STAFFORDSHIRE TYPE OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

By GEO. REID, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire County Council.

(FELLOW.)

AT the request of the Council of The Royal Sanitary Institute, I have pleasure in submitting for publication in the Journal the accompanying plan of a new type of school now adopted by the Education Committee of Staffordshire, together with a short reference to the special features of the plan, and an account of the reasons which led to its adoption.

All plans of proposed new school buildings and of suggested alterations in existing buildings within the jurisdiction of the Staffordshire Education Committee have, in accordance with standing orders, to be submitted to the County Medical Officer of Health for approval from a health point of view. In considering the first set of school plans submitted to me under the new order of things, the difficult question as to how adequate provision could be made for ventilation by natural means if the type of building hitherto in favour was to be maintained at once presented itself, and I was given to understand that the type in question, namely, the central hall type, had come to be regarded as essential from an educational point of view. Having failed to find a satisfactory way out of the difficulty, I advised the Education Committee that if the central hall arrangement must be maintained, the adoption of mechanical ventilation, objectionable in my opinion though it was for more reasons than one, became imperative. I am glad to say that the Education Committee declined to entertain the latter suggestion, and having thus come to a deadlock they instructed their architect, Mr. Hutchings, to confer with me with the view, if possible, of arriving at some plan by which adequate natural ventilation might be secured without sacrificing educational requirements.

This led to numerous alternative plans being considered, in all of which the central hall principle, in modified form, was adhered to, while, at the same time, cross window ventilation was somewhat imperfectly

SECTION.

Ground Plan of School.