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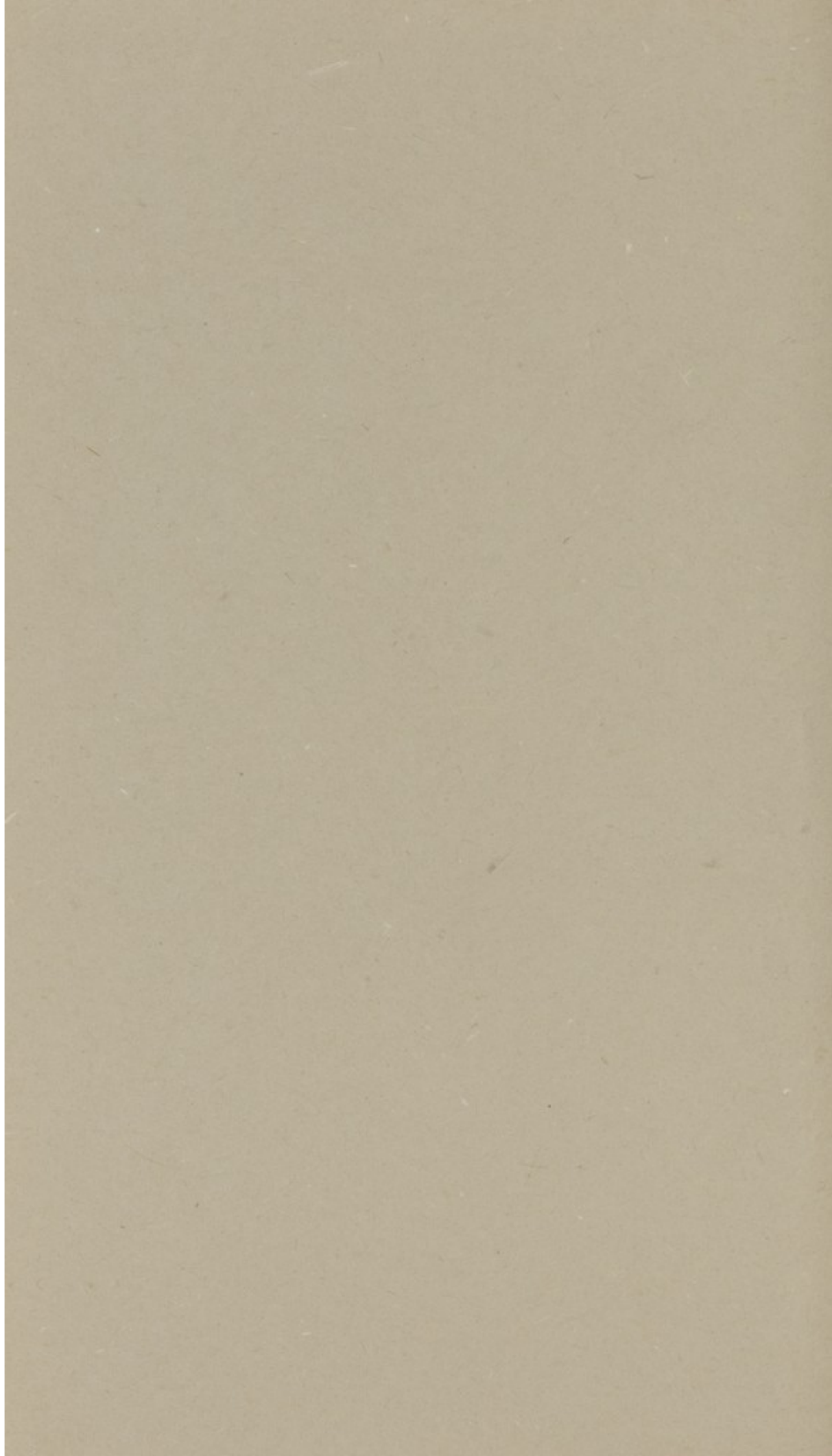
BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

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Annual Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and  
Report on the  
School Health Services

For the Year 1947

JOHN LANDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
*Medical Officer of Health*





BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

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of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
For the Year 1947

JOHN LANDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
*Medical Officer of Health*



# **BOROUGH OF BEXLEY**

Mayor : Alderman J. Cronin, J.P.

Deputy Mayor : Councillor Mrs. E. Boswell, J.P.

## **HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

Chairman : Councillor F. H. Sampson.

Vice-Chairman : Alderman Mrs. A. Welch.

Alderman J. T. H. Ashmore, C.C.	Councillor D. C. E. Gorringe.
Alderman J. C. McLean, J.P., C.C.	Councillor Mrs. M. Hall.
Alderman A. R. Potter, J.P.	Councillor Mrs. A. E. Lawrence.
Councillor L. H. Bridges.	Councillor J. M. Pawson.
Councillor J. Duffus.	Councillor P. R. Relph.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1947.

Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services. Medical Superintendent Corporation Maternity Home.	John Landon, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer Corporation Maternity Home.	Mary Love, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health	P. S. Robinson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G.
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Public Cleansing-Officer and Shops Acts Inspector.	*†R. J. Rayner, F.R.S.I.
Assistant Chief Sanitary Inspector	*†G. Hind.
District Sanitary Inspectors ..	*†F. W. Willington. *†J. T. Boocock. *†G. F. Lovegrove (resigned 22.2.47).
Senior Health Visitor .. ..	J. Blythe (Mrs.), <i>nee</i> Ormandy, S.R.N., S.C.M. and Health Visitor's Certificate.
Health Visitors .. ..	N. Feeley (Miss), S.R.N., S.C.M. and Health Visitor's Certificate. K. V. Birmingham (Miss), S.R.N., S.C.M. and Health Visitor's Certificate (resigned 21.5.47). G. M. Blackmore (Mrs.), S.R.N., S.C.M. and Health Visitor's Certificate (resigned 30.11.47). D. G. Stanley (Miss), S.R.N., S.C.M. and Health Visitor's Certificate. K. M. Miller (Miss), S.R.N., S.C.M. and Health Visitor's Certificate. C. Darby (Miss), S.R.N., S.C.M. and Health Visitor's Certificate. E. M. Gibson (Mrs.), S.R.N., S.C.M. and Health Visitor's Certificate. E. M. Martin (Miss), S.R.N., S.C.M. and Health Visitor's Certificate (appointed 1.4.47). F. P. Foster (Miss), S.R.N., S.C.M. and Health Visitor's Certificate (appointed 3.11.47).
Matron of Corporation Maternity Home, Lavernock Road, Bexleyheath.	F. H. Hammond (Miss), S.R.N., S.R.F.N., S.C.M., Midwives' Teachers' Certificate.

Chief Clerk .. .. .	M. Bentley (Miss).
Senior Clerk .. .. .	G. A. Pearson.
Clerks .. .. .	N. E. Broom. R. V. Hoad. M. E. Leech (Miss) (Shorthand Typist). K. A. Colson (Miss) (resigned 22.11.47). E. M. Williams (Miss) (appointed 1.12.47). Three Temporary Female Clerks.
Consultant for Puerperal Pyrexia and for Ante-Natal Obstetric Complications.	J. V. O'Sullivan, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. (part-time) (resigned 30.6.47). Keith Vartan, F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G. (appointed 15.7.47).
Dental Surgeon .. .. .	H. Wade, L.D.S. (part-time) (re- signed 27.8.47). M. R. C. Kemp, L.D.S. (appointed 1.9.47) (resigned 31.12.47).
Public Analyst .. .. .	M. E. Monk, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
Other Staff .. .. .	Two Food Sales Clerks (part-time).

\* Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

† Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.

‡ Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*To the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors  
of the Borough of Bexley.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to present my Annual Report for the year 1947.

The vital statistics for the year show that the Borough of Bexley continues to be a healthy place to live in. Although the birth rate (18.72) was slightly lower than that for the year 1946 (19.47), and the death rate (9.17) slightly higher than the rate for 1946 (8.85) it is probable that these changes are not statistically significant. It is pleasing to report, however, that the infant mortality rate, that very sensitive index of social conditions, has shown a further reduction of 28.6 per 1,000 live births as compared with 29.5 per 1,000 live births in 1946. It is a remarkable factor that in only one year previously, namely, 1943, was the infant mortality rate (26.01) lower in the Borough. The causes of the falling infant mortality rate, experienced both locally and in the country as a whole, would appear to be due, firstly, to the general fall in the birth rate which began during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the great improvements in environmental hygiene during the same period, and last, but not least, to the painstaking educational work which has been carried out during the past 40 years at Infant Welfare Clinics and in the homes. This period has seen a large reduction of deaths from gastro enteritis and from respiratory diseases which were, in the past, responsible for so many infantile deaths. Even the stress and strain of war could not interrupt this downward trend of infantile mortality which seems to prove, *inter alia*, that an enlightened public opinion on matters of health is a potent factor in overcoming the numerous threats to human life from bacterial and other causes.

These thoughts are not without significance at the present time when, as a result of the passing of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the responsibility for Maternity and Child Welfare Services has passed out of the hands of the smaller authorities who, with certain voluntary agencies, were the pioneers in this work, into the custody of the major authorities. While there is bound to be regret at the loss of these Services there may, also, be a legitimate pride in the achievements of past years.



However, although much has been lost, much still remains for the smaller Local Authorities to do in the prevention of disease and in the more positive promotion of health. The environmental health services still remain with the Local Authority and although these are largely taken for granted, nowadays, they are of vital importance to the health of the community. The price of health is eternal vigilance and it is still the duty of the Local Authority, through its officers, to be ever on the alert to deal, at once, with any factors which are inimical to the health and well being of the community. The smaller Local Authorities, in other words, are still responsible for the community aspect of disease even though the care of the individual person has passed into other hands.

The widespread epidemic of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) which began in the late summer of 1947, and which, in the case of the Borough of Bexley caused 16 cases with 3 deaths is a reminder that the organisms which cause infectious diseases, even those which give the appearance of having been tamed into submission by improved environment and even by active immunisation, may still undergo mutations the causes of which are little understood and may, at any time, again rear their heads with renewed virulence.

During the year under review the incidence of infectious disease in the Borough was very low. For instance, there were only 7 cases of Diphtheria with no deaths. Scarlet Fever continued in the mild form which has been experienced over a number of years and the one death which has been attributed to it during the year was due to a relatively rare complication. The numbers of cases of measles and whooping cough during the year were 967 and 141 respectively, and there is no doubt that these two diseases are, nowadays, of prime importance in connection with mortality and morbidity among young children.

It is true that many victories have been won in the battle of environment but equally true that this is by no means over. The adequate housing of a large number of the people, without doubt the most important environmental problem in the Borough at the present time, is receiving and will, no doubt, continue to receive for some years, the most urgent attention of the Council.

Constant care must be supervised over food and water supplies to ensure that neither reaches the consumer in such a form as to threaten his health and efficiency.

The Annual Report for 1947 contains, for the first time, a section on the School Health Service which was delegated to the Council as an Excepted District under the Education Act 1944. The placing of this service on a local basis has been of great assistance in the supervision of the health of the school-children and it is to be hoped that, as time goes on, more and more delegation of the Part III Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946, which include the care of mothers and young children, to the Area Health Committees will also be possible.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their help and encouragement during a year of transition and to the members of the Health Department for their help and co-operation during the year under review.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LANDON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

### Area.

4,869 acres.

### Population.

Registrar General's  
Estimate mid-year,  
1947 .. .. 87,670

### New Dwellings Erected.

Houses .. ..	199
Demolished Houses	
Rebuilt .. ..	216

### Relative figures for previous years.

#### Population—Mid-Year.

1931 (Census) ..	33,150
1938 (R.G.'s Estimate)	77,020
1939 .. ..	80,110
1940 .. ..	77,670
1941 .. ..	72,080
1942 .. ..	77,020
1943 .. ..	76,740
1944 .. ..	71,130
1945 .. ..	75,040
1946 .. ..	85,820

#### New Houses Erected.

1931 .. ..	1,165
1938 .. ..	1,170
1939 .. ..	1,002
1940 .. ..	113
1941 .. ..	Nil
1942 .. ..	5
1943 .. ..	5
1944 .. ..	Nil
1945 .. ..	2
1946 .. ..	82+64

demolished houses rebuilt.

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1947 (according to Rate Books) approximately .. ..	25,028
Rateable Value .. ..	£612,416
Sum represented by a penny rate .. ..	£2,480

### Unemployment.

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
December 31st, 1946 ..	336	38	19	10	403
December 31st, 1947 ..	307	33	8	11	359

### Social Conditions and Amenities.

The Borough of Bexley continues to be a healthy residential district and is specially favoured in that it has ample open spaces and recreational facilities for its inhabitants. Like other districts, however, that suffered severe bombing during the war, and whose population is tending all the time to increase, housing shortages, at present, constitute the main barrier to health for a relatively large number of its citizens. The housing programme is being accelerated as much as possible and it can only be hoped that, as the momentum increases, the housing position of the Borough will gradually reach the optimum standards which the Council are striving for.

The Corporation supplies the district with electricity, and the South Suburban Gas Company supplies gas.

The following public open spaces have been provided by the Corporation :—

Bexley Wood	..	..	..	..	26.00 acres
Burstled Wood (part of)	..	..	..	..	22.00 „
Danson Park	..	..	..	..	210.00 „
Eastcote Gardens	..	..	..	..	1.00 „
Hall Place Park	..	..	..	..	85.50 „
Hudson Road Playing Ground	..	..	..	..	1.60 „
Hurst Recreation Ground	..	..	..	..	3.50 „
Oxleas Close	..	..	..	..	.13 „
Palmar Gardens	..	..	..	..	1.30 „
Parkhurst Gardens	..	..	..	..	.70 „
Riverside Walk Recreation Ground	..	..	..	..	10.50 „
Russell Park	..	..	..	..	13.00 „
Sheldon Sports Ground	..	..	..	..	7.66 „
Shoulder of Mutton Green (L.C.C.)	..	..	..	..	3.86 „
St. Mary's Recreation Ground	..	..	..	..	10.86 „
Total					397.61 „

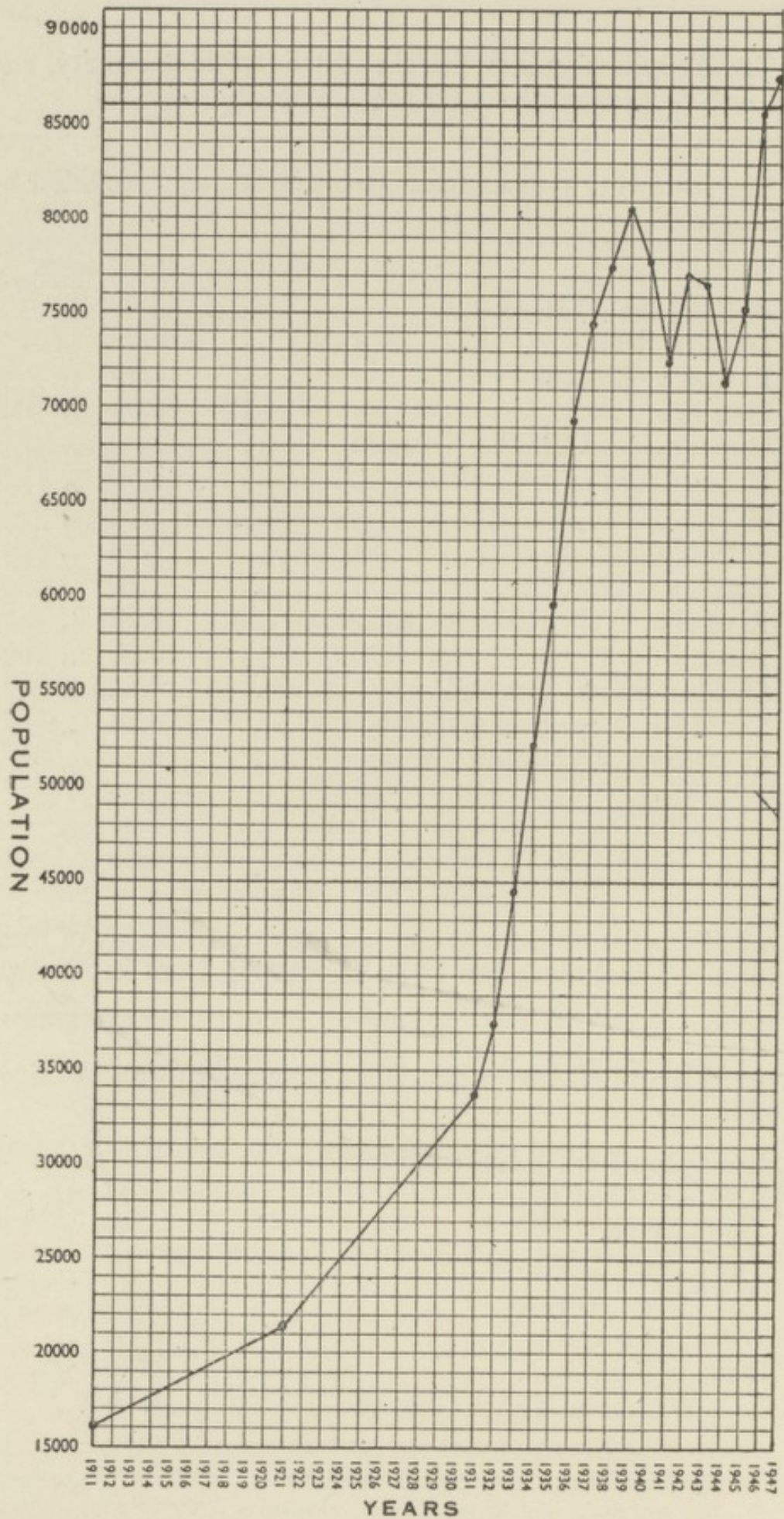
Facilities for outdoor games are provided in many of these open spaces, including the large Swimming Pool in Danson Park, opened in July, 1936.

Land acquired for Public Open Spaces, but not yet open to Public :—

Brampton Park Recreation Ground	..	..	..	..	4.21 acres
Burstled Wood (part of)	..	..	..	..	8.47 „
Ivy Cottage	..	..	..	..	6.50 „
The Green, Bexleyheath	..	..	..	..	1.10 „
The Green, Welling	..	..	..	..	1.80 „
Woodlands Farm	..	..	..	..	6.06 „
Stevens Park	..	..	..	..	10.30 „
East Wickham House Grounds	..	..	..	..	6.80 „
Total					45.24 „



GRAPH SHOWING RISE IN POPULATION  
SINCE 1911



# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Borough of Bexley
*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
<b>Births—</b>					
Live .. ..	20.5 ‡	23.3	22.2	22.7	18.72
Still .. ..	0.5 ‡	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.41
<b>Deaths—</b>					
All Causes ..	12.0 ‡	13.0	11.9	12.8	9.17
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Whooping Cough ..	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	—
Diphtheria ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza ..	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.03
Smallpox ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles ..	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age ..	41†	47	36	37	28.6
Deaths from Dia- rrœha and En- teritis under 2 years of age ..	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8	4.9
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
<b>Notifications—</b>					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.08
Scarlet Fever ..	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	1.40
Whooping Cough ..	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	1.61
Diphtheria ..	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.08
Erysipelas ..	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.24
Smallpox ..	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	—
Measles ..	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	11.02
Pneumonia ..	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	0.42

\* A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

† Per 1,000 related births.

‡ Rates per 1,000 total population.



Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)—

(a) Notifications—

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Borough of Bexley
Puerperal Fever Puerperal Pyrexia	} 7.16	8.99	6.27	{ 1.21 ‡ 6.94 }	10.14

(b) Maternal Mortality in England and Wales—

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6, 148-50 Other
0.10	0.06	0.16	0.85

Abortion—Mortality per million women aged 15-45 in England and Wales—

No. 140 With Sepsis	No. 141 Without Sepsis
9	5

‡ Including Puerperal Fever.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1947.

The Registrar General's Estimates of resident population for mid-year is 87,670 and this figure is assigned for the purpose of calculation of all rates.

Births.	Males	Females	Total
Live Births—Total .. ..	840	801	1,641
Legitimate .. ..	815	769	1,584
Illegitimate .. ..	25	32	57

### Birth Rate.

Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population .. .. .	18.72
---------------------------------------------------------	-------

The following relates to the Birth Rate during the past nine years :—

1938	Birth Rate	18.5	per thousand	
1939	„ „	17.76	„ „	
1940	„ „	16.46	„ „	
1941	„ „	15.88	„ „	
1942	„ „	19.07	„ „	
1943	„ „	18.03	„ „	
1944	„ „	21.06	„ „	
1945	„ „	18.81	„ „	
1946	„ „	19.75	„ „	
Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales, 1947 .. ..				20.5
„ „ „ „	County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.. ..			23.3
„ „ „ „	Smaller Towns (estimated population 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931) .. ..			22.2
„ „ „ „	London Administrative County ..			22.7

Fifty-seven illegitimate live births were registered against 60 in 1946.

Stillbirths.				Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	16	20	36
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	..	..			21.5

The following relates to the Stillbirth Rate during the past nine years :—

				Rate per Thousand.	
Year				Total Live and Still Births	Population
1938	..	..	..	41.66	0.81
1939	..	..	..	28.0	0.51
1940	..	..	..	24.4	0.41
1941	..	..	..	29.6	0.48
1942	..	..	..	25.2	0.49
1943	..	..	..	20.5	0.37
1944	..	..	..	19.0	0.42
1945	..	..	..	21.4	0.41
1946	..	..	..	23.6	0.48

Thirty-six Stillbirths registered during the year. This represents a rate of 0.41 per 1,000 population against 0.48 per 1,000 population in 1946.



Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales, 1947 .. ..	0.50
„ „ „ „ County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.. ..	0.62
„ „ „ „ Smaller Towns (estimated popula- tion 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931) .. ..	0.54
„ „ „ „ London Administrative County ..	0.49

Two Stillbirths were registered as illegitimate.

Deaths.	Males	Females	Total
All causes .. .. .	413	391	804
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population .. ..		9.17	
		— —	
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :			
From Puerperal and Post Abor- tive Sepsis .. .. .	—	1	1
From other Puerperal Causes ..	—	1	1
Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. .		1.19	
		— —	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age .. .. .	24	23	47
Legitimate .. .. .	23	23	46
Illegitimate .. .. .	1	—	1
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :			
Total per 1,000 live births ..			28.6
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .			29.04
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .			17.54
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..	1	1	2
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .	—	—	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	5	3	8
„ „ Cancer (all ages) ..	73	64	137

### Death Rate of Country :—

Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales, 1947	..	12.0
„ „ „ „ County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London..	..	13.0
„ „ „ „ Smaller Towns (estimated popula- tion 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931)	..	11.9
„ „ „ „ London Administrative County	..	12.8

### Death Rate of Area during last nine years :—

1938	..	..	..	7.84 per thousand
1939	..	..	..	7.98 „ „
1940	..	..	..	10.40 „ „
1941	..	..	..	9.68 „ „
1942	..	..	..	8.73 „ „
1943	..	..	..	9.21 „ „
1944	..	..	..	10.20 „ „
1945	..	..	..	9.28 „ „
1946	..	..	..	8.55 „ „

### BIRTHS AND STILLBIRTHS IN WARDS.

The figures relate to live births and stillbirths notified but not necessarily registered in the same year.

Wards	Live Births	Stillbirths
Christchurch .. ..	288	8
St. Mary's .. ..	289	7
Brampton .. ..	283	4
Danson .. ..	217	6
Falconwood .. ..	216	3
St. Michael's ...	360	11
Total ..	1,653	39

### ANALYSIS OF NOTIFICATIONS OF LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS.

Births notified from Institutions	..	..	..	1,193
Births notified by Midwives ..	..	..	..	496
Births notified by Doctors, etc.	..	..	..	3
Total ..				1,692



## DEATHS AND DEATH RATE IN WARDS.

The figures given relate to deaths occurring but not necessarily registered.

Wards	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population
Christchurch .. ..	182	11.8
St. Mary's .. ..	128	8.4
Brampton .. ..	115	7.9
Danson .. ..	127	10.1
Falconwood .. ..	92	6.9
St. Michael's .. ..	159	9.2
Total ..	803	

The rate for Bexley compares fairly with that for other parts of the country. The Registrar-General has not supplied a comparability factor for 1947 ; it is therefore impossible to work out the standardised rate which would be comparable with that of other parts of the country.

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1947.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Total
All Causes .. ..	413	391	804
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. ..	—	—	—
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever .. ..	—	2	2
3 Scarlet Fever .. ..	—	1	
4 Whooping Cough .. ..	—	—	—
5 Diphtheria .. ..	—	1	1
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system .. ..	30	18	48
7 Other forms of tuberculosis .. ..	3	4	7
8 Syphilitic diseases .. ..	5	1	6
9 Influenza .. ..	1	2	3
10 Measles .. ..	1	1	2
11 Acute poliomyelitis .. ..	2	1	3
12 Acute infectious encephalitis .. ..	—	1	1

Causes of Death.		M.	F.	Total
13	Cancer of body cavity and Oesophagus (M.) and uterus (F.) ..	8	4	12
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	10	8	18
15	Cancer of breast .. ..	—	15	15
16	Cancer of all other sites .. ..	55	37	92
17	Diabetes .. ..	4	1	5
18	Intracranial vascular lesions ..	39	55	94
19	Heart Disease .. ..	88	99	187
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	21	15	36
21	Bronchitis .. ..	37	16	53
22	Pneumonia .. ..	19	20	39
23	Other respiratory diseases ..	4	3	7
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	13	2	15
25	Diarrhoea under two years ..	5	3	8
26	Appendicitis .. ..	3	—	3
27	Other digestive diseases .. ..	6	6	12
28	Nephritis .. ..	7	8	15
29	Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	—	1	1
30	Other maternal causes .. ..	—	1	1
31	Premature Birth .. ..	4	9	13
32	Congenital malformation, birth injuries and infant diseases ..	9	6	15
33	Suicide .. ..	2	7	9
34	Road traffic accidents .. ..	6	1	7
35	Other violent causes .. ..	6	10	16
36	All other causes .. ..	25	32	57



DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS IN 1947.

These relate to deaths occurring in 1947 but not necessarily registered in that year.

Short List of Causes of Death in use in General Registrar's Office		Total	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	60 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 75	75 and over	Deaths Registered during the year. Registrar General's figures
ALL CAUSES.		803*	47	3	6	5	—	4	8	12	6	16	9	22	26	42	47	51	74	76	89	259	804
18	1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. .. .	—																					—
	2 Cerebro-spinal Fever .. .. .	3						1						1		1							2
	3 Scarlet Fever .. .. .	1						1															1
	4 Whooping Cough .. .. .	—																					—
	5 Diphtheria .. .. .	1																					1
	6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .. .. .	51								1													
	7 Other Tuberculosis Diseases .. .. .	6	1						1	3	4	3	5	5	4	9	6	5	4	2	1		48
	8 Syphilitic Diseases .. .. .	5								2		1			1								7
	9 Influenza .. .. .	2										1				1	1					1	6
	10 Measles .. .. .	2		1		1										1				1			3
	11 Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	3							1		2												2
	12 Acute Infectious Encephalitis .. .. .	1																			1		3
	13 to 16 Cancer Malignant Diseases .. .. .	137		1									1	2	4	10	14	12	11	27	15	17	23
																							137

17 Diabetes .. .. .	3																			3	5
18 Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions .. .. .	104													6	2	10	12	21	53	94	
19 Heart Disease .. .. .	195		1			2		1	2	2	3	6	10	15	16	23	27	87	187		
20 Other Diseases of Circulatory System .. .. .	45																				
21 Bronchitis .. .. .	37							1			1	2	1	2	4	5	4	8	21	36	
22 Pneumonia .. .. .	37	7	2					2		1		1	2		2		4	5	21	53	
23 Other Respiratory Diseases	6									1		2		2	1			4	14	39	
24 Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum .. .. .	11									1	2	1	1	1			5			7	
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. .. .	8	8																		15	
26 Appendicitis .. .. .	3				1	1							1							8	
27 Other Digestive Diseases ..	13	2				1				1			2	2	2	2		1	2	3	
28 Nephritis .. .. .	13						1				2	2	1	1	2				4	12	
29 Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis .. .. .	1						1													15	
30 Other Maternal Causes ..	1									1										1	
31 Premature Birth .. .. .	13	13																		1	
32 Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease .. .. .	15	15																		13	
33 Suicide .. .. .	8							1					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	
34 Road Traffic Accidents ..	5										3				1	1				9	
35 Other Violent Causes ..	16*		1	1	2			2			1			1	1		1		4	7	
36 All Other Causes .. .. .	57	1	2	2		1	2	2		3	2	1	1	1	4	5	2	3	25	16	
																				57	

\* 1 age unknown.



**INFANT MORTALITY, 1947.**  
**DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS**  
**AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.**

CAUSES OF DEATH AS CERTIFIED	Under 1 week	1 week and under 2 weeks	2 weeks and under 3 weeks	3 weeks and under 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 month and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Gastro Enteritis ..			4		4	3			1	8
Congenital malformation and Premature Birth, Birth Injury etc. .. ..	24		1	1	26	1			1	28
Broncho-pneumonia		2	1		3	3	1			7
Intussuception ..									1	1
T.B. Meningitis ..								1		1
Epilepsy .. ..	1				1					1
Peritonitis Streptoccal Pneumonia ..							1			1
	25	2	6	1	34	7	2	1	3	47

The number of infants under one year of age who died during the year 1947 as shown by the table is 47. Thirty-four of these deaths, that is 72.3 per cent., occurred in the neonatal period (within one month of birth).

In 1946 the corresponding figure was 60 per cent.

It will be seen that 59.6 per cent. of infantile deaths were due to congenital malformation and premature birth. Comparatively little is known of the causes of these conditions but recent research has provided striking evidence that one of the factors causing congenital malformation may be virus infections of the mother, for example, by German Measles, during the early months of pregnancy. This information may, one day, make possible, to some extent, the prevention of malformation by the protection of the expectant mother against these infections. It is believed that premature births may be due to certain nutritional factors affecting both mother and child. It is clear, however, further marked reductions in the infantile mortality rate will depend on the results of further research on the causation of these conditions.

Forty-seven were registered during the year giving an infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births of 28.6.

Rates over previous years have been :—

1938	..	..	..	35.1	per 1,000 live births
1939	..	..	..	40.1	„ „ „ „
1940	..	..	..	45.4	„ „ „ „
1941	..	..	..	35.4	„ „ „ „
1942	..	..	..	32.7	„ „ „ „
1943	..	..	..	26.01	„ „ „ „
1944	..	..	..	31.37	„ „ „ „
1945	..	..	..	33.9	„ „ „ „
1946	..	..	..	29.5	„ „ „ „

### Maternal Deaths.

Two were registered during the year, giving a maternal mortality rate of 1.19 per 1,000 live and stillbirths.

Rates over previous years have been :—

1938	..	..	..	0.67	per 1,000 live and stillbirths.
1939	..	..	..	0.69	„ „ „ „
1940	..	..	..	0.79	„ „ „ „
1941	..	..	..	2.77	„ „ „ „
1942	..	..	..	1.32	„ „ „ „
1943	..	..	..	1.44	„ „ „ „
1944	..	..	..	1.30	„ „ „ „
1945	..	..	..	nil	„ „ „ „
1946	..	..	..	1.73	„ „ „ „

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH.

### Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

This has been available at the Bow Arrow Hospital of the Dartford Joint Hospital Committee of which the Council is the largest contributing member. The policy of not sending in scarlet fever cases unless the clinical or home conditions require admission, has been followed. The shortage of nursing staff in the year 1947 has made it necessary for any admission to be well scrutinised.

### General Hospitals.

#### Bexley Cottage Hospital.

Patients admitted during the year	..	..	99
Patient Days	..	..	2,148
Outpatient Attendances	..	..	1,568
X-Ray examinations	..	..	500



## AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

### Infectious Diseases.

This ambulance service has continued to be supplied by the Dartford Joint Hospital Committee.

### Non-Infectious Diseases.

From 1944 and until the Civil Defence Services were disbanded a second ambulance for urgent cases was manned by that Service. Since July, 1945, two ambulances have been manned by Corporation staff. Agreements are still maintained with neighbouring authorities for mutual aid when cases require urgent removal and no Borough ambulance is available.

### Cases Removed by Corporation Ambulances.

Sickness	..	..	..	..	..	1,514
Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	192
Illness in Street	..	..	..	..	..	60
Maternity	..	..	..	..	..	647
Malicious calls	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ambulance not required	..	..	..	..	..	54
Collecting blood	..	..	..	..	..	9
Total						2,477

Mileage : Austin Ambulance—13,472. Talbot—12,127

### Number of calls on Outside Ambulances.

Crayford Ambulance	..	119	Sickness	..	84
Erith Ambulance	..	6	Accident	..	59
Sidcup Ambulance	..	62	Maternity	..	47
L.C.C.	..	6	Not required	..	3

## PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The Public Mortuary which is maintained by the Corporation, is situated on land at the south side of the Council Offices.

During the year it was used on 62 occasions and 49 post-mortem examinations were made. Fifteen inquests were held.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

### Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Bexleyheath—315, Broadway.

Child Welfare Sessions—Mondays, Wednesdays,  
Thursdays, 2.30—4.30 p.m.

Ante-natal Sessions—Tuesday, 10.30 a.m., Fridays,  
2.30 p.m.

Welling—Station Approach.

Child Welfare Sessions—Mondays, Tuesdays and  
Thursdays, 2.30—4.30 p.m.

Ante-natal Sessions—Mondays and Fridays, 10.30  
a.m.

Bexley—Murchison Avenue.

Child Welfare Sessions—Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
2.30—4.30 p.m.

Ante-natal Sessions—Wednesdays, 10.30 a.m.

Welling—Wrotham Road.

Child Welfare Sessions—Mondays and Tuesdays,  
2.30—4.30 p.m.

Ante-natal Sessions—Wednesdays, 10.30 a.m.

Welling—Falconwood Parade, The Green.

Child Welfare Sessions—Wednesdays and Fridays,  
2.30—4.30 p.m.

Ante-natal Sessions—Mondays, 10.30 a.m., with the  
exception of the first Monday in each month.

Maternity Home—Lavernock Road.

Ante-natal Sessions — Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
10.30 a.m.

Post-natal Sessions—Thursdays, 11.30 a.m.

Dental Clinic, 315, Broadway, Bexleyheath.

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, a.m.

Sunlight Clinic—315, Broadway, Bexleyheath.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.

### Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

At Overy Street, Dartford and Bexley Road, Erith.

### Venereal Disease Clinics.

At the County Hospital, West Hill, Dartford.



## PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home nursing is provided for by three Nursing Associations in the area, namely :—

Bexleyheath	..	Services of two whole time Nurses.
Bexley	..	Services of one whole time Nurse.
Welling District	..	Services of three whole time Nurses.

These are very useful services to the district, and the untiring manner in which the Committees and helpers of the Associations carried out their arduous duties in this connection during the year is greatly appreciated.

The nurses are again to be complimented on the work that they have done in the homes of the patients.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and bacteriological work for the area is carried out by the Kent County Council at the Public Health Department, County Hall, Maidstone. A small laboratory, chiefly for the examination of nose and throat swabs will be established as soon as the necessary equipment is available and should greatly facilitate the early diagnosis of nasal and faucial diphtheria.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

### (i) Midwifery and Maternity Services.

(a) **Ante-natal Care.** 987 expectant mothers attended Corporation Ante-natal Clinics which equals a 58.3 percentage of notified births as compared with 54.7 per cent. for 1946 ; 465 other expectant mothers received ante-natal care at clinics attached to hospitals to which they were admitted for confinement ; 115 women received ante-natal care from their own doctors prior to admission to Corporation Maternity Home, giving a total of 92.6 per cent. as compared with 93.4 per cent. in 1946 who received ante-natal care. The remaining 7.4 per cent. probably received ante-natal care from the midwives engaged to attend confinements.

(b) **Co-operation with General Practitioners.** 115 of the 728 cases admitted to the Corporation Maternity Home during 1947 were general practitioners' cases.

(c) **Consultant Services.** The consultant was called on seven occasions to see patients in the Maternity Home.

### 1947. Monthly Sessions.

No. of consultation clinics .. .. .	12
No. of cases seen .. .. .	167
No. sent by general practitioners .. .. .	16
No. sent by midwives .. .. .	—

(d) **Maternity Accommodation.** This is provided in the Corporation Maternity Home (26 beds) and during 1945 the Council made an agreement with the K.C.C. for payment for Bexley mothers admitted to the County Hospitals. Accommodation has become available again in the Memorial Hospital, Woolwich, and has continued to be available in the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich, and local Nursing Homes. A few births occur in the Inner London Hospitals.

#### (e) Ante-natal Clinics.

Average number of sessions weekly ..	8.6
Average attendances .. .. .	14.6

#### (f) Post-natal Clinic.

No. of attendances at Maternity Home ..	352
No. of post-natal examinations at other Corporation Clinics .. .. .	78

#### (g) Home Helps.

No. of applications .. .. .	126
No. cancelled or not proceeded with ..	23
No. of Homes attended .. .. .	103
No. of attendances (days) .. .. .	1,659

#### (h) Domestic Helps.

No. of applications .. .. .	61
No. cancelled or not proceeded with ..	6
No. of Homes attended .. .. .	55
No. of attendances (days) .. .. .	1,682

(i) **Dental Treatment.** The provisions for dental treatment of nursing and expectant mothers and children under five years of age instituted in 1938, were continued during 1947. The denture supply service was again used to a considerable extent as the following table shows.

### Summary of Work done in 1947.

	Expectant Nursing Children Mothers Mothers under 5		
No. referred to and appointments made for Dental Clinic by a M.O. ..	407	32	211
No. found to be in need of treatment ..	314	17	147





No. of cases in which medical assistance was sought ..	105
No. of cases notified as Puerperal pyrexia .. ..	12
No. of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum .. ..	3
No. of cases of pemphigus neonatorum .. ..	Nil
No. of maternal deaths (after discharge) .. ..	Nil
No. of infant deaths .. .. .	8
Causes—(twins) Premature .. .. .	5
Atelectasis .. .. .	1
Maternal toxæmia (premature) .. ..	1
Asphyxia .. .. .	1
No. of stillbirths .. .. .	13
Causes—Rh. Factor .. .. .	3
Breech with extended legs (contracted pelvis) .. .. .	1
Congenital Malformation .. .. .	2
? Cause .. .. .	1
Prolapsed Cord .. .. .	1
Meningocele .. .. .	1
Prematurity .. .. .	4
No. of cases sent to other Hospitals :—	
Baby .. .. .	5
Post-natal .. .. .	6
Intra-natal .. .. .	—
No. of Borough cases .. .. .	699
No. of out-district cases .. .. .	29
No. of practitioners' private booked cases .. ..	115
Forceps deliveries .. .. .	40

### Feeding.

Breast alone .. .. .	622
Breast supplemented by artificial food .. ..	52
Artificial food alone .. .. .	48
No. of babies born alive (including twins) .. ..	722

### (b) Care of Illegitimate and Premature Children.

Since 1944 stress has been laid on this subject and the Day Nursery and Maternity Home provisions were the most concrete aids given to help the mother to stay with her child. Close co-operation between the Health Visitors and the Moral Welfare Workers of the Rochester Diocese has continued. The Council contributes to the residential care of the mother before the birth and mother and baby after birth in institutions provided by the Diocesan Council.



During the year 1947, 60 premature births were notified. Special attention to these children is given by the Health Visitors and hot water bottles and other small equipment are provided when necessary. When the home conditions are not conducive to the proper care of these children the latter are admitted for an indefinite period to the Corporation Maternity Home where adequate facilities are available. The Town Ambulance Service is available for transport of these children.

### (iii) Health Visitors and Clinics.

The eight Health Visitors employed by the Council carried out a considerable body of work during the year, details of which are given in the following tables :—

Ante-natal Sessions.	Mothers	Attendances
Maternity Home, Lavernock Road ..	36	1,497
Bexleyheath Clinic.. ..	320	1,596
Bexley Clinic .. ..	128	766
Welling Clinic (Station Approach) ..	286	1,409
Wrotham Road Clinic .. ..	124	752
Falconwood Clinic .. ..	93	515

### Child Welfare Sessions.

#### Bexleyheath Clinic.

Total number of attendances .. ..	10,524
Average attendance .. ..	69.23
No. of children under one year .. ..	7,790
No. of children under one year (first time) ..	539
No. of children over one year .. ..	2,126
No. of children over one year (first time) ..	69
No. of children medically examined .. ..	1,580

#### Bexley Clinic.

Total number of attendances .. ..	5,784
Average attendance .. ..	56.16
No. of children under one year .. ..	3,817
No. of children under one year (first time) ..	245
No. of children over one year .. ..	1,682
No. of children over one year (first time) ..	40
No. of children medically examined .. ..	553

### Welling Clinic (Station Approach).

Total number of attendances	..	..	..	9,460
Average attendance	..	..	..	62.24
No. of children under one year	..	..	..	7,553
No. of children under one year (first time)	..	..	..	389
No. of children over one year	..	..	..	1,463
No. of children over one year (first time)	..	..	..	55
No. of children medically examined	..	..	..	994

### Wrotham Road Clinic.

Total number of attendances	..	..	..	4,988
Average attendance	..	..	..	49.38
No. of children under one year	..	..	..	3,214
No. of children under one year (first time)	..	..	..	230
No. of children over one year	..	..	..	1,496
No. of children over one year (first time)	..	..	..	48
No. of children medically examined	..	..	..	586

### Falconwood Clinic.

Total number of attendances	..	..	..	4,854
Average attendance	..	..	..	48.06
No. of children under one year	..	..	..	3,734
No. of children under one year (first time)	..	..	..	235
No. of children over one year	..	..	..	879
No. of children over one year (first time)	..	..	..	6
No. of children medically examined	..	..	..	466

### Births Registered.

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Live Births	1,469	1,384	1,498	1,413	1,695	1,641
Stillbirths	38	29	30	31	41	36

### (iv) Assisted Milk, etc.

No. of families supplied with food free or at reduced cost	..	..	..	..	..	10
Approximate cost	..	..	..	..	£16 12	1
No. of lbs. of dried milk at cost price	..	..	..	..	..	40,479
No. of lbs. of Virol, cod liver oil and malt	..	..	..	..	..	2,826 $\frac{1}{4}$
No. of Marmite cartons	..	..	..	..	..	9,880

### Supply of Sheets for Expectant Mothers.

No. of applications	..	..	..	..	..	257
No. of docketts	..	..	..	..	..	735



**(v) Orthopædic Treatment.**

The Council has an arrangement with Kent County Council whereby children under five years can attend for consultation and treatment at the County Hospital, Dartford. An Orthopædic Clinic is being established by the Kent County Council in the Borough for the care of school children and this will be available for children under five years.

No. of children attended first time	..	..	..	21
No. of children attended previously on the register	..			14
No. of total attendances made	..	..	..	65
No. referred for in-patient treatment	..	..	..	—
No. referred for ultra violet light treatment	..	..		—
No. of appliances recommended..	..	..	..	15

**(vi) Child Life Protection.**

The Medical Officers and the Health Visitors are appointed Child Life Protection Visitors under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Children under nine years of age, who are nursed for reward or gain, are periodically visited in their respective homes.

The particulars regarding the number of foster parents and nurse children on the Council's register are as follows :—

No. of persons receiving children under nine years for reward :				
(a) At beginning of the year	..	..	..	19
(b) At the end of the year	..	..	..	18
No. of children :—				
(a) At beginning of the year	..	..	..	21
(b) At the end of the year	..	..	..	20
No. of foster children who died	..	..	..	—
No. of inquests held	..	..	..	—

**(vii) Compensation to Midwives.**

No. of midwives received compensation for loss of booked maternity cases	..	..	..	..	—
--------------------------------------------------------------------------	----	----	----	----	---

**(viii) Sunlight Clinic.**

No. of cases treated including any outstanding from previous year	..	..	..	..	..	233
No. of treatments	..	..	..	..	..	2,636
No. still being treated at end of year	..	..	..	..		25
Average number of treatments per patient	..	..				12

**Diseases Treated.**

						No.
Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	5
Knock-knees	..	..	..	..	..	9

	No.
General Atonia .. .. .	7
General debility .. .. .	35
Bowed legs .. .. .	10
Post natal .. .. .	1

**(ix) Ear, Nose and Throat, Eye and Speech Defects.**

Referred to Aural Clinic for chronic ear discharge ..	1
Referred to Ophthalmic Clinic for squint or other defect	1
Speech Clinic .. .. .	5

**Registration of Nursing Homes. Public Health Act, 1946.**

(Authority of Registration transferred from Kent County Council to the Bexley Borough Council—17.4.39)

No. of Homes on the Register at beginning of year .. 6

No. of patients provided for :—

Maternity .. .. .	6
Others .. .. .	63

Total .. 69

No. of Homes first registered during year .. .. —

No. of patients provided for :—

Maternity .. .. .	—
Others .. .. .	—

Total .. —

No. of Homes on the Register at end of year .. 6

No. of patients provided for :—

Maternity .. .. .	6
Others .. .. .	63

Total .. 69

No. of inspections made during year .. .. 8

No. cancelled on request of applicant .. .. —

**Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.**

This Act came into force in June, 1943.

- |                                                                                                         |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (a) No. of persons who gave notice under Section 7 (3) during the year .. .. .                          | 37 |
| (b) Total number of children in respect of whom notice was given under Section 7 (3) during the year .. | 37 |
| (c) No. of children notified under Section 7 (3) :—                                                     |    |
| (i) Under supervision at end of year .. .. .                                                            | 7  |
| (ii) Who died during the year .. .. .                                                                   | 1  |
| (iii) On whom inquests were held .. .. .                                                                | —  |
| Number of children adopted during the year ..                                                           | 42 |



# MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE WORK DONE.

Year	Registered		No. of Health Visitors	Visits made to :—					Centres (Children)				% of Births	Centres (Ante-natal)		
	Live Births	Still Births		Expectant Mothers		Children under 1		Child- ren 1 to 5	No. of Attendances		First Attenders			Attend- ances	No. of Expect- ant Moth- ers	% of Births
				First	Total	First	Total		Under 1	1 to 5	Under 1	1 to 5				
1939	1423	41	*7	447	691	1323	5142	9798	17210	8162	1149	399	80.7	3715	638	44.8
1940	1279	32	7	487	792	1108	4739	10277	13279	6331	1084	381	86.6	2036	584	44.8
1941	1145	35	7	518	855	797	3707	8635	13126	6784	1109	385	96.9	3762	745	63.1
1942	1469	38	7	636	1109	1440	4445	8242	17740	7349	1322	467	90.0	5769	981	65.0
1943	1384	29	7	716	975	1664	4444	5995	21321	8419	1069	368	76.5	5835	859	60.7
1944	1498	30	†8	604	865	1491	4163	5089	19240	7649	1298	191	84.9	5479	926	60.6
1945	1413	31	8	664	884	1519	4722	6174	20866	9246	1426	253	100.9	5403	851	58.9
1946	1695	41	8	692	996	1912	5371	7033	23961	9166	1526	256	90.0	6532	922	53.9
1947	1641	36	8	666	960	1692	5831	8924	26108	7646	1638	218	97.7	6535	987	58.8

\* 6 for 2 months.  
† 7½ for quarter of year.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

#### List of Adoptive Acts, etc., in force.

Acts.	Date Adopted
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890	
Parts 1, 2, 3 and 5 .. .. .	Apr. 1891
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 .. .. .	Apr. 1891
Public Libraries Act, 1892-1919 .. .. .	Oct. 1893
Private Street Works Act, 1892 .. .. .	Jan. 1899
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907,	
Parts 8 and 9 .. .. .	Apr. 1909
Part 2—the whole .. .. .	} May 1909
„ 4—Secs. 53 and 54 .. .. .	
„ 6—the whole .. .. .	
„ 10—Sec. 95 .. .. .	
Public Health Act, 1925, Part 2 .. .. .	Jan. 1926
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 .. .. .	Jan. 1934

#### Bye-laws.

Wireless Loudspeakers, Gramophones, etc. .. .. .	Jan. 1939
Fouling by Dogs of Footpaths .. .. .	July 1938
Baths, Wash-houses, Swimming Baths and	
Bathing Places .. .. .	Aug. 1938
Parks and Pleasure Grounds .. .. .	May 1939
Building .. .. .	June 1939
Defacing of Pavements .. .. .	Nov. 1939
Deposit of Litter to the Detriment of Public	
amenities .. .. .	Nov. 1939
Deposit of Dangerous Substances .. .. .	Nov. 1939
Organs .. .. .	Nov. 1939
Loitering at Church Doors .. .. .	Nov. 1939
Indecent Language, etc. .. .. .	Nov. 1939
Noisy Hawking .. .. .	Nov. 1939
Touting .. .. .	Nov. 1939
Noisy Animals .. .. .	Nov. 1939
Violent Behaviour, etc., on School Premises .. .. .	Nov. 1939
Nursing Homes .. .. .	June 1940

The Bye-laws relating to : Cleansing of Earth Closets and Cesspools ; Common Lodging Houses ; Hop Pickers' and Fruit Pickers' Lodgings ; Cleansing of Privies ; Removal



of Offensive and Noxious Matters ; Nuisances ; Offensive Trades (Fish Frying) ; Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures ; Lodging (Housing Act, 1925) Sec. 6 ; New Streets and Buildings adopted 1927 ; New Streets and Buildings adopted 1931 and Slaughterhouses ; lapsed in 1940 as under the Borough Charter of 1937 all Bye-laws then in existence had to be re-made within three years of October, 1937. Application was made to the Ministry of Health for renewal of certain of the lapsing Bye-laws which it was deemed necessary to have in effect, but in view of the war the Minister refused to sanction the proposed Bye-laws put forward.

So far it has been possible to continue sanitary work without these Bye-laws, but if a difficult offender is met it is not possible to forecast how a remedy for the nuisance or defect can be obtained where such is not covered in the general legislation.

#### 1. (i) Water Supply.

The supply to the Bexleyheath district is a mixture of water from Wilmington, Darenth, Wansunt, Crayford, Bexley and Deptford Wells, and Thames-derived filtered water. All the water is chlorinated as it leaves the works.

There have been no new sources of supply instituted in the Borough during 1947, nor any extension of trunk mains and the general scheme of supply is the same as the previous year.

Bacteriological analyses are made five times per week of all supplies and consistently satisfactory results have been obtained. In the cases of Bexley, Wansunt and Deptford, the water is also tested before chlorination but owing to the conditions of treatment at the other stations this is not possible. Water derived from the Thames is sampled at each stage of the purification process.

All new and repaired mains are chlorinated before being restored to use and samples of water from them are tested bacteriologically.

None of the supplies is plumbo-solvent.

The examinations of samples of water from piped supplies to houses at least monthly has given the following results :—

## **Bacteriological.**

No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at :		B. coli presumptive
37° C.	22° C.	
0-8	0-38	Absent in 100 c.c. in all samples

### **(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.**

There were no new main sewers laid during 1947.

## **2. Rivers and Streams.**

No serious case of pollution of rivers or streams was found during the year.

### **3. (i) Closet Accommodation.**

With the exception of a few houses, all the closet accommodation in the Borough is on the water carriage system.

### **(ii) Public Cleansing.**

Ten cesspools were emptied a total of 14 times.  
One cesspool was converted to a septic tank system.

## **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

The collection and disposal of house refuse in the area is carried out by direct labour, and some delay in collection occurred during the early part of the year due to extremely adverse weather conditions. Later in the year it was possible to maintain the period between collections at approximately one week.

Three new S. & D. Freighters were delivered during the year, and a further three placed on order. The new freighters eased the transport position to a certain extent, but, until it is possible to dispense with the older vehicles, there is always the risk of delay in collection owing to mechanical breakdown.

The collection of salvage was continued during the year, and the income from sales of materials amounted to £2,485. There are approximately 400 bins in the streets for the reception of kitchen waste and these are cleared twice weekly. This waste is disposed of at the concentrator plant in the Woolwich area. House and trade refuse collected in the area is disposed of by controlled tipping.



## CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Health Department,  
14, Brompton Road,  
Bexleyheath.

*To the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the Borough of Bexley.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my Thirty-third Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector to your Council for the year 1947. I may add that, in view of my impending retirement, this will be my last report as Chief Sanitary Inspector to the Borough.

The report consists, as on former occasions, of a tabulated record of work carried out.

**TABLE No. 1.**

Number of complaints received and investigated	..	636
Number of informal notices, letters, etc.	.. ..	666

**TABLE No. 2.**

### Details of Inspection Work Carried Out.

	Inspec- tions	Re-in- spections
Houses inspected (all particulars recorded)	—	—
Houses inspected (defects only recorded) ..	565	1,036
Houses inspected (Housing Act, 1936, Over- crowding) .. .. .	207	4
Houses inspected <i>re</i> Infectious Disease (including Scabies) .. .. .	285	21

### Inspections.

Factories with mechanical power .. .. .	14	—
Factories without mechanical power ..	9	—
Schools .. .. .	10	—
Refuse Tips .. .. .	54	—
Bakehouses .. .. .	10	14
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	—	—
Meat Shops and Premises where food is prepared .. .. .	741	155
Cowsheds and Dairies .. .. .	26	2
Ice Cream premises .. .. .	51	5
Fried Fish premises .. .. .	54	2

	Inspec- tions	Re-in- spections
Common Lodging Houses .. .. .	3	—
Tents, Vans, and Sheds .. .. .	7	—
<i>Re</i> Offensive Accumulations .. .. .	34	4
<i>Re</i> Keeping of Animals .. .. .	28	5
<i>Re</i> Rats .. .. .	174	—
<i>Re</i> Verminous premises .. .. .	38	35
<i>Re</i> Insufficient Ashplace Accommodation ..	61	75
Drains Inspected .. .. .	1,123	867
Drains Tested (water, smoke or grenade) ..	73	—
Visits <i>re</i> Refuse Removals and Salvage ..	595	—
Miscellaneous Inspections .. .. .	1,995	110
Food and Drugs Act <i>re</i> Samples .. .. .	212	—
Shop Acts, 1912-1936 .. .. .	86	—
Visits <i>re</i> Certificates of Essential Repairs ..	1,915	44

**TABLE No. 3.**  
**Improvements effected and defective sanitary conditions remedied.**

Houses—	No.
Provided with sufficient w.c. accommodation ..	68
Provided with sufficient ashplace accommodation	39
Provided with sufficient water supply .. ..	33
Houses Improved Internally—	
Dirty rooms cleansed .. .. .	3
Walls and ceilings repaired .. .. .	131
Dampness in rooms remedied .. .. .	237
Defective floors repaired .. .. .	41
Ventilation of rooms improved .. .. .	—
Windows repaired .. .. .	38
Coppers repaired .. .. .	—
Stoves, fireplaces, etc., provided or repaired ..	25
Houses Improved Externally—	
Roofs repaired .. .. .	95
Eaves, gutters and down spouts fixed or repaired	59
Yards paved or repaired .. .. .	—
Chimney stacks repaired .. .. .	16
Walls repointed or repaired .. .. .	22
Miscellaneous repairs .. .. .	31
Yards cleansed .. .. .	1
Drainage—	
Drains cleansed or repaired .. .. .	723
New drains constructed .. .. .	4
New Gullies provided .. .. .	1
Ventilation of drainage system improved .. ..	1



Drainage contd.—	No.
Inspection chambers built or improved .. ..	8
New sinks provided .. ..	2
Waste pipes provided or improved.. ..	18
Offensive accumulation removed .. ..	4
Nuisances from animals abated .. ..	—
Tents, Vans, and Sheds, nuisance abated .. ..	—
Other nuisances abated .. ..	14

TABLE No. 4.

**Infectious Diseases.**

Cases removed to Isolation Hospitals .. ..	121
Houses visited including revisits .. ..	306
Rooms disinfected .. ..	32
Notices delivered to Education Authorities, etc. ..	459
Houses at which defective sanitary conditions were found .. ..	—

TABLE No. 5.

**Food Inspection.**

The following is a summary of unsound food surrendered.

Beef .. .. lbs.	3,024 $\frac{1}{2}$	Biscuits .. .. lbs.	25
Corned Beef .. ..	1,443 $\frac{3}{4}$	Breakfast Sausage ..	9
Fish .. ..	2,596 $\frac{1}{2}$	Confectionery .. ..	8
Cheese .. ..	197 $\frac{1}{4}$	Eggs, shell .. ..	63
Fats .. ..	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Meat .. .. tins	386
Flour .. ..	99	Sausages .. ..	53
Bread .. ..	73	Fish .. ..	1,033
Poultry .. ..	235	Milk .. ..	1,955
Mutton .. ..	100	Vegetables .. ..	928
Pork .. ..	30	Meat and Vege-	
Liver .. ..	12	tables .. ..	80
Tea and Coffee .. ..	7	Soup .. ..	160
Cocoa .. ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Fruit .. ..	331
Bacon .. ..	81 $\frac{1}{4}$	Preserves.. ..	375
Rabbits .. ..	786	Steak and Kidney	
Sugar .. ..	38	Pudding .. ..	24
Butter Beans .. ..	234	Puddings.. ..	476
Prunes .. ..	314	Tomatoes .. ..	21
Oranges .. ..	83	Pickles and Sauce jars	99
Cereals .. ..	60	Pastes .. tins and jars	108
Oatmeal .. ..	21	Dried Egg .. pkts.	20
		Cake Mixture .. ..	41
		Miscellaneous	
		tins, jars, etc.	178

**TABLE No. 6.**  
**Factories Act, 1937.**

**1. Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health.**  
**(Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).**

Premises 1	Number of :—		
	Inspections 2	Written Notices 3	Prosecutions 4
Factories with mechanical power .. ..	38	3	—
Factories without mechanical power .. ..	9	—	—
*Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ..	—	—	—
* Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
Total .. ..	47	3	—

**2. Defects Found.**

Particulars 1	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions 5
	Found 2	Remedied 3	Referred to H.M. Inspector 4	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. ..	6	6	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances .. ..	2	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—				
Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective .. ..	1	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes .. ..	—	—	—	—
Other Offences .. ..	—	—	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
Total .. ..	9	7	—	—



## SHOPS ACT, 1912 to 1936.

The following Closing Orders are in operation in the area :—

Bexley Urban District (Butchers) No. 6 Order, 1920.

Bexley Urban District (Grocers and Provisions Merchants)  
No. 7 Order, 1923.

Bexley Urban District (Miscellaneous Trades) No. 8  
Order, 1923.

The Bexley Hairdressers and Barbers Shops Closing  
Order, 1946.

There were approximately 750 shops on the Council's Register at the end of the year.

During the year 86 inspections were made under the Shops Acts, 1912-36, and no legal proceedings were instituted.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

R. J. RAYNER,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

### Swimming Pool.

The only swimming pool in the area open to the public is in Danson Park and is owned by the Council. The layout includes three open-air pools, one large for adults and two small pools for children. Showers and foot baths are provided for the pre-cleansing of bathers. The water is kept pure by continuous filtration and sterilisation with chlorine and ammonia gases.

Samples of water have been taken by this department from time to time and the results of bacteriological examinations have been satisfactory on each occasion.

### Results.

No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at :			B. coli presumptive
	37° C.	22° C.	
Deep end	0-1	0	Absent
Shallow end	0	0	Absent

## Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No. of Corporation houses found to be infested with bugs .. .. .	7
No. of Corporation houses disinfested .. .. .	7
No. of other houses found to be infested with bugs ..	9
No. of houses disinfested .. .. .	9
No. of rooms in Corporation houses—	No. of rooms in other houses—
1 room only .. —	1 room only .. 1
2 rooms only .. 1	2 rooms only .. 2
3 rooms only .. 2	3 rooms only .. 1
	4 rooms .. —
No. of houses disinfested with HCN by private firms ..	9

## CAMPING SITES.

A camping site used by Rover Scouts and Woodcraft Folk in Hall Place was not used over such a period as to come within the operation of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

## SCHOOLS.

There are 24 County Modern and County Primary Schools; six non-provided schools, and a Day Technical School for Girls in the Borough, and the sanitary conditions are satisfactory.

## SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The following particulars relate to the houses built by the Council on the various Estates and still occupiable:—

	Houses	Flats
Welling—		
Welling Estate .. .. .	428	—
East Wickham—		
Glenmore Road .. .. .	116	—
Bexleyheath—		
Highland Road Estate and Pickford Road Estate (including bungalows)	306	—
Cannon Road .. .. .	—	28
Alers Road .. .. .	17	—
Halcot Estate .. .. .	68	—



Bexley—						Houses	Flats
Hartford Road Estate and Victoria							
Road Estate	..	..	..	..	..	54	—
Westwood Lane	..	..	..	..	..	60	—
Royal Park Estate	..	..	..	..	..	8	—
						<hr/> 1,057	<hr/> 28
Total number of new houses erected during							
the year	..	..	..	..	..	146	8

**1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.**

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	..	..	565
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	1,601
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 to 1932	..	..	..	..	—
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	—
(3)	Number of dwelling houses to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	—
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	409

**2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	..	..	..	329
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**3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.**

**A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—**

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
-----	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners .. .. .	—
(b) By local authority in default of owners .. .. .	—
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	43
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	27
(b) By local authority in default of owners .. .. .	—
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	—
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. .	—
4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.	
A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .	97
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ..	129
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	572½



B.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .	52
C.	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .	2
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. .. .	8½
D.	Any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. .	—

**Public Health Act, 1936. Section 75. Provision of Dustbins.**

Notices served requiring provision of bins.. ..	13
Number complied with (a) by Owners .. ..	7
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	6

**SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

**(a) Milk Supply.**

The milk retailed for consumption in the area is rail-borne, pasteurised and bottled except for one small supply by a producer retailer.

Licences granted by the Council under Milk Special Designations Order, 1936 :—

Pasteurised Milk .. .. .	17
Tuberculin Tested Milk .. .. .	8
Supplementary Licences :—	
Pasteurised Milk .. .. .	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk .. .. .	—
No. of cowsheds in district .. .. .	1

**(b) Meat Inspection.**

The slaughterhouses in the area remained closed during the year.

**(c) Adulteration of Food. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

The following table summarises the 195 samples taken during the year.

	Formal	Informal
Milk.. .. .	92	—
Dried Milk .. .. .	—	2
Soups, Meat Extracts, Pastes, etc. ..	1	19
Condiments and Sauces .. .. .	6	3
Margarine .. .. .	1	1
Fish .. .. .	—	4
Spices, etc. .. .. .	1	4
Pudding or Cake Mixtures, Flour, etc. ..	5	5
Jellies, Custard Powders, etc. .. .. .	3	1
Patent Medicines, etc. .. .. .	3	9
Beverages .. .. .	3	10
Miscellaneous .. .. .	8	14
	<hr/> 123	<hr/> 72

Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of a sample of coffee found to be adulterated with 33 per cent. chicory, and the vendor was fined £3 and £2 2s. costs.

**Registration of Premises under Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

No. of premises registered for :—

Sale or Manufacture of Ice Cream .. .. .	9
Sale of Ice Cream .. .. .	43
Preparation of Sausages, etc. .. .. .	44

**SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND OTHER DISEASES.**

**Scarlet Fever.**

During the year 123 cases were notified as compared with 102 the previous year. Of these 43 were isolated in Bow Arrow Hospital and 1 in an L.C.C. Hospital and 79 were isolated at home.

No. of deaths .. .. .	1
Return Cases from Hospital cases .. .. .	Nil
Return Cases from home nursed cases .. .. .	Nil
Average length of stay in Hospital .. .. .	31.2 days

**Diphtheria.**

Seven cases were notified as compared with eight in the previous year. One case was fatal—aged 16 years. Six cases were isolated in Bow Arrow Hospital and one in an L.C.C. Hospital. There were no "Return Cases."

Average duration of stay in Hospital .. .. .	19.5 days
----------------------------------------------	-----------



## Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

### *Immunisation in relation to Child Population.*

Age at 31.12.47	Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31.12.47							
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
No. Immunised	98	1,030	1,114	1,191	1,012	5,482	4,772	14,699
Estimated Mid-Year Population, 1947	7,480					12,540		

### *Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation.*

Age at date of Notification	No. of Cases	No. of cases included in previous column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation	Deaths
Under 1 .. .. .	—	—	—
1 .. .. .	—	—	—
2 .. .. .	—	—	—
3 .. .. .	—	—	—
4 .. .. .	—	—	—
5-9 .. .. .	2	2	—
10-14 .. .. .	1	1	—
Totals .. .. .	3	3	—

### *Children Immunised during 1947.*

Number under 5 years of age .. .. .	1,247
Number between 5 years and under 15 years (school children) .. .. .	42
Total .. .. .	1,289

Number of children given secondary injection (Booster doses), 347

On the Registrar-General estimate of child population of 20,020 the percentage of children under 15 years immunised against Diphtheria is 73.84.

### **Enteric Fever.**

One case of paratyphoid fever was notified during the year and this was isolated in an L.C.C. Isolation Hospital.

### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

Seventeen cases were notified during the year of which 12 were from the Corporation Maternity Home where nine were isolated and treated. Six cases were removed to Bow Arrow Hospital, one to an L.C.C. Hospital and one was isolated at home.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

Seven cases were notified. Two were transferred to White Oak Hospital, one to Woodfield Eye Hospital and the remaining four were treated at home.

#### *Analysis of Cases.*

(a)	Vision was unimpaired	..	..	..	..	6
(b)	Vision was impaired	..	..	..	..	—
(c)	Vision was lost	..	..	..	..	—
(d)	The patient died	..	..	..	..	—
(e)	The patient was still under treatment at the end of the year	..	..	..	..	1
(f)	The patient removed from the district	..	..	..	..	—
(g)	Classification under the above heads cannot be made	..	..	..	..	—

### **Measles.**

967 cases were notified. Eighteen cases were treated in Hospital, 15 at Bow Arrow Hospital and three at other Hospitals. There were two deaths, one of which was not notified as a case of measles.

### **Whooping Cough (Pertussis).**

141 cases notified of which one was treated in hospital. There were no deaths.

Deaths attributable to this disease average over a thousand per annum in England and Wales.

Given a potent vaccine a reduction of the attack rate to about one-third and a substantial reduction in mortality may well be expected. In the past many vaccines have been put on the market without much regard to their potency as a result of the many technical difficulties involved. At the present time considerable research is taking place in an endeavour to produce the perfect immunising agent and field tests on a large scale are taking place in many districts.



Future progress in pertussis immunisation will, therefore, depend on the evolution of a really satisfactory vaccine and on the development of a "field" test, comparable with the Schick test in diphtheria immunisation which could be used for assessing immunity in inoculated children. Systematic immunisation in the Borough was abandoned in 1945 owing to our not being able to obtain a suitable vaccine, but the position is being watched. At the present time, pertussis immunisation is given by local practitioners to individual delicate children or those subjected to particular risk.

### **Dysentery.**

Two cases were notified both treated at home.

### **Cerebro-Spinal Fever.**

Seven cases were notified. All were treated in hospital. There were two deaths.

### **Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis.**

Sixteen cases were notified. Fifteen were treated in Hospital and one at home. There were 3 deaths from polio-encephalitis. All cases were kept under surveillance by the Department and I should like to acknowledge the help and co-operation which was received from the medical practitioners which ensured early notification and supervision. All possible steps were taken to make the general public aware of the need for early medical treatment and the operation of tonsillectomy was suspended for the duration of the epidemic.

### **Food Poisoning.**

Five cases of food poisoning were notified and all were treated at their homes.

### **Scabies.**

145 cases were notified. 182 patients and contacts had two treatments at Corporation Cleansing Station and 58 had one treatment. Benzyl Benzoate has been invariably used in treatment. The incidence of this disease appears to be on the decline in the Borough but it is too early to take too sanguine a view that there will be no recrudescence of this condition in years to come.

The following table gives the particulars concerning the cases of Infectious Disease (other than Tuberculosis) notified in the area during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1947.

DISEASE	Total cases notified	CASES NOTIFIED AT ALL AGES—YEARS								Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
		Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 and over	Age unknown		
Smallpox .. .. .	123		4	16	72	20	8	3		44	1
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	7				1	2	4			7	1
Diphtheria .. .. .											
Enteric Fever (including Typhoid and Paratyphoid) .. .. .	1				1					1	
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	17						6	11		7	
Pneumonia .. .. .	37	1	1		4	1	3	26	1	15	39
Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .											
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	13			2	3	2	2	4		12	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	7	7								3	
Erysipelas .. .. .	21						1	19	1	3	
Cerebro-spinal Fever .. .. .	7		1	1		2		2	1	7	2
Dysentery .. .. .	2			1				1			
Measles .. .. .	*967	32	142	222	463	49	42	14	3	18	2
Whooping Cough .. .. .	141	27	32	24	49	5	3	1		1	
Scabies .. .. .	145	1	5	5	28	14	24	40	28		
Acute Polioencephalitis .. .. .	3				1		2			3	3
Totals .. .. .	1,491	68	185	271	622	95	95	121	34	121	48

\* 1 Non-civilian Measles.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 112 new cases were notified.

Particulars relating to the same, and also to the deaths which occurred during 1947 are contained in the following table :—

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 — 1 ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1 — 5 ..	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
5 — 10 ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 ..	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
15 — 20 ..	10	5	3	—	2	1	2	—
20 — 25 ..	8	10	1	1	3	2	—	—
25 — 35 ..	11	11	1	1	6	2	—	1
35 — 45 ..	8	4	—	1	4	5	—	1
45 — 55 ..	8	3	1	—	10	5	—	—
55 — 65 ..	6	3	—	—	5	3	—	—
65 and upwards	3	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Totals ..	59	39	10	4	32	20	3	3

The number of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths was 14.

Forty-eight specimens of sputum were examined and reported upon by the County Laboratory.

### Rehousing.

Eleven cases were referred to me by Tuberculosis Officer for rehousing and in eight cases the families were rehoused by the Housing Committee.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total
	M	F	M	F	
No. on Register at commencement of year	370	290	56	65	781
No. on Register at end of year .. ..	389	299	58	63	809



**BOROUGH OF BEXLEY**

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**COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION**

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# Annual Report

on the

## School Health Services

For the Year 1947

**JOHN LANDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.**

*Medical Officer of Health*



**EXCEPTED DISTRICT OF BEXLEY  
WELFARE AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE  
SUB-COMMITTEE**

Chairman : Alderman J. T. H. Ashmore, C.C.

Vice-Chairman : Miss M. Woodward.

His Worship the Mayor : Alderman J. Cronin, J.P.

Alderman Mrs. A. Welch	Councillor Mrs. A. Lawrence.
Councillor D. C. E. Gorringe	Councillor J. D. Vergette.
Councillor Mrs. M. Hall.	Councillor A. W. Lanyon.

*Co-opted Members :*

Miss D. C. Collins.	Revd. R. B. Wright.
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**STAFF 1947**

Borough Education Officer	..	W. E. D. Stephens, M.A.
Deputy Borough Education Officer		R. R. Sutton.
School Enquiry Officers	.. ..	M. D. H. Garrett. R. W. Forbes. R. N. Harrison.
Welfare Officer	.. ..	Mrs. E. Somerville.

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

Medical Officer of Health .. ..	John Landon, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officers .. ..	Mary Love, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G. (Part time). P. S. Robinson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G. (Part time). William Ainslie, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Appointed 1.1.47—resigned 21.7.47). Arthur James Dalzell-Ward, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Appointed 1.9.47).
Ophthalmic Surgeon .. ..	John Smallpeice, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.
Aural Surgeon .. ..	T. P. Gill, F.R.C.S.
Orthopædic Surgeon .. ..	J. H. Mayer, F.R.C.S. K. F. Hulbert, F.R.C.S. (As from 19.11.47).
Dental Officers .. ..	T. C. Farmar, L.D.S. H. Wade, L.D.S. (Part time—appointed full time 1.9.47). M. R. C. Kemp, L.D.S. (Appointed part time 2.6.47. Transferred to M.&C.W. 1.9.47).
Health Visitors .. ..	Mrs. E. A. Bowman, S.R.N. and Health Visitor's Certificate. Miss K. P. Hart, S.R.N. and Health Visitor's Certificate. Mrs. V. Waters, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Temporary—appointed 8.9.47).
Physiotherapist .. ..	Miss R. Cheeseman, M.C.S.P., M.S.R.
Speech Therapist .. ..	Mrs. D. Rant, L.C.S.T.
Dental Attendants .. ..	Mrs. I. Birtchnell. Mrs. Evans. (Appointment terminated 15.3.47). Miss M. E. Watts. (Appointed 1.3.47—transferred to K.C.C. 24.11.47). Miss K. M. Dunkley. (Appointed 10.11.47).
School Health Service Clerk ..	Miss M. C. A. Smith. (Appointed 7.1.47).
General Clerks .. ..	C. Reeves (Temporary). Commenced 1.3.47—resigned 28.6.47). Miss C. Anderson. (Appointed 28.7.47).



## REPORT ON THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE DURING THE YEAR 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Welfare and School Attendance Sub-Committee.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my first report on the School Health Service for the year 1947. As members are aware, the School Health Service was delegated by the Kent Education Committee to the Excepted District of the Borough of Bexley as from the 1st February, 1947, and this, in effect, entailed the setting up of a local office and organisation to take over, on an agency basis, the services which the County Council had provided. The necessary records were, accordingly, transferred from the County Hall, Maidstone, to the Health Department, 14, Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, where accommodation was provided and steps were also taken to call in the medical cards relating to approximately 12,000 school children which had previously been kept at individual schools.

An Assistant Medical Officer of Health and two County Health Visitors were seconded to the staff of the Medical Officer of Health, and the Little Danson Clinic was transferred to the care of the Committee for Education, while other services were provided at the Woodside Clinic, Crayford, although these premises remained under central control. A School Health Service Clerk and an Assistant Clerk were also provided.

The change over to a local form of administration was effected smoothly and I should like to acknowledge the help and co-operation which I received from the County Medical Officer and the members of his staff, from the Borough Education Officer, the Head Teachers and staffs of schools who freely gave their advice and help.

As the year progressed a number of important developments took place which added to the efficiency of the service. At the beginning of the year the Borough was served by one whole-time dentist and one part-time dentist. A second part-time dentist was appointed on June 2nd, 1947 and on September 1st a second whole-time dental officer was appointed in place of the two part-time appointments. The dental services appear to have adequately met the needs of the Borough and the orthodontic service has been greatly appreciated.



The number of Ophthalmic Clinic sessions originally held was one per week, but later in the year, this was increased to three sessions per week with the result that a considerable arrear of work was disposed of. Enquiries were made during the year in regard to the orthoptic treatment of squint and we were informed that the Consultant Ophthalmic Specialist was preparing a scheme for the County as a whole.

During the year an Orthopædic Clinic was established by the County Council at the Bexley Borough Council's Clinic in Station Approach and a Specialist now attends at regular intervals and treatment is in the hands of a trained physiotherapist.

A Speech Clinic was, also, established during the year at the Wrotham Road Clinic, Welling, and has been carrying out valuable work among the schoolchildren and also those pre-school children who are referred from the Maternity and Child Welfare Department.

The Bexley Borough Council Sunlight Clinic at 315, Broadway, Bexleyheath, previously reserved for pre-school children, was made available to school children, many of whom have derived benefit from this service.

Medical Officers of the Health Department took over responsibility for lectures in Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene in connection with the pre-nursing course at the Bexley County Technical School for Girls and the results of the preliminary examination of the General Nursing Council have been uniformly good. In this connection I should like to express my appreciation of the help which we received from Miss Collins, the Principal, and Miss Owen, who is in charge of the pre-nursing classes, for the help and encouragement which was received from them.

In connection with diphtheria immunisation, arrangements were commenced during the year for the systematic administration of "booster" doses to all children in the Infants and Junior Schools and at the time of writing nearly 5,000 children have received treatment thus ensuring a high level of immunity among the school population.

During the outbreak of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) during the summer and autumn, it was found necessary to suspend operations for the removal of tonsils and adenoids. Advantage was taken of the lull to review the nose and throat condition of the large number of Bexley children who were on the waiting lists of the various hospitals serving the area. In many cases the recommendation had been made as long



as one year previously and it was found, on review, that in a number of cases the need for operation no longer existed. The result of this was that revised lists were sent to the various hospitals and this action was appreciated by the hospital authorities whose lengthy waiting lists were proving a considerable embarrassment to them. There is considerable weight of medical opinion that simple enlargement of tonsils is often a physiological response to infection in the nose and throat and the removal of the tonsils and adenoids at this stage may be fraught with danger to the child.

During the year many children were recommended for a period of convalescent home treatment following debilitating illnesses and it is pleasing to record that these arrangements were made expeditiously and during the period of greatest need.

One of the advantages experienced was that Head Teachers and their staffs could call at the office or telephone to discuss individual children about whom they were concerned. This personal contact has been to the mutual advantage of all concerned.

The year was not without its difficulties, one of the chief, in the early stages, being the lack of adequate office equipment, including filing cabinets for medical records. However, this equipment has now been supplied and the School Health Department Office is now adequately staffed and equipped.

Although a third School Nurse was appointed in September, the staff of health visitors in the School Health Service is still inadequate, and the existing staff have had to cope with an unduly large case load.

Broadly speaking, however, the local administration of the School Health Service has started well and a considerable volume of work has been carried out which is reflected in the statistics which form a part of this report.

I wish to express my appreciation of the help and support which I have received during the year from the Chairman and Members of the Committee and from all members of the Staff to whose zeal and energy the School Health Service largely owes its present efficiency.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LANDON,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

# KENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## EXCEPTED DISTRICT OF BEXLEY

### Schools

Six County Modern Schools with seven departments.	
Average number on Roll at 31st December, 1947	3,718
Twenty-three County Primary Departments	
Average number on Roll at 31st December, 1947	6,602
One Nursery Class attached to Uplands Primary School	
Average number on Roll .. .. .	30
Bexley County Technical School for Girls	
Average number on Roll .. .. .	840
	<hr/>
Total ..	11,190

### Clinics.

#### *Minor Ailments.*

Welling—Little Danson, Dansington Road.

Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 9.30—11 a.m.

Doctor in attendance—Wednesday and Saturday.

Bexleyheath—315, Broadway.

Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 9.30—11 a.m.

Doctor in attendance—Tuesday and Saturday.

Bexley—Murchison Avenue.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.30—11 a.m.

Doctor in attendance—Thursday.

#### *Dental Clinics.*

Welling—Little Danson, Dansington Road.

Monday to Friday, 9.30—11 a.m., 2—4 p.m.

Saturday, 9.30—11 a.m.

Bexleyheath—315, Broadway.

Thursday and Friday, 9.30—11 a.m., 2—4 p.m.

Saturday, 9.30—11 a.m.

Extraction Session—Friday morning.

Crayford—Woodside Road.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9.30—11 a.m.,  
2—4 p.m.



*Sunlight Clinic.*

Bexleyheath—315, Broadway.

Tuesday and Thursday, 10—12 noon.

*Remedial Exercises.*

Welling—Little Danson, Dansington Road.

Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.

**Specialist's Clinics.**

*Ophthalmic.*

Welling—Little Danson, Dansington Road.

Monday, 9.30—11 a.m., 2—4 p.m.

Thursday, 9.30—11 a.m.

Appointments made from Office.

*Orthopædic.*

Welling—Station Approach.

Wednesday, 9.30—11 a.m., 2—4 p.m.

Thursday and Saturday, 9.30—11 a.m.

Specialist in attendance 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 10 a.m. (Also 2nd Wednesday in each month commencing 10th December, 1947).

Appointments made through County Medical Officer.

*Aural.*

Welling—Little Danson, Dansington Road.

1st and 5th Wednesday, 3rd Thursday, 1.30—4 p.m.

Appointments made from Office.

*Speech.*

Welling—Wrotham Road.

Friday, 9.30—12 noon, 2—4 p.m.

Appointments made through County Medical Officer.

*Child Guidance.*

Crayford—Woodside Road.

Clinics held daily.

Appointments made through County Medical Officer.

## CO-ORDINATION.

It has been our aim, during the year, to co-ordinate the work of the School Health Service with that of Maternity and Child Welfare with a view to ensuring continuity of supervision and treatment of children from birth to school leaving age. It was, therefore, a great help to have the School Health Service on a local basis so that the Medical Officers and Health Visitors in the child care services generally could exchange records and information to ensure the most efficient follow up of children when they pass from pre-school to school life.

### **Periodic Medical Inspections. See Table 1.**

The successful carrying out of routine medical inspections was made possible by the excellent co-operation of Head Teachers and their staffs and it is true to say that this is now regarded as an integral part of the school curriculum. It is at these inspections that the greatest number of defects are discovered and where a great deal of information is obtained in regard to the school children by discussions with the parents.

Generally speaking, it was found that entrants, 8-year-olds and 11-year-olds showed a uniformly high standard of personal hygiene. Clothing was good and clean and the incidence of skin diseases very low. In only a few cases was it necessary to record a defect in clothing or of footgear.

The attendance of parents at routine medical inspections was good, being practically 100 per cent in the case of entrants, but as might be expected there was a falling off in the case of the senior children.

### **Nutrition.**

It is well known that there is no really satisfactory criterion of nutrition. The assessment is, therefore, a personal matter for the medical examiner. It is surprising, however, that in practice, results are obtained by different Medical Officers which are, broadly speaking, comparable and this can be accounted for by the fact that the same factors are taken into consideration, namely, brightness, posture, skin texture, muscle tone and co-ordination, colour of tongue and mucous membrane, etc. There is at the present time a tendency to assess nutrition from the "general condition" of the child and this is not without its dangers, as it is difficult not to be biased by evidence of excellent parental care, which may mask a mild degree of nutritional deficiency.



Reference to Table No. II (b) on page 69 will, I think, confirm that there is no evidence of adverse nutritional standards among the school children of the Borough. This may be attributed to a number of factors, not the least important of which, may be relatively full employment of the population, the equitable food distribution resulting from rationing, the issue of free milk in schools, the provision of school meals and the improved knowledge of cookery which has taken place in recent years as a result of the emphasis which this subject has received during the war time years. It may be, also, that the relief from the strain of the war time years has led, on the whole, to better sleep and rest, a more ordered way of life and better opportunities for recreation and holidays.

The present day lack of fats and proteins is, however, probably responsible for the relatively few children found to be in the highest grade of nutrition. In an investigation carried out in the latter part of the year it was found that the relatively low nutritional state of some children could be directly attributed to lack of rest and sleep. Late hours appear to be generally the rule especially among older children and street play is, also, an important factor. To some extent this may be the result of adverse housing conditions which leave the children little room for recreational facilities within the home.

### **School Meals.**

Dr. Dalzell-Ward reports as follows:—"The meals served at schools have been found to be excellent from a dietetic, culinary and æsthetic point of view and it is pleasing to see children eating a full sized portion and then passing their plates for a second helping. Victorian ideas that children's food must be pale and plain and devoid of all interest are on the wane. British children prefer strong flavoured traditional food with a certain amount of bulk and after a large dinner in the school dining room the method of digesting it appears to be assisted by the practice of "hand stands" against a wall. This phenomenon has been observed over a period of time and no ill effects have been seen.

The majority of mothers of children up to the age of 11 give their children some vitamin supplements, at least during the winter months."

I am indebted to the Borough Education Officer for the following information relating to the provision of school meals.

## School Meals—1947.

Average number of pupils in attendance :—

Primary Schools .. .. .	6,602
Secondary Schools .. .. .	3,718
	<hr/>
	10,320

Average number of pupils taking meals daily :—

	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Secondary</i>
(1) Free .. .. .	138	178
(2) Payment .. .. .	2,978	2,422
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,116	2,600
Total	5,716	

### Percentages.

	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Secondary</i>
(1) of number taking meals—free ..	4%	6%
(2) of numbers in attendance taking meals	47%	69%
Percentage of total numbers taking meals ..	55%	

### Milk.

Number of pupils taking milk.

Primary .. .. .	6,261
Secondary .. .. .	3,038
	<hr/>
Total .. .. .	9,399

### Percentages.

Primary .. .. .	93%
Secondary .. .. .	81%
Total .. .. .	91%

### Minor Ailment Clinics.

Successive Medical Officers working in these Clinics have emphasised the fact that there is a need for these Clinics to be re-named in view of the new functions which they have come to exercise. It is pointed out that they have now become more in the nature of consultative Clinics, important in that they give



an opportunity for the compilation of morbidity statistics among schoolchildren and for the practice of health education. These Clinics, also, form a channel of communication between the school doctor and the general practitioner and is, therefore, a valuable factor in the unification of the Health Services. Reference is made to Table No. III (1) on page 69 in which details are given of the conditions treated during the year at these Clinics.

### **Work of the Ophthalmic Clinic during 1947.**

I am indebted for this report to Dr. J. Smallpeice, the Ophthalmist.

Attendances seemed good and parents for the most part co-operative and helpful.

In most cases refractions have been undertaken after the instillation by the parent of Ung. Atropin twice daily for a week previously. This entails at least two visits, and, in some cases a third visit for a post-mydriatic test, and in few cases the patient has not returned until after being visited and persuaded by the nurse. However, these cases have been few, and I do not believe that homatropine and cocain instilled on the day of refraction produces adequate cycloplegia in young children. Certainly not in the case of squints.

One hundred and six children attended during 1947 who had some form of strabismus or heteophoria. I have a list of these children for submission to the county ophthalmologist. Some of them have well-established amblyopia ex anopsia, and are too old for us to hope for any benefit from occlusion. In other cases parents have not co-operated but these have been few. In other cases one has to weigh the disability temporarily resulting from occlusion and the importance of the state school examinations at eleven against the possible future benefit. Many younger cases are being satisfactorily occluded and the visual acuity has improved. These cases report to me at monthly intervals without an official appointment. They now await the establishment of a local aorthoptic training centre, which is, I feel, badly needed.

Some of the squint cases I have shown to Mr. Lister at Moorfields, or to Mrs. Phillipa Martin at the Western Ophthalmic Hospital, and operations have been undertaken.

I had a second opinion at the Western on an interesting and unusual case of periphlebitis of the left retinal vein in a girl. Full investigations failed to find a focus, but the condition is quiescent without serious diminution of visual acuity.



One or two cases of defective vision requiring the recommendation of "Easy Treatment" have been encountered.

Facilities for minor operative work are not available at the clinic, but improvisation and the carrying of a small outfit of simple instruments have enabled a certain amount to be done. A few casualties have reported, mainly minor conditions such as corneal foreign bodies or abrasions, etc., and these have been dealt with at the clinic.

Syringing of the lacrimal sac in an older child was carried out, and congenital blocked ducts with mucocele in babies can be dealt with by syringing without anæsthetic, but probing, requiring anæsthesia, necessitates reference elsewhere. Two cases of Meibomian cysts in children needing general anæsthesia were referred to Moorfields.

Possibly the aid of the dental department during a gas session might save the parents a long journey and a long wait at hospital.

One case of traumatic detachment of the retina reported and was sent to Moorfields for operation.

### **Dental Treatment.**

I am indebted for this report to the Dental Surgeons engaged in the School Health Service.

*Mr. Farmer, L.D.S.*

(1) A marked increase in the number of acceptances by parents for their children of dental treatment ;

(2) Decrease in the necessity for extraction of permanent teeth due to neglected caries. Most of the extractions of permanent teeth have been carried out for the purpose of correcting irregularities in the mouth due to over-crowding of the teeth ; and

(3) The provision of specialised treatment for the correction of irregularities of the teeth and jaws has yielded very fruitful results.



*Mr. Wade, L.D.S.*

It would appear there exists much dental neglect especially among the earlier entrants and chiefly brought about by parents not knowing that their children before school age can receive treatment at the M. and C. W. clinics.

The objection by parents to having teeth conserved is still prevalent, particularly milk teeth, but there are gratifying signs that this is improving.

In those pupils of later ages the treatment afforded by Dental Officers in the past is well marked.

The co-operation of the Medical Officers is well founded and of great assistance.

### **Cleanliness Inspections.**

(See Table V)

During the year the School Nurses carried out 23,929 examinations of children in Schools and 179 were found to have some infestation with vermin. In nearly all cases, the condition was cleared up by the parents who were assisted, where necessary, by the School Nurses. The infestation rate is commendably low and speaks well for the standard of child care in the Borough.

### **Physical Education.**

I am indebted to the Borough Education Officer for the following report.

**MODERN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.** (Miss Foster in co-operation with Miss Blunden).

*Amount per week* :—4.5 periods of 35 minutes.

*i.e.* 2 Gymnastics, 2 Games, and the girls, 1 Dancing.

*Staff* : Usually the physical work is in the hands of a two year trained gymnast who has specialised in Physical Education and taken extra courses after leaving College. Her assistant may be a specialist, or another member of staff less qualified, who helps with Games, etc.

## JUNIOR SCHOOLS. (Work mostly in playgrounds).

*Amount per week* :—7 periods of 30 minutes for physical training, and 2 for Games, the girls dance in the few schools where a hall is available and not needed for classrooms.

*Staff* : Most of the women teachers are two year trained ; (for a number of classes in the summer one swimming lesson takes the place of one P.T.).

## INFANTS' SCHOOLS.

*Amount per week* :—14 periods of 20 minutes.  
*i.e.* 7 main lessons in the mornings, in playground. 7 secondary lessons in the afternoons, consisting of Games (music and movement, or dancing if there is a hall).

*Staff* : Most of the teachers are two year trained.

## TECHNICAL SECONDARY SCHOOL (Girls).

*Amount per week* :—Between 4 and 5 periods, 40 minutes.  
*i.e.* 2 Gymnastics, 1 Dancing, 1 or 2 Games.

*Staff* : Two full-time 3 year trained Gymnasts. One part-time 3 year trained Gymnast.

## Swimming.

Bexley is unfortunate in that the only swimming bath available in the Borough is not covered in or heated and is consequently unusable for instruction during the greater part of the year. Arrangements have therefore to be made for pupils of the schools, to use baths at Plumstead, Charlton, Eltham Park, Martens Grove in addition to the Danson Park pool. During 1947, eight primary and five secondary schools took advantage of the opportunities thus provided. It was unfortunate that the arrangements had to be curtailed in the Autumn as a result of the outbreak of poliomyelitis.

With a view to encouraging swimming the Committee for Education have agreed to issue certificates to pupils who are certified by the Bath's Superintendent as being able to swim specified distances.



## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES.

### Statistical Tables.

Table I	—	Medical Inspection of Pupils attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.
A.		Periodic Medical Inspections.
B.		Other Inspections.
C.		Pupils found to require Treatment.
Table II	—	
A.		Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection.
B.		Classification of the General Condition of Pupils Inspected during the year in the Age Groups.
Table III	—	
Group I.		Minor Ailments.
Group II.		Defective Vision and Squint.
Group III.		Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.
Group IV.		Orthopædic and Postural Defects.
Group V.		Child Guidance Treatment and Speech Therapy.
Table IV	—	Dental Inspection and Treatment including Orthodontics.
Table V	—	Infestation with Vermin.
Table VI	—	Handicapped Children.

**TABLE I.**  
**Medical Inspection of Pupils Attending Maintained**  
**Primary and Secondary Schools.**

**A. — Periodic Medical Inspections.**

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups.

Entrants .. .. .	1,264
Second Age Group .. ..	1,023
Third Age Group .. ..	755

Total ..	3,042
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Number of other Periodic

Inspections .. .. .	1,103
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Grand Total ..	4,145
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**B. — Other Inspections.**

Number of Special Inspections ..	2,230
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Number of Re-Inspections ..	1,774
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Total ..	4,004
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**C. — Pupils Found to Require Treatment at Periodic Medical Inspections.**

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants .. .. .	7	245	250
Second Age Group .. ..	77	201	274
Third Age Group .. ..	83	159	222
Total (prescribed groups)	167	605	746
Other Periodic Inspections .. .. .	73	205	260
Grand Total .. .. .	240	810	1,006



TABLE II.

A. — Return of Defects Found by Medical Inspection in the  
Year ended 31st December, 1947.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of defects		No. of defects	
		Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment
1		2	3	4	5
4.	Skin .. ..	72	52	279	17
5.	Eyes—				
	a. Vision ..	232	102	78	9
	b. Squint ..	39	46	16	—
	c. Other ..	59	24	150	10
6.	Ears—				
	a. Hearing ..	13	34	22	—
	b. Otitis				
	Media	16	22	84	—
	c. Other ..	17	41	20	5
7.	Nose or Throat ..	193	755	311	58
8.	Speech .. ..	9	16	6	—
9.	Cervical Glands ..	13	251	24	13
10.	Heart and				
	Circulation ..	28	130	68	13
11.	Lungs .. ..	16	98	129	73
12.	Developmental—				
	a. Hernia ..	4	2	26	15
	b. Other ..	—	—	1	1
13.	Orthopædic—				
	a. Posture ..	42	29	4	—
	b. Flat foot ..	96	14	6	1
	c. Other ..	148	257	91	12
14.	Nervous system—				
	a. Epilepsy ..	—	6	4	1
	b. Other ..	5	16	73	7
15.	Psychological—				
	a. Development	4	14	30	16
	b. Stability ..	4	21	32	14
16.	Other .. ..	60	166	291	272

**B. — Classification of the General Condition of Pupils Inspected during the Year in the Age Groups.**

Age Groups (1)	No. of Pupils Inspected (2)	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No. (3)	% of col. 2 (4)	No. (5)	% of col. 2 (6)	No. (7)	% of col. 2 (8)
Entrants .. ..	1,264	272	21.51	883	68.85	109	8.62
Second Age Group	1,023	227	22.18	703	68.71	93	9.09
Third Age Group ..	755	145	19.20	492	65.16	118	15.62
Other Periodic Inspections ..	1,103	194	17.49	778	70.53	131	11.87
Total ..	4,145	838	20.21	2,856	68.90	451	10.88

**TABLE III.—Treatment Tables.**

**Group I—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V).**

(a)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.
<b>SKIN—</b>	
Ringworm—Scalp—	
(i) X-Ray treatment .. ..	5
(ii) Other treatment .. ..	—
Ringworm—Body .. ..	24
Scabies .. ..	28
Impetigo .. ..	93
Other skin diseases .. ..	283
Eye Disease .. ..	315
(External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to hospital).	
Ear Defects .. ..	174
Miscellaneous .. ..	2,112
(e.g. minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.).	
Total ..	3,034
(b) Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinics .. ..	11,294



**Group II—Defective Vision and Squint** (excluding Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

	No. of defects dealt with
(1) Errors of Refraction (including squint) .. ..	1,096
(2) Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) .. ..	—
Total ..	<u>1,096</u>
(3) No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were	
(a) Prescribed .. ..	482
(b) Obtained .. ..	387

**Group III—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.**

	Total number treated
Received operative treatment—	
(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis .. ..	137
(b) for other nose and throat conditions .. ..	—
Received other forms of treatment .. ..	82
Total ..	<u>219</u>

**Group IV—Orthopædic and Postural Defects.**

(a) No. treated as in-patients in hospital or hospital schools .. ..	7
(b) No. treated otherwise <i>e.g.</i> in clinics or out-patient departments .. ..	234

**Group V—Child Guidance Treatment and Speech Therapy.**

No. of pupils treated (a) under Child Guidance arrangements .. ..	40
(b) Under Speech Therapy arrangements .. ..	10

TABLE IV.

## Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—					
(a) Periodic age groups	..	..	..	..	7,407
(b) Specials..	..	..	..	..	782
Total (Periodic and Specials)	..	..	..	..	8,189
<hr/>					
(2) Number found to require treatment	..	..	..	..	5,369
(3) Number actually treated	..	..	..	..	2,768
(4) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	..	..	..	..	6,029
(5) Half-days devoted to (a) Inspection	..	..	..	..	45
(b) Treatment	..	..	..	..	854
<hr/>					
Total (a) and (b)	..	..	..	..	899
(6) Fillings : Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	..	1,616
Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	..	532
<hr/>					
Total	..	..	..	..	2,148
(7) Extractions : Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	..	460
Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	..	3,387
<hr/>					
Total	..	..	..	..	3,847
(8) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction	..	..	..	..	359
(9) Other Operations (a) Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	..	1,050
(as above) (b) Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	..	934
<hr/>					
Total (a) and (b)	..	..	..	..	1,984
Scalings	..	..	..	..	43
Cleaning	..	..	..	..	213
Polishing	..	..	..	..	211
Dressings	..	..	..	..	
Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	..	550
Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	..	934
Root dressings	..	..	..	..	33

1,984



**Impressions**

Upper	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Lower	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Bites	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Try-ins	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Dentures—Fitted—Upper	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Appliances Fitted—Upper	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Remakes—Lower	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Adjustments	..	..	..	..	..	..	105

**TABLE V.****Infestation with Vermin.**

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons ..	23,929
(ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested .. .. .	179
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944) .. .. .	44
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944) .. .. .	—

**TABLE VI.**  
**Handicapped Children.**

	In Special schools	In maintained prim. and sec. schools	In Independent schools	Not in school	Total
Blind .. .. .	2	—	—	—	2
Partially Sighted .. .. .	1	3	1	3	8
Deaf .. .. .	4	—	—	—	4
Partially Deaf .. .. .	1	2	—	—	3
Delicate .. .. .	19	44	—	1	64
Diabetic .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Educationally Subnormal .. .. .	7	28	—	11	46
Epileptic .. .. .	2	—	—	1	3
Maladjusted .. .. .	—	30	—	—	30
Physically Handicapped .. .. .	12	3	—	15	30
Speech Defects .. .. .	—	26	—	2	28
Multiple Disabilities .. .. .	3	10	—	8	21
Totals ..	51	146	1	41	239





# INDEX

---

ITEM	PAGE
Health Committee ... ..	2
Public Health Staff ... ..	3—4

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Acreage ... ..	8
Population ... ..	8
Population Graph ... ..	10
Unemployment ... ..	8
Social Conditions and Amenities ... ..	8—9
Summary of Vital Statistics, 1947 ... ..	11—12
Extracts from Vital Statistics—	
Births and Birth Rates, etc. ... ..	12—13
Stillbirths and Stillbirth Rates .. ..	13—14
Deaths and Death Rates ... ..	14—15
Births and Stillbirths in Wards ... ..	15
Deaths and Death Rates in Wards ... ..	16
Causes of Death ... ..	16—17
Deaths in Age Groups ... ..	18—19
Infantile Mortality ... ..	20
Maternal Deaths ... ..	21

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Isolation Hospital ... ..	21
General Hospitals ... ..	21
Ambulance Facilities ... ..	22
Public Mortuary ... ..	22
Clinics and Treatment Centres ... ..	23



ITEM	PAGE
Professional Nursing in the Home ... ..	24
Laboratory Facilities ... ..	24
Maternity and Child Welfare—	
Midwifery and Maternity Service—	
Ante-natal Care ... ..	24
Co-operation with General Practitioners ... ..	24
Consultant Services ... ..	24—25
Maternity Accommodation ... ..	25
Anti-natal Clinics ... ..	25
Post-natal Clinics ... ..	25
Home Helps ... ..	25
Domestic Helps ... ..	25
Dental Treatment ... ..	25—26
Institutional Provision for Mothers—	
Maternity Home ... ..	26—27
Care of Illegitimate Children ... ..	27—28
Health Visitors and Clinics ... ..	28—29
Births Registered ... ..	29
Assisted Milk, etc. ... ..	29
Supply of Sheets for Expectant Mothers ... ..	29
Orthopædic Treatment ... ..	30
Child Life Protection ... ..	30
Compensation to Midwives ... ..	30
Sunlight Clinic ... ..	30—31
Ear, Nose and Throat, Eye and Speech Defects ... ..	31
Registration of Nursing Homes ... ..	31
Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939 ... ..	31
Maternity and Child Welfare Table ... ..	32

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Adoptive Acts and Byelaws ... ..	33—34
Water Supply ... ..	34—35
Drainage and Sewerage ... ..	35
Rivers and Streams ... ..	35
Closet Accommodation ... ..	35
Public Cleansing ... ..	35
Refuse Collection and Disposal ... ..	35

ITEM	PAGE
Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report—	
Tables of Inspections and Improvements, etc. ...	36—38
Food Inspection ...	38
Tables—Factories Act, 1937 ...	39
Shops Acts, 1912—1936 ...	40
Swimming Pool ...	40
Eradication of Bed Bugs ...	41
Camping Sites ..	41
Schools ...	41

### HOUSING.

Council Estates ...	41—42
Inspection of Dwelling Houses ...	42
Remedy of Defects without formal notice ...	42
Action under Statutory Powers ...	42—43
Overcrowding—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV ...	43—44
Public Health Act, 1936—Provision of Dust Bins ...	44

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply ...	44
Meat Inspection ...	44
Adulteration of Food—Food & Drugs Act ...	45
Registration of Premises ...	45

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE.

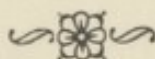
Scarlet Fever ...	45
Diphtheria ...	45
Diphtheria Immunisation ..	46
Enteric Fever ...	46
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	47
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	47
Measles ...	47
Whooping Cough ...	47—48
Dysentery ...	48
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	48



ITEM	PAGE
Acute Anterio Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis ... ..	48
Food Poisoning ... ..	48
Scabies ... ..	48
Tables of Infectious Diseases Notified ... ..	49
Tuberculosis ... ..	50

### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES REPORT, 1947.

Welfare and School Services Sub-Committee ... ..	52
Staff ... ..	52—53
Schools ... ..	57
Clinics ... ..	57—58
Co-ordination—	
Periodic Medical Inspections ... ..	59
Nutrition ... ..	59—60
School Meals ... ..	60—61
Minor Ailment Clinics ... ..	61—62
Ophthalmic Clinic ... ..	62—63
Dental Treatment ... ..	63—64
Cleanliness Inspections ... ..	64
Physical Education ... ..	65
Statistical Tables ... ..	66—72







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