

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Enfield].

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Urban District Council of Enfield

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health and

School Medical Officer

(D. H. GEFFEN, M.D., D.P.H.)

FOR

1939.

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

(FRED WILSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.)



Urban District Council of Enfield

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer
(D. H. GEFFEN, M.D., D.P.H.)

FOR

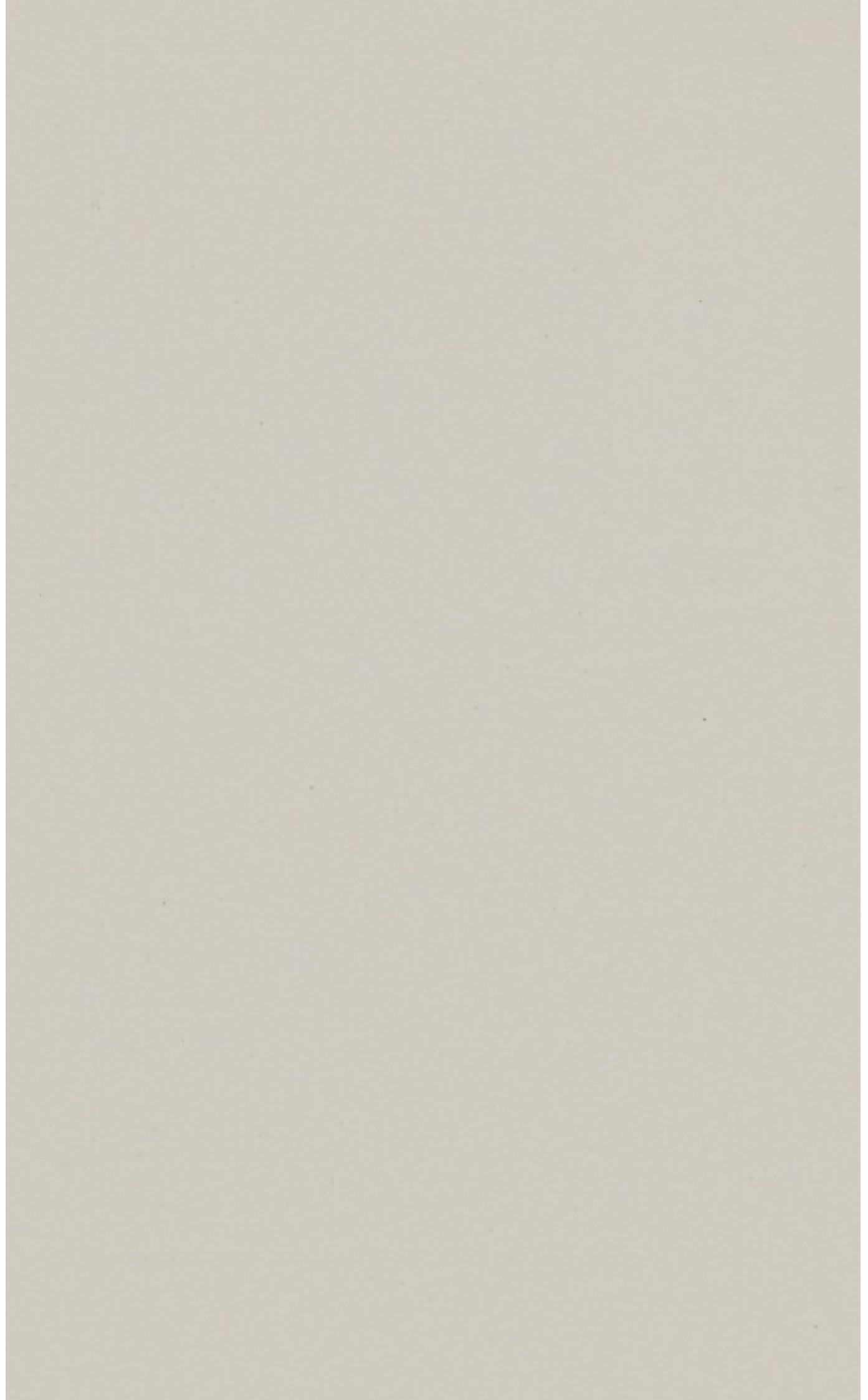
1939.

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector
(FRED WILSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.)



PUBLIC OFFICES,

ENFIELD.

29th November, 1940.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of
Enfield.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to place before you my Annual Report for 1939. For reasons of economy, both in time and paper, it has been considerably abridged.

Until the outbreak of war the work of the department continued on normal and progressive lines. After September 3rd the whole of the efforts of the department were concentrated on building up an efficient A.R.P. Casualty Service, only such time being applied to the routine work of the department as was absolutely essential. To this effort and the help I have received from the Doctors of Enfield and the St. John Ambulance Brigade is due the credit for such success and praise as the service has had on the occasions when it has been called out for duty.

1939 was a very healthy year; it will be noticed that there was not one death due to Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever, whilst the infant mortality rate was 35.07 per 1,000. I have traced back the records to 1888 and the nearest approach to this figure is 43.27 in 1934 and 44.22 in 1924. It is probable that this is the lowest infantile death rate that Enfield has ever had.

War conditions of necessity conduce to the spread of disease. Lack of exercise, overcrowding and the blackout all tend to lower resistance to infection. It is therefore essential that the population should avail itself of every possible means of obtaining immunity from disease.

In this connection I would especially mention immunisation against Diphtheria which is now possible, and urge parents in Enfield to see that their children are immunised, and thus to wipe out the

possibility of at least this one serious infectious disease; it can be done and it should be done.

Apart from this it is essential that every available opportunity to obtain exercise in the open air should be utilised, and that to the fullest extent possible the public should consume fresh fruits and vegetables. This will be greatly facilitated if all those who are able, will cultivate allotments.

Although this report is written many months after the end of 1939, I am happy to be able to assure the Council that so far no evidence has been observed by the medical members of your staff of deterioration in the health of the community.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. H. GEFFEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ENFIELD.

H. MUSPRATT, ESQ., O.B.E. *Chairman*
 S. G. ROWLANDSON, ESQ., F.C.A. Vice-Chairman

also

MRS. F. M. BAX.	A. M. EELES, ESQ.
MISS G. M. FORD.	G. E. JONES, ESQ.
E. EDWARDS, ESQ.	W. H. BETTS, ESQ.
C. PARTINGTON, ESQ., J.P.	W. G. SPICE, ESQ.
W. W. CAKEBREAD, ESQ.	E. S. STOCK, ESQ.
F. GREENWOOD, ESQ.	C. EVANS, ESQ.
W. C. BENNETT, ESQ.	D. MASON, ESQ.
H. A. D. BROWN, ESQ.	G. F. WILLGRESS, ESQ.
W. H. BISHOP (Jnr.), ESQ.	T. H. M. CLARKE, ESQ.
L. R. MORRIS, ESQ.	W. S. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
H. H. COLLIER, ESQ.	D. H. PARKER BOWLES, ESQ.
A. R. KEMP, ESQ.	H. THOMPSON, ESQ.
G. S. THOMPSON, ESQ., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).	

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

G. S. THOMPSON, ESQ., F.R.C.S. (Edin.) *Chairman*

also

MISS FORD, and MESSRS. MUSPRATT, CLARKE, KEMP, CAKEBREAD,
 BENNETT, BROWN and MORRIS.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) 12,400

POPULATION.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General at the middle of the year was 97,410.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1939, according to the Rate Books, was 29,164.

The rateable value of the District is ... £873,412

The net product (after allowing for cost
 of collection) of a penny rate is ... £3,487 6s. 1d.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of houses erected during the course of the year was 1,183.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births:—

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	1,704	886	818
Illegitimate	52	24	28
Birth-rate—18.02 per 1,000 population.			

Still Births:—

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	58	34	24
Illegitimate	4	2	2
Rate per 1,000 total births—34.10.			

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths	918	478	440
Death-rate—9.51 per 1,000 population.			

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births.
From Puerperal Sepsis ...	0	0.00
From other Puerperal causes	7	3.94
	—	—
	7	3.94
	—	—

Five of these cases were removed to the North Middlesex County Hospital, where they died. The other two cases died at home.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	35.07
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	33.78
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	76.92
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	142
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	0

The following table gives the birth-rate, recorded death-rate and infantile deaths for Enfield as compared with those for England and Wales, London, 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) and 148 Smaller Towns:—

	Birth-rate.		Recorded Death-rate.	Infantile Death-rate.
	Live	Still		
England and Wales ...	15.00	0.59	12.1	50.00
London	12.30	0.44	11.9	48.00
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	14.80	0.59	12.0	53.00
148 Smaller Towns ...	15.60	0.57	11.2	40.00
ENFIELD	18.02	0.63	9.51	35.07

DEATHS.

Of the 918 deaths of Enfield residents during the course of the year 142 were due to malignant disease: 260 to heart disease: 60 to pneumonia (all forms), and 55 to tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Of the 61 infants who died before attaining the age of one year, 32 died within the first week of life. In 10 cases death was due to pneumonia: in 9 to congenital malformation and in 21 to premature birth.

INQUESTS.

Twenty-five inquests and forty-three P.M.'s. without inquests were held in Enfield during the year. Out of these, 42 deaths were due to natural causes, 8 to accidental causes and 14 to suicide.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For infectious Cases: 236 patients were removed from Enfield during the year. 2,726 other patients were conveyed during the year to local hospitals.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following work was carried out in the Council's laboratory during the year.

Specimen.	No.	Positive.	Negative.	Percentage of Positives.
Swabs	1,130	39	1,091	3.45
Sputa	198	24	174	12.12
Totals	1,328	63	1,265	4.74

WATER SUPPLY.

There are seven premises in Enfield which receive their water supply other than from a public company; these are under constant supervision.

SUB-LETTING IN COUNCIL HOUSES.

During the course of 1939 I have continued to deal with applications for sub-letting in Council houses.

The following work was carried out:—

Total number of applications dealt with	52
Number granted permission to sub-let	48
Number refused permission	4
Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspectors	11

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND SCHOOLS.

Number of children notified to be absent from School due to suspected Infectious Disease	567
Number of children found to be suffering from Infectious Disease	384

This compares with the following figures for last year:—

Number of children notified to be absent from School due to suspected Infectious Disease	920
Number of children found to be suffering from Infectious Disease	593

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928.

Three samples of Rag Flock were taken during the course of the year from premises where Rag Flock is manufactured, used or sold. They were all found to comply with the standard laid down in the Acts.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	1,183
(i) By the Local Authority	—
(ii) By other Local Authorities	120
(iii) By other bodies or persons	1,045
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Act:—	
(i) By the Local Authority	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons	18

Inspection of Dwelling Houses:—

	No. of houses	No. of inspections
(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) and number of inspections made ...	1,875	8,767
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932, and the number of inspections made	61	634
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... (The number here given is of houses where any insanitary conditions were found.)		678
2. <i>Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices:—</i>		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers		581
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers:—</i>		
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	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:—	
(a) By owners	4
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	40
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:—	
(a) By owners	40
The number of house-to-house inspections made was:—	
Under Housing Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	61

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 and 1938.

There are 25 Purveyors of Milk who sell or distribute Pasteurised Milk in the district. Samples of milk have been taken and tested.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are eight slaughter-houses in Enfield.

During the course of the year 14,610 carcasses were examined, and the surrender of 26 carcasses and 410 parcels of diseased organs were secured.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever was 187, compared with 190 in 1938:

of Diphtheria 41, as compared with 57;
of Pulmonary Tuberculosis 100, as compared with 115; and
of Pneumonia 48, as compared with 98.

There were no deaths from Diphtheria during the year, as compared with one death in 1938.

There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever during the year, as compared with one death in 1938.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1939.

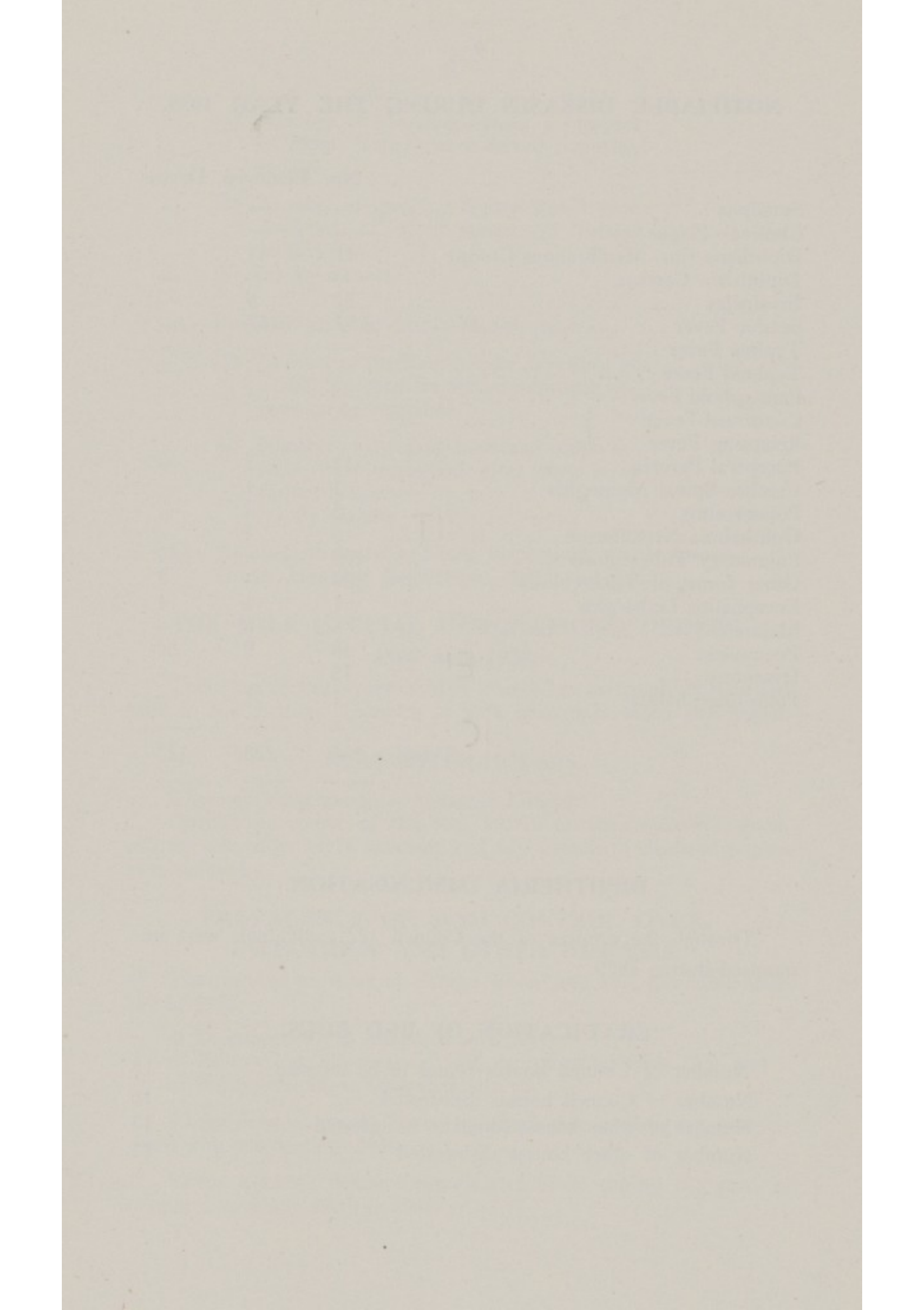
	No.	Removed.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Cholera—Plague	—	—	—
Diphtheria (inc. Membranous Croup) ...	41	41	—
Diphtheria Carriers	—	—	—
Erysipelas	32	9	—
Scarlet Fever	187	157	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Continued Fever }	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever }	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	13	5	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	3	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	100	—	55
Other forms of Tuberculosis	20	—	7
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	1
Malaria	—	—	—
Pneumonia	48	9	60
Dysentery	15	—	—
Polio Encephalitis	1	1	—
	—	—	—
Totals	465	228	123
	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Through the services of the Council 122 individuals were immunised during 1939.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of Council houses found to be infested	...	16
Number of Council houses disinfested	... ..	16
Number of other houses found to be infested	... ..	13
Number of other houses disinfested	... ..	13



MATERNITY
and
CHILD WELFARE
SECTION

PUBLIC OFFICES,
ENFIELD.

29th November, 1940.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of
Enfield.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to place before you my Annual Report on the Maternity and Child Welfare and Midwifery work carried out in Enfield during the year 1939.

Owing to the War, and in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I am making this report as brief as possible.

During the first eight months of the year the normal work of the department continued and satisfactory progress in each sphere of activity was made. During the latter four months the service was disorganised on account of the A.R.P. work which the department was called upon to perform.

All four of the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Centres became First Aid Posts or Casualty Stations, and the Health Visitors spent much of their time in organising the First Aid Posts, static or mobile. Much credit is due to them for the work they carried out, and the present organisation is the result of their efforts in co-operation with the medical officers attached to the posts.

In the early days of the war, it was essential to concentrate in the first place on seeing that babies were provided with the foods to which they were accustomed, and although the welfare centres were occupied by A.R.P. personnel, steps were nevertheless taken to assure that the clinics were open an adequate number of times during the week to achieve this object. The sale of foods continued, as did the granting of free foods to those who were in need thereof. At the same time a skeleton dental service was carried out, whilst ante-natal work continued almost unabated.

The Committee will realise, however, that this work could not be carried out so easily at the clinics whilst they were in occupation by A.R.P. In order to overcome this difficulty, a scheme was organised whereby ante-natal work was carried out by the midwives visiting the homes of their patients more frequently, and by the regular visitation of the patients by one of the medical officers of your staff.

Towards the end of the year, two of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, namely, St. Stephen's Road and Southbury Road, were vacated by the A.R.P. and became once more fully available for their normal purposes. It was not until the middle of 1940, however, that Rosemary Avenue Clinic was vacated: in the meanwhile the clinic was held at the hall of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, 49, Lancaster Road. Lincoln Road Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is still occupied by the A.R.P. Casualty Services, but Maternity and Child Welfare work still continues there, the two services working side by side with no more than the expected amount of discomfort to both services.

During this time trained nurses were being appointed to take charge of the First Aid Posts, and as a result it became possible to free the Health Visitors for their normal duties. They are, however, all attached to First Aid Posts and render excellent services there as additional trained nurses. In one case, one of your staff remains in charge of a mobile unit and is carrying out her duties there in conjunction with her welfare work and is giving satisfaction in both directions. She also has the help of another Health Visitor.

The figures will show that midwifery work has been continuing throughout the year on a scale no less than in 1938, and I consider that great appreciation is due to the midwives for the way in which they have carried out their work under black-out conditions.

The question that is now foremost in our minds is, naturally, what has been the effect of the war on ante-natal and nursing mothers and children under the age of five years. This report deals only with the year ending the 31st December, 1939, but I am satisfied and I think you will agree that the statistics in this report will show that during the whole of 1939 the health of the district was well maintained and was, in fact, as satisfactory as in any previous year.

The partial closure of the centres at the outbreak of war caused a considerable curtailment of their activities. It was immediately followed by many demands from the public that they should be opened at once for the purpose for which they were designed, namely, Maternity and Child Welfare. Every step was made to meet this demand, which was felt to be a public appreciation of the valuable work of the clinics.

After the clinics were re-opened every attempt was made to keep the numbers attending low to avoid a large congregation of persons on the premises at any one time. This again was found to be difficult, and even to-day, when this report is being written, the number of

mothers and children attending the centres still remains very high, a further demonstration of the desire and the need for Maternity and Child Welfare work throughout the district.

I am satisfied that the demand and the need for Maternity and Child Welfare to-day is as great, if not greater, than heretofore, and I am glad to realise that I have the full sympathy of my Committee in strengthening every possible scheme for the health of the children and the ante-natal and nursing mothers in the district.

It is most interesting to note that after a year of war the demand for the Council's midwives is almost the same as it was a year ago.

I would at this stage wish to express my thanks to the Committee for the help I received throughout the year and to record my appreciation of the Doctors, Nurses and Clerical Staff who, despite the demands of A.R.P., combined to secure the continuity of Maternity and Child Welfare work in the district.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. H. GEFFEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant mortality rate was 35.07, the lowest ever recorded in Enfield.

BIRTHS.

	1939.	1938.
Live births	1,756	1,736
Still births	62	51

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

During the year 13 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified, five of whom were removed to Hospital.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were seven maternal deaths resulting from Pregnancy.

SUPERVISION OF NURSING HOMES.

There are in Enfield the following Nursing Homes: —

Address.	Proprietor.	Total No. of Beds.	No. of Maternity Beds.
238 & 240, Baker Street, Enfield.	Barker, Mrs. ...	11	—
29, Derby Road, Ponders End.	Tughan, Dr. & Mrs.	4	4

These homes have been regularly inspected by your Medical Officers.

ADMINISTRATION OF MIDWIVES ACT, 1902-36.

During the year 1939 there were 21 Midwives practising in Enfield of whom five lived outside the district, but practised therein. The Midwives resident in the district were visited regularly by the Medical Officers and their records and equipment inspected. Of the 21 Midwives practising in the district, 12 were employed by the Council as whole-time Municipal Midwives, and one in a temporary capacity.

The following table shows the cases attended during 1939.

	1939	1938.
MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES.		
Cases attended as Midwives	658	482
Cases attended as Maternity Nurses ...	210	197
PRIVATE MIDWIVES.		
Cases attended as Midwives	38	97
Cases attended as Maternity Nurses ...	58	60

NOTIFICATIONS.

In accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives Board, the following notifications were received from Midwives:—

	1939.	1938.
Sending for Medical Aid	219	150
Still Births	7	3
Laying-out of the Dead	6	6
Artificial Feeding	9	5
Liability to be a source of Infection ...	4	10

The notifications in connection with Medical Aid can be classified as follows:—

During Pregnancy	9
During Labour	144
During Lying-in Period	26
Infant	40

HELP WITH COST OF MIDWIVES' FEE.

During the year 73 cases were helped with the cost of their Midwife's fee, compared with 21 in 1938.

OBSTETRIC SPECIALIST.

The Obstetric Specialist at the North Middlesex County Hospital was called in by the Enfield Practitioners in two cases of difficult labour.

HOME HELPS.

During the year Home Helps were supplied in 160 cases.

BIRTH CONTROL.

Throughout the year advice was given on Birth Control in accordance with Memorandum 153 M. & C.W. and Circulars 1208 and 1408 of the Ministry of Health.

CIRCULATION OF BOOKLET ON REARING OF CHILDREN.

The booklet "To Mothers and Fathers" was circulated throughout the year to mothers of all children born in the district. This booklet is very much welcomed by all classes of persons in Enfield, and I am satisfied that its circulation is of increased importance in war time.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

During the year 1,165 individual mothers attended the Ante-Natal Clinics, that is, 64 per cent. of Enfield mothers who were confined.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

The total number of children who attended at the Infant Welfare Clinic was 1,523.

VISITS.

The Council's Health Visitors paid 586 visits to Expectant Mothers, 2,436 to children under one year of age, and 3,955 to children between the ages of one and five years.

ASSISTED MILK SUPPLY.

The quantity of fresh and dried milk supplied to necessitous cases under the Milk Supply Scheme during the year was as follows:—

Fresh Milk	...	...	14,574 $\frac{7}{8}$ galls; cost, £1,596 6s. 4d.
Dried Milk	...	...	2,919 lbs.; cost, £225 1s. 9d.

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

Routine medical inspection of children under five years of age continued until the outbreak of war.

AURAL TREATMENT.

During the year 37 children were referred to the School Aural Clinic.

OPHTHALMIC TREATMENT.

Twenty-five mothers and 59 children were referred during the year to the School Ophthalmic Surgeon.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

At the end of 1939 37 persons in Enfield were receiving children for reward; the total number of foster children being 45.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

During the course of the year 628 attendances were made by ante-natal and nursing mothers, and 373 by children at the Dental Clinics. Dentures were provided for 85 mothers.

BABY WEEK.

Baby Week was carried out as in previous years. Competitions were held and prizes were given.

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT.

Two mothers and seven children were sent to Convalescent Homes during the year.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The co-operation with the Head Teachers has been continued as in previous years, and the Health Visitors have attended at Senior Girls' Departments in order to demonstrate to the older girls the bathing of a baby.

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the year 1939.

PUBLIC OFFICES,

ENFIELD.

29th November, 1940.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of
Enfield.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1939. For reasons of economy my Report this year will be in a condensed form.

The total number of inspections made during the year for all purposes was 16,901. This figure is considerably less than for the previous year and is accounted for by the fact that from the outbreak of war to the end of the year, the services of the Inspectors were utilised in the building up of an efficient A.R.P. Casualty Service.

NOTICES ISSUED.

Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	549
Other Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,633
						Total	2,273
Letters re Air Raid Precautions	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,946
Other Letters sent	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,598
Number of Certificates issued in connection with plans	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Number of Certificates issued in connection with disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Number of Certificates issued in connection with unsound foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	110

Result of Service of Statutory and Informal Notices:—

	Statutory.	Informal
Number complied with	86	357
Number outstanding	5	192
	<hr/> 91	<hr/> 549

The inspection of premises revealed defects varied and general in character, and it is pleasing to record that a considerable amount of work was carried out by owners during the year.

Six hundred and seventy-three visits were paid in respect of children excluded from elementary schools during the year, and the total number of inspections and visits for all purposes made by the staff of the Public Health Department was 16,901.

DISINFECTION.

Number of houses disinfected after infectious disease, Phthisis and verminous cases	...	...	...	...	...	207
Number of articles of clothing, bedding, etc., disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	2,683

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, AND FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	236
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	14

HOMEWORK.

Sixty-three lists containing the names and addresses of 102 outworkers were received during the year. Fourteen addresses of outworkers were forwarded to other districts.

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Number of inspections	31
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OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Thirty-five offensive trade premises are established in the district and in connection with these, 55 inspections were made during the year.

One new fish-frying shop was opened during the year with the consent of the Council.

MILK.

Number of Licences in force on 31st December, under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938	37
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PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Total number of carcasses examined	14,610
Number, or parts, found to be diseased	...	...	...	436
Weight of do. do.	2 tons	9 cwt.	2 qrs.	12½ lbs.

It was found necessary, however, to take action against one butcher for not giving notice of intention to slaughter and for exposing a portion of a carcass affected with disease. The Magistrates imposed fines totalling £3 5s. 0d.

UN SOUND MEAT AND FOODS.

Number of inspections made to slaughter-houses, shops, stalls in markets and food-preparing shops	...	2,215
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-------

CARAVANS.

Number of applications received for consent	...	...	7
Number of applications granted	...	...	3

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

Total refuse collected and disposed of	...	20,497 tons
Cost of do. do.	...	£24,035
Cost per head of population	... ..	21s. 5.8d.
Average cost per house	... ..	16s. 5.7d.
Income from removal of trade refuse	... ..	£354 17s. 9d.

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

There is one Public Mortuary in the district which has received close supervision during the year.

Number of cases attended to	70
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This Report would not be complete unless I again state how much I appreciate the kindly manner in which Dr. Geffen, your Medical Officer of Health, has always treated me and the Staff, and the happy conditions under which we work. I also wish to thank the Council for their continued courtesy and support, and all the members of the Public Health Staff for the very competent manner in which they have carried out their duties, and for their help during the past year.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRED. WILSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st December, 1939.

**MEMBERS OF THE
ENFIELD EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

1939-40.

Chairman MR. H. A. DESHBOROUGH BROWN

Vice-Chairman MR. H. G. SHORT.

Representative Members.

MRS. F. M. BAX

MR. W. C. BENNETT

MR. H. A. DESHBOROUGH BROWN

MR. T. H. M. CLARKE

MR. H. H. COLLIER

MR. D. MASON

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Director of Education

E. PASCAL, ESQ., M.A.

Annual Report of School Medical Officer

DENNIS H. GEFFEN,

M.D., B.S., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

For the year ending 31st December, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Enfield Education Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the health of school children of Enfield for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

The work of the School Medical Department was continued on the same lines as in previous years until the outbreak of the war in September. The schools, which were closed for the Summer holidays did not re-open, and the staff of the School Medical Department was employed in the Air Raid Precaution Casualty Service. Eastern Enfield is an evacuation area and western Enfield a neutral area. The schools in the neutral area were opened for part-time education at the beginning of October, and some of the School Medical Services were recommenced as soon as the schools opened. The scope of the work then gradually increased until by the end of the year it was possible to return almost to pre-war conditions.

I beg to take this opportunity of thanking the Committee for the courtesy it has always extended to me, and to pay tribute to my colleague, Mr. Pascal, and to every member of the School Medical Department who has helped me during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DENNIS H. GEFFEN,

School Medical Officer.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

	July, 1939.
Average number on books of Elementary Schools ...	11,888
Average weekly attendance	10,547
Number of Schools	20

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The total number of children examined during the year was 2,843 as compared with 4,112 examined during 1938. 78 per cent. of the children examined were accompanied by their parents, and 36 per cent. were vaccinated.

DEFECTS FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Uncleanliness.—Of 2,843 children examined six were found to have vermin in their heads, and 77 had nits, i.e., 0.2 per cent. had verminous heads, and 2.7 per cent. had nits.

No cases of body vermin were found.

Nutrition. The following table shows the state of nutrition among the children examined:—

Number of children examined	2,843
Number of children classified "A"	149
Percentage of children classified "A"	5.8
Number of children classified "B"	1,641
Percentage of children classified "B"	64.6
Number of children classified "C"	673
Percentage of children classified "C"	26.4
Number of children classified "D"	81
Percentage of children classified "D"	3.2

A	Excellent.
B	Normal.
C	Slightly sub-normal.
D	Bad.

Skin Diseases.—Nineteen cases were seen: all required treatment.

Ear Diseases.—Three cases of middle ear disease were found and 18 cases of defective hearing. All were referred to the Aural Clinic for treatment.

Tonsils and Adenoids.—Nine hundred and seventy-three children had already had operation for removal of tonsils and/or adenoids. One hundred and eighty-eight were found to have enlarged tonsils, adenoids, or both.

Eye Diseases and Defects.—Seventeen children were found to be suffering from external eye disease. One hundred and eighty-one cases of defective vision were found, including 12 cases of squint.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Measles	1
German Measles	4
Mumps	14
Whooping Cough	198
Chickenpox	190
Scarlet Fever	99
Diphtheria	28
Poliomyelitis	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1

THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL NURSES.

Number of home visits	2,892
Number of school visits	368
Number of school visits for routine examination of heads	149
Total number of heads examined	33,773
Number of individual children found unclean	1,090
Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken	1

TREATMENT CLINICS.

Tonsils and Adenoids.—

Number of cases referred for treatment	334
Number of cases operated under the Authority's scheme	271
Number of cases operated by private arrangement	15

Ringworm.—Four cases were seen and treated at the clinics.

Impetigo.—Fifty-two cases were treated at the clinics.

Scabies.—Sixteen cases were treated.

Other Skin Diseases.—One hundred and twenty cases were seen and treated at the clinics.

Eye Diseases.—One hundred and forty-five cases were treated.

Ear Diseases.—Forty-eight cases were treated.

The total number of children examined during the year, excluding those attending the Dental Department, was 7,029.

This number was made up as follows:—

Examined at Routine Inspection	2,843
Examined at Minor Ailment Clinics	2,446
Examined at Ophthalmic Clinic only	562
Examined at Aural Clinic only	27
Examined at School Leaving Age for Juvenile Employment Committee	673
Examined under Juvenile Employment Bye-laws ...	64
Examined under Mental Deficiency Act	23
Examined as contacts with infectious disease ...	391

The amounts collected during the year in respect of medical treatment were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Minor Ailment Treatment	4	15	8
Ophthalmic Treatment (cost of Spectacles) ...	37	12	4
Convalescent Treatment	65	2	9
Operative treatment for removal of tonsils and adenoids	147	8	1
Dental treatment	49	7	3
Provision of Instruments	10	0	

The following help was afforded to children who were found to require it:—

Forty-one children were sent to residential special schools for physically defective children.

Two children were supplied with surgical instruments.

The Enfield Children's Care Committee also assisted in the following ways:—

Five children were sent to convalescent homes.

One child was given cod liver oil and malt.

Two hundred and fifteen children were supplied with boots.

There were 13 deaths among school children during the year.

The causes were as follows:—

1 Mitral Stenosis.

3 Tuberculous Meningitis.

1 Uraemia.

1 Acute Nephritis.

1 Cerebral Tumour.

1 Tumour of Spinal Cord.

2 Murdered (Coal Gas Poisoning).

1 Drowned.

1 Accident (Fractured Skull).

1 Accident (Multiple Injuries).

PROVISION OF MEALS.

Meals are provided for necessitous children at the following centres:—

St. Luke's Institute, Enfield.

Feeding Centre, Alma Road, Ponders End.

Bellside Dining Rooms, Enfield Wash.

Dining Rooms, St. Mark's Road, Bush Hill Park.

During 1939 50,436 dinners were provided free.

906,477 $\frac{1}{3}$ -pint bottles of milk were provided and paid for, and 84,546 were provided free.

BLIND, DEAF, EPILEPTIC, AND MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

There is one blind child in Enfield and she is attending Swiss Cottage School for the Blind.

Eleven children are in attendance at Philip Lane School for the Deaf, Tottenham; these may be classified as follows:—

2 Deaf-mutes.

4 suffering from acquired deafness.

5 suffering from motor aphasia,

Twenty-three children were examined under the Mental Deficiency Act (1913) during 1939. These were scheduled as follows:—

Dull and backward but capable of instruction in an elementary school	...	...	...	...	3
Mentally defective but capable of instruction in a special school	...	...	...	...	9
Imbecile	...	...	...	...	2
Not scheduled	...	...	...	...	9

EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The number of children examined in the course of Routine Medical Inspection at the secondary schools was as follows:—

Junior Technical School	...	...	...	...	51
Grammar School	...	...	...	...	71
County School	...	...	...	...	204

The classification of the nutrition of these children was as follows:—

School.	Classification.			
	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D"
Junior Technical	4	40	7	—
Grammar	4	56	11	—
County	15	150	37	2

The following defects were found:—

	Jnr. Technical.	Grammar.	County.
Dental Caries	2	5	4
Defective Vision	3	3	23
Enlarged Tonsils	—	—	1
Other Nose & Throat Conditions	—	1	—
Skin Diseases	—	—	1
Conjunctivitis	—	—	1
Other diseases and defects	—	1	7

Three hundred and twenty-one children were treated at the Dental Clinic and 81 at the Ophthalmic Clinic during 1939.

SCHOOL DENTAL CLINICS.

	Elementary Schools.	Secondary Schools.
Number Inspected	4838	859
Number Treated	3059	321
Number of Fillings	3778	1210
Number of Extractions	6372	286

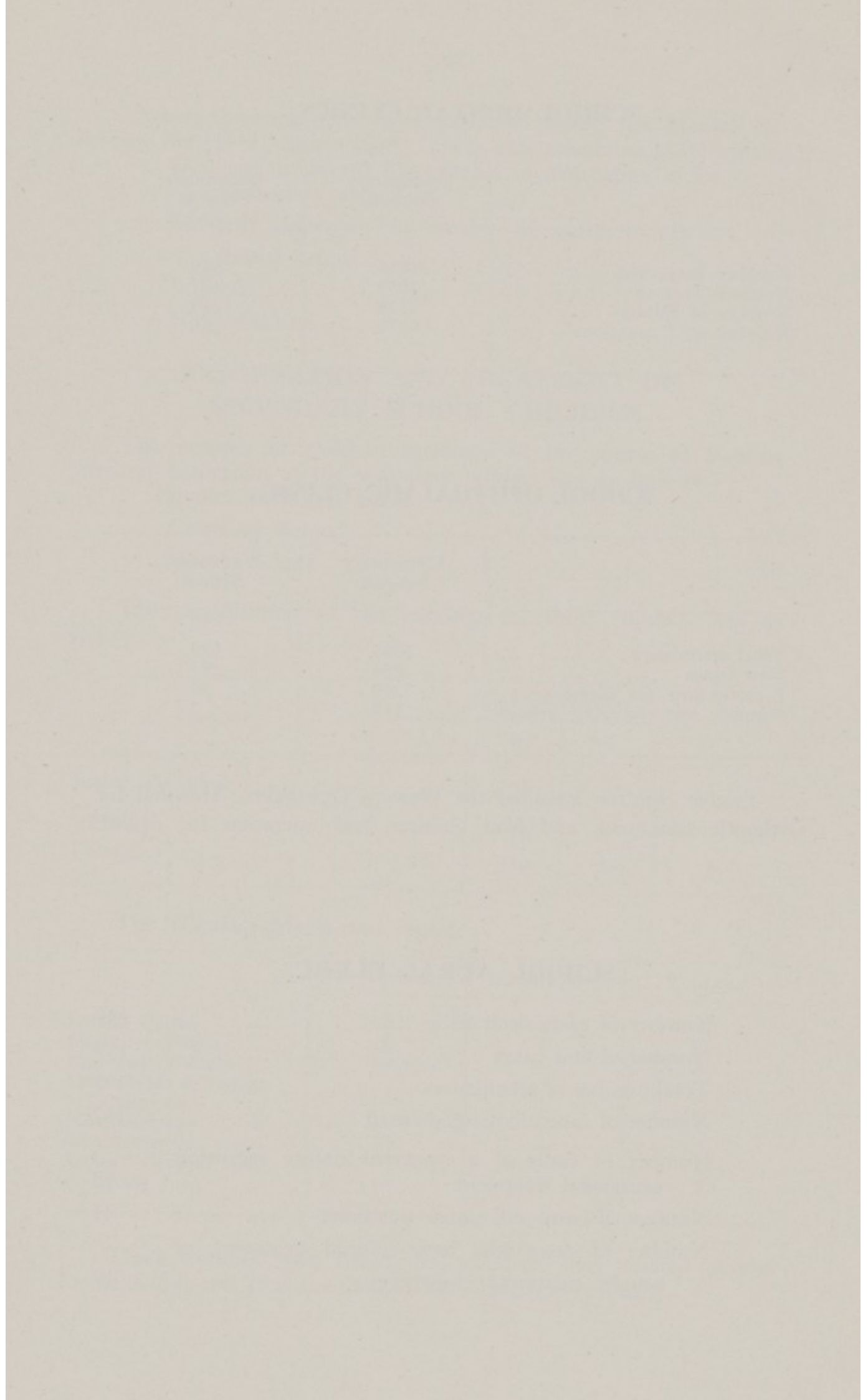
SCHOOL OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

	Elementary Schools.	Secondary Schools.
Total attendance	1565	129
New Cases	866	81
Prescriptions for glasses	290	30
Number not requiring glasses	117	7

Twelve children attended the Western Ophthalmic Hospital for Orthoptic treatment, and four children had operation for squint.

SCHOOL AURAL CLINIC.

Number of cases dealt with	289
Number of new cases	159
Total number of attendances	495
Number of cases discharged cured	162
Number of cases of a recurrent nature requiring occasional treatment	13
Number of cases still under treatment	41
Number of cases who have refused treatment, or sought treatment elsewhere	19





Enfield:
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PRINTERS,
WINDMILL HILL.



