out during the decade, under the supervision of the Workhouse Master, Mr. R. G. Hankins, who along with the Matron, Mrs. Hankins, has held the office for twenty years.

The passing of the Board of Guardians was an event of unusual historical significance. The Union came into existence in 1837 and included the Urban Districts surrounding Stockport and the neighbouring Borough of Hyde. The Public Assistance Committee unlike the Board of Guardians has no jurisdiction outside the Borough, the outside areas being administered by a Public Assistance Committee appointed by the Cheshire County Council.

Educational progress in Stockport has been slow but steady during the past ten years. A number of the principles embodied in the 1918 Act still await development, and the town has yet to establish its first Central School.

The most important educational advance during the decade was the opening of the Belmont Council School, Heaton Norris, on August 30, 1929, by the then Mayor (Mr. Joshua Preston, J.P.). This is the first post-war school erected by the Stockport Education Committee. It is a two-storey building with ample space for playgrounds and playing fields. The building operations, which commenced in August, 1927, cost £29,538.

On the 7th October, 1930, the Longfield Open-air Council School, Mauldeth Road, Heaton Mersey, was opened by Alderman Henry Patten, J.P., the Chairman of the Education Committee. Here accommodation is provided for the building and toning up of sixty delicate children, who after open-air treatment for six or twelve months may reasonably be expected to take their places in the ordinary school, equipped with health. The house and grounds are delightfully situated and well equipped, and with the new classrooms and offices make a notable addition to the educational facilities of the Borough.

On September 5, 1927, a school canteen and practical centre were opened in the building in Higher Hillgate, formerly known as the Mitre Coffee Tavern. The canteen had previously been held in Charlesworth Street in a building which was used by the military authorities for cooking purposes during the war.

An important event from an educational point of view was the opening of the Stockport War Memorial and Art Gallery by H.R.H. Prince Henry on