

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

Contributors

Bromley (London, England). Municipal Borough.

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PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, 1941

Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer
Assistant Medical Officers of Health and Assistant School Medical Officers

B O R O U G H o f B R O M L E Y.

Orthopaedic Surgeon
J. A. Cholmeley, F.R.C.S.

Eye Specialist
J. K. H. Rushton, M.B., Ch.B.

1 9 4 1

A N N U A L R E P O R T

Anesthetists
Assistant Medical Officer

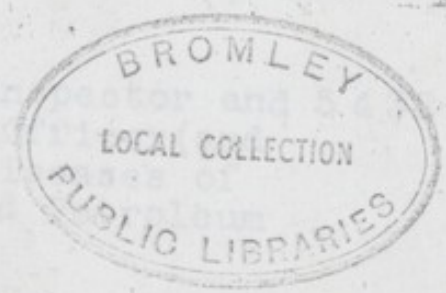
Consulting Gynaecologist
J. D. B. Lindsay, M.D.

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and

S C H O O L M E D I C A L O F F I C E R .

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CONFIDENTIAL.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1941.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer	2	K. E. Tapper, O.B.E., G.M., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officers of Health and Assistant School Medical Officers	2	Miss G. H. Stinson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
	2	A. Thomson, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.
Orthopaedic Surgeon	2	1 J. A. Cholmeley, F.R.C. S.
Eye Specialist	2	1 R. H. Rushton, M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P. (Locum for Eric Lyle, M.A., M.D., C.L.B., D.O.M.S., on Military Service).
Anaesthetists		Assistant Medical Officers.
Consulting Gynaecologist	2	1 D. M. Lindsey, M.D. M.R.C.O.G. (Locum for Alistair L. Gunn, M.D., F.R.C.S., on Military Service).
School Dental Surgeons	2	J. H. Glen, L.D.S., R.C.S., (Appointed 1.12.41).
	2	1 Fairman J. Ordish, L.D.S., R.C.S.
	2	T. S. Latham, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Resigned 31.8.41).
Chief Sanitary Inspector and Chief Sampling Officer (and Inspector for Diseases of Animals Acts and Petroleum Acts)	5 4 3 2	G. R. Woods, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
District Sanitary Inspectors and Sampling Officers	5 4 3 2	T. C. Towersey, M.S.I.A.
Acting Senior Clerk	9 4 3 2	E. R. H. Hodge, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I. (On Military Service)
Clerks		

	3 2	H. Cooper. (Temporary appointment 28.4.41)
	5 4 3 2	W. H. Sayers, M.S.I.A. A.R.San.I. (Resigned 27.4.41)
Health Visitors and School Nurses	8 7 6 2	Miss L. A. Briggs.
	8 7 6 2	Miss E. B. Crowe.
	8 7 6 2	Miss D. Prime.
	8 7 6 2	Miss E. Rhodes.
	8 7 6 2	Miss J. Blake. (Appointed 2.5.41.)
	8 7 6 2	Miss E. Brooks. (Appointed 8.9.41.)
	8 7 6 2	Miss E. Oakes (Resigned 14.3.41)
	8 7 6 2	Miss E.M.M. Roberts. (Resigned 13.7.41)
Municipal Midwives	7 6 2	Miss S. A. Garner.
	7 6 2	Miss M. R. Jenkins (On Military Service)
	7 6 2	Miss E. Smith.
	6 2	Miss A. M. Winter.
	7 6 2	Miss E. V. Robathan.
Orthopaedic Nurse	2 1	Miss M. Dodge, C.S.M.M.G.
Orthoptic Nurse	2 1	Miss M. F. Balkwill.
		<u>General Office Staff.</u>
Chief Clerk	2	H. E. Lawley.
Senior Clerk	2	S. F. Judd (On Military Service)
Acting Senior Clerk	2	W. S. Dench
Clerks	2	E. H. Andrews (On Military Service)
	2	Mrs J.L.H. West (nee Huntley)

	2 Miss R. Brock (On Military Service)
	2 Miss D. E. Thomas
Temporary Clerks	Mrs E. M. Holland. (nee Summerton)
	2 Miss R. M. Aldous (Appointed 19.5.41)
	2 Miss B. G. Shalders (Appointed 21.3.41 and resigned 10.5.41)
Dental Clinic Assistants	2 Miss E. B. Fleming.
	2 1 Miss M. M. Ellen (appointed 7.8.41)
	2 1 Mrs A. B. Waters (Resigned 7.8.41)

Casualty Service (Temporary Appointments.)

Staff Officer	D. H. Carlill (Appointed 15.9.41).
	A. V. Garrod (Resigned 13.9.41).
Superintendent Civilian War Deaths	R. W. Uden (Appointed 21.1.42 previously voluntary from 31.8.39).

Outdoor Staff.

Drain Tester and Disinfectors	J. W. Seager.
Market Superintendent	1 F. J. Ephgrave.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Denotes part-time. | 7. State Certified Midwife. |
| 2. Exchequer Grants. | 8. R. S. Inst. Health Visitors
Cert. |
| 3. Cert. of R.S. Inst. & Sanitary
Inspectors' Joint Examination
Board. | 9. R.S. Inst. Cert. in
Sanitary Science as applied
to Building and Public
Works. |
| 4. R.S. Inst. Cert. for Meat and
Other Foods. | |
| 5. R. S. Inst. Smoke Cert. | |
| 6. General Trained (S.R.N.) | |

BOROUGH OF BROMLEY.Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Year 1941.C O N F I D E N T I A L.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1941, and at the same time I must express regret for the delay in publication but, although the bulk of the Report had been prepared earlier in the year, its final completion had to be unavoidably deferred owing to stress of work and recurring changes in staff personnel unsettling the smooth running of administrative routine.

The Report is an abridged and interim one, and has been prepared on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health in Circulars 2604, 2314 and 2067. The Ministry has suggested that care should be taken to avoid publishing certain statistics and to refrain from referring to activities in connection with public works extensions or developments, in the interests of National security. Previous substantial curtailments of reports together with this further restriction so circumscribes the scope of the Report as to render it of diminished value for general circulation or for future archival interest. It was therefore decided to issue the Report in typescript as a confidential publication, limiting its circulation to official requirements only, thus allowing if necessary any references or quotations without compromising matters of National security. Fuller details of annual statistics have been compiled and are retained for future reference in the Department.

It has been truly stated that good health of the Public ranks in war-time as an important munition of war. Any neglect to control the factors which threaten serious deterioration of public health might well end in the subversion of the productive effort of the workers and a weakening of the national will to victory. Fortunately there has been no serious health deterioration since the outbreak of war, no serious epidemics, and no apparent signs of general ill-nutrition. There have been, however, certain degrees of deterioration which must not be overlooked - the general rise in both incidence and mortality of tuberculosis; infantile mortality has risen in the country - always regarded as an indication of the state of public health - and the prevalence of cerebro-spinal

fever and the intestinal infectious diseases, apart from the typhoids, all call for careful vigilance. These are generalizations applicable to the country as a whole and are not to be applied in particular to the Borough.

Post-war planning is very much to the fore these days, and that considerable changes in the public health services will be effected may be taken for granted. For many years past public health authorities have been mindful of shortcomings and deficiencies in their services, and a study of the annual reports issued during the last quarter of a century will bear witness to the fact that there exists an earnest desire for improvement and expansion. Our aim should be for an absolute and vigorous national health policy in the future, so that for every citizen in every part of the country there shall be available the maximum benefits that the medical services can confer. All hospitals, medical, health and ancillary services should be more closely co-ordinated into one organisation able to deal adequately and efficiently with the medical and health needs of the people. Broadly we may visualise in the future the establishment of a local Health Centre as the unit of Public Health services organised and fully equipped to render both preventive and curative services completely effective, and linked in close association with hospital and other institutional facilities. Into this unit has to be brought those specialists in fields other than medicine, the sanitarian, the architect, the engineer, the teacher, the sociologist, the physical training expert, and all those who make for the wellbeing of the individual and of the environment in which he lives. Health cannot be obtained by the practice of medicine alone. A full purse, and the power and intelligence to enjoy leisure time are fundamentals in the production of positive health.

Turning to the health statistics for Bromley for 1941 we find a generally satisfactory state of affairs. The following is a comparison of vital rates during the war years:

	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1939.</u>
Population	50,430	56,580	60,000
Birth Rate	13.3	13.2	13.9
Stillbirth Rate	28.1	33.2	44.8
Death Rate	15.1	12.5	9.7
Maternal Mortality Rate	4.68	1.28	3.45
Infant Death Rate	28.8	22.6	28.9

Scarlet Fever was prevalent during 1941 with 119 cases compared with 49 in 1940, but was mild in character and no mortality occurred.

Diphtheria was notified in 31 instances with a mortality of 3 deaths - 10 per cent of cases - which underlines the need of immunization.

Measles was prevalent in epidemic form from the autumn of 1940 until it reached peak in June Quarter, 1941, when the epidemic almost immediately subsided in July. The infection was mild and mortality was absent.

Infantile Mortality continued on a pleasingly low rate of 28 per 1,000 live births, compared with 59 for the country as a whole.

Scabies was prevalent and needed our constant attention throughout the year. New factors of spread of infection in this and other infectious diseases have entered into the field of control and supervision through crowding in shelters and through the communal use of blankets by persons required to sleep at their duty stations during war time.

I have pleasure in drawing the attention of the Committees to the loyal service of all members of the Department; their application to duty during these difficult times is exemplary. I am also appreciative of the special help Mr. Lawley, Chief Clerk, has given me during the year. This Report does not cover the work of the Officers of the Department in the sphere of their Civil Defence duties, but, notwithstanding the additional work occasioned by the Casualty Services, &c., which come within the scope of the Department, they have maintained their duties in the Health Services at pre-war standards.

A tribute too must be paid to the general public for the part they have played in co-operating with us; they have continued to use the services, the centres and clinics in spite of the period of intensive raiding. Their morale is beyond praise, aided as it has been by the Civil Defence work of the Health Visitors and Midwives who have attended to duty under all conditions.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,
K. E. TAPPER,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA, 1941.

STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	6,519.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid-1941	50,430.
No. of inhabited houses according to the rate books (31.3.41)	15,919.
No. of valuation assessments of habitable promises at 31.3.42:-	
Bromley	14,158
Hayes & Keston	<u>2,772</u>
Rateable Value (31.3.1942)	£698,666.
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated for year ending 31.3.1942)	£2,700.

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>For calculating Birth Rates.</u>			
	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	(Birth Rate per
Legitimate	622	321	301	(1,000 of the
Illegitimate	49	18	31	(estimated resident
	-----	-----	-----	(population mid-
	671	339	332	(1941 - 13.3.

	<u>For calculating Infant and</u>		
	<u>Maternal Mortality Rates.</u>		
	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	573	296	277
Illegitimate	49	18	31
	-----	-----	-----
	622	314	308

<u>Still-Births:</u>	<u>For Calculating Birth Rates.</u>		
	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	18	6	12
Illegitimate	2	-	2
	-----	-----	-----
	20	6	14

	<u>For Calculating Infant and</u>			
	<u>Maternal Mortality Rates.</u>			
	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	(Stillbirth Rate
Legitimate	16	6	10	(per 1,000 total
Illegitimate	2	-	2	(live & still)
	-----	-----	-----	(births: <u>28.1</u>)
	18	6	12	

VITAL STATISTICS (Continued).

<u>Deaths:</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	(Rate per 1,000 (estimated average resident population <u>15.1</u>)
From all causes	763	343	420	

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The Registrar General has not issued an Areal Comparability Factor as the variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of the Comparability Factor. The preparation and issue of such factors are being suspended under present conditions.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

	<u>No. of Deaths.</u>	(Rate per 1,000 total live and still births: <u>4.68</u>)
Puerperal Sepsis	2	
Other Puerperal Causes	1	

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	16	12	4
Illegitimate	2	-	2
	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	28.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	27.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	40.8

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 123

Deaths from measles (all ages) 1

Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) -

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 5

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Bromley as a wholly residential area has no industrial or occupational conditions liable to exert adverse influence on the health of the population.

METEOROLOGY.

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the following details from records compiled in his Department:--

Year 1941.

Total rainfall	25.57 ins.
Mean maximum daily temperature	57 deg. F.
Mean minimum daily temperature	42 deg. F.
Highest maximum temperature recorded (8.7.1941)	91 deg. F.
Lowest minimum temperature recorded (18.1.1941 & 19.2.1941)	20 deg. F.
Lowest grass minimum temperature recorded (17.1.41)	17 deg. F..

POPULATION.

The basis of all vital statistics is population, and it is by census that a dependable figure can be obtained. A census is taken, however, only once in ten years, and thus the very considerable changes that occur during the inter-censal period render our estimates of population, very dependable, except during the two or three years after the census.

It is not without some diffidence that one approaches the problem of estimating the present population of the Borough. The call-up, conscription, evacuation and abnormal movements of population must be taken into account when considering a figure.

The latest valuation assessment of inhabitable premises is 16,930 and reckoning 3.61 persons per house gives a potential population of 61,117, which may be accepted as approximating to the post-war figure when conditions have reached a general degree of settlement.

A more acceptable figure at the present time is 57,467 derived on the same calculation from the latest return of 15,919 inhabited houses according to the rate books, but this makes no allowance for temporary absence of persons owing to war conditions and requirements.

The figure of 3.61 persons per house comes from the housing survey of 1936 and is preferred to the 1931 Census figures taken before the amalgamation of Bromley with Hayes and Keston.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate for 1941 is 50,430 and full account of population movement is taken in this estimation. This figure forms the basis for calculation of all vital statistical rates, and it follows that rates will be abnormal in comparison with previous years.

BIRTHS.

During the year 474 births have been notified to me by doctors and midwives. Of this number 462 were live births and 12 stillbirths. The Registrar General, however, gives a total for the year of 691 births comprising 671 live births and 20 stillbirths, which have been adjusted by inward and outward transfers according to the normal residence of the parents. Many births of Bromley children took place outside the area during the year, owing to the dispersal of population. Although we continue to receive notifications of a good proportion of the out-of-district births, the routine of notification as between authorities throughout the country is not entirely consistent. Early knowledge of incoming births allows of early visitation by the health visitor. The fortuitous discovery of births by health visitors in the course of routine visitation some six months after birth is not infrequently the occasion of comment by the mother who thinks the local health authorities are at fault. The basic fault in the administration is perhaps to be found in the present dual arrangement of notification and registration of births at differing times controlled by differing authorities, which is not conducive to smooth co-ordination of information between authorities with regard to the inward and outward transfer of births.

The following is a comparison with the rates for the London area and the whole of the country:-

<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>London County.</u>	<u>Bromley.</u>
14.2	8.9	13.3

DEATHS.

There were 763 deaths from all causes in 1941 (an excess of 30 over the total for 1940) which produces an abnormally high Death Rate for the area of 15.1 This of course is due in part to the low figure of population on which we must base our figures for the year.

The following is a comparison with the rates for the London area and the whole of the country:-

<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>London County.</u>	<u>Bromley.</u>
12.9	16.3	15.1

The main causes of deaths in the total for Bromley were:-

Heart disease	170
Cancer	123
Violent causes	120
Respiratory(non-tuberculous)	93

Special attention must be called to three deaths from Diphtheria out of 31 cases notified during the year - a mortality of 9.7 per cent. These children were between the ages of 2 and 5 years and had they been immunised their lives might have been preserved.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

A pleasing feature of the vital statistics for 1941 is the continuance of low infantile mortality figures. There were 18 deaths of infants under one year compared with 17 for the previous year. Thus the Infantile Mortality Rate for 1941 is 28.9 per 1,000 live births, which compares well with the record figure of 22.6 for 1940 and coincides with the rate for 1939. A comparison with the rates of the country as a whole and of London area is as follows:-

<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>London County.</u>	<u>Bromley.</u>
59	68	28

It can be said that 50 per cent of deaths occurring during the first month of life are due to prematurity. A feature of the Municipal Midwifery Service is concentration on ante-natal care which cannot fail to exert an influence on the prevention of premature births. The constant work of the Health Visitor in education on infant feeding and management can be claimed to have played its part in diminishing mortality from debility and marasmus. It is ante-natal care, quality of help given at birth, and the attention to infant feeding and management which have been made prime factors by the Public Health Service in recent years in order to reduce infantile mortality to its present low level.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The Maternal Mortality Rate for 1941 is 4.68 per 1,000 (live and still) births, compared with 1.28 for 1940. This rate is comparable with the prevailing rates of previous years.

There were three deaths, two due to puerperal sepsis and one to other causes. In one case only could death be traceable to neglect to obtain proper medical and midwifery attention. In this case death was recorded as septicaemia from incomplete septic abortion, the patient, who was forty years of age, had given birth to a stillborn child three days prior to admission to hospital. There was no evidence of medical or midwifery attention either at the abortion or during the succeeding days before admission.

The facilities provided through the Local Authority's Municipal Midwifery Service ensure that every expectant woman has proper and adequate attention throughout the ante-natal, natal and post-natal periods. These services are complete and available to all.

SECTION B(I) GENERAL PROVISION OF
HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

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There are no important changes or developments to report in the following services in respect of 1941:-

- (a) Laboratory Services.
- (b) Ambulance Services.
- (c) Nursing in the Home.
- (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics provided by the Local Authority.
- (e) Tuberculosis Dispensary, 2, Park Road.
- (f) Venereal Diseases and Treatment Centres.
- (g) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. Section 187/195,

NURSING HOME.

There were five nursing homes on the register at the close of the year 1941. They provide beds for 52 patients (a) 29 maternity and (b) 23 others. During the year three homes closed down. Dr. G. H. Stinson Assistant Medical Officer of Health, who made fifteen visits of inspection reports that records, equipment and the premises were satisfactory.

The office routine of recording all deaths whereby, inter alia, a frequency of deaths occurring at one address is disclosed was instrumental in bringing to light the existence of an unregistered home. This home

had been moved temporarily from a coastal area, where registration had been duly effected and the nursing home keeper thought under the circumstances that further registration was unnecessary. The home conditions were satisfactory, and informal warning was deemed adequate in this contravention.

SECTION B (II) MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE

.....

This service was maintained in full operation during the year and no important changes or developments were instituted.

NATAL SERVICES.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service.

The midwives are to be commended for their unflinching devotion to duty during the trying circumstances of air-raiding. Mothers received professional attention at all times whether raiding was in progress or not.

The following statistics serve to indicate very briefly the extent of the work accomplished by the four Municipal Midwives during 1941:-

Total number of bookings	299
Disposed of as follows:-	
Booked for midwife	177
Booked for maternity nurse	44
Booked for hospital	57
Subsequent transfers to hospital	9
Bookings cancelled, evacuation, &c	12
No. of confinements attended:-	
As midwife	164
As maternity nurse	25
No. of visits by midwives:-	
Ante-natal	2066
Post-natal	3128

Domiciliary Medical Practitioner Service:

No. of medical examinations made by doctors:

Ante-natal	161
Post-natal	70

Home Helps.

No. of patients engaging home helps . . . 113

No. of home helps so employed . . . 45

In view of the increased cost of living the wages of home helps have been increased to 30s. Od. per week. The patient repays the wages of the home help either in whole or in part, according to the income scale in operation.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The Municipal Midwives attend these clinics and by so doing achieve a close co-ordination between the Maternity and Child Welfare Services, the patient and the Doctor in charge of the clinic. Dr. G. H. Stinson, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, attends the clinic.

No. of sessions held . . . 48

No. of medical consultations . . . 214

No. of attendances by patients . . . 253

The foregoing figures show a marked improvement over those for 1940.

Dental Scheme for Nursing and Expectant Mothers.

The resignation of Mr. T. S. Latham, Dental Surgeon, in August left a gap in the work of this service until his successor, Mr. J. H. Glen, commenced duty in December. Nevertheless the following figures of work indicates that the call on the Dentist's time under this scheme is by no means a diminishing quantity.

No. of sessions held . . . 69

No. of attendances of mothers . . . 429

No. of patients discharged, treatment complete 120

Details of Treatment.

Attendances for Gas	Fillings	29.
administration	Dentures fitted	69.
Attendances for Local	Denture work	
anaesthetics	attendances	179.
Extractions		
		457.

Administration of Midwives Acts, 1902-1936.

Dr. G. H. Stinson carries out the duties of Inspector of Midwives and during her periodical inspections found the practising midwives were maintaining the good standard we have learnt to associate with their work in the area.

No. of midwives practising in the area at the end of 1941 16.

No. of confinements attended 468
 (a) as midwives 292
 (b) as maternity nurse 176

No of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Sec. 14(i) of the Midwives Act, 1918, by a midwife for domiciliary cases 47.

Maternity Hospital Provision.

48 patients were admitted to the County Hospital, Farnborough, under the Council's scheme of Assisted Maternity Hospital Provision.

The Bromley, Chislehurst and District Maternity Hospital, a voluntary hospital, has 15 beds (exclusive of 4 isolation and labour beds), and is subsidised from public funds through the County Council.

The No. of patients admitted to this Hospital during the year 1941 235.

(a) Cases delivered by midwives 117
 (b) " " " doctors 98
 (c) Expectant mothers admitted for treatment 20

No. of cases notified as -
 (a) Puerperal pyrexia 4
 (b) Ophthalmia Neonatorum -
 (c) Pemphigus "

No. of Infant Deaths:
 (a) Stillborn 5
 (b) Within 10 days of birth 3

No. of maternal deaths -

Puerperal Pyrexia.

7 cases were notified during 1941 in the area as against 2 in 1940. 5 patients received institutional treatment.

POST-NATAL SERVICES.

Health Visitors. Home Visiting.

A total of 5,621 visits were made by the Health Visitors during the year. This shows a falling off compared with the total for 1940, but prolonged sick leave and changes in staff were responsible for the decrease.

Welfare Centres.

The voluntary workers have continued to give unsparingly of their time and this invaluable help at the Centres renders great assistance to the Health Visitors.

The Centres accepted responsibility for distributing fruit juices and cod liver oil free to children under two years of age, and later the distribution was extended to children over two years of age. This undertaking causes some congestion and adds to the normal work of the Centres but co-operation with the Food Control Authority has continued, as the Centres appear to provide an efficient and convenient agency through which to make the distribution.

The venue of the Masons Hill Centre has been changed from St. Mark's Hall to the William Morris Hall, Masons Hill.

The progressive falling off of attendances at Welfare Centres since the outbreak of war is shown in the following comparative table of figures. This falling off may be ascribed to several factors prevailing in these exceptional times, e.g. falling off in births, voluntary dispersal of population to quieter areas, and mothers taking up whole-time and part-time employment in increasing numbers and placing their babies out to the care of friends during the day. Intensive raiding was still in progress in the early part of the year and that the attendances should be as high as they are is a tribute to the morale of the people and to the necessary good work of the centres.

	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1939.</u>	<u>1938.</u>
Total No. of babies on the registers at 31.12.41.	3885	3671	3389	2749
Total attendances of babies at all the centres	15989	20433	25993	27105
Total of medical exam'ns	2793	3085	3535	4174
Total No. of weighings	14583	18353	22899	24011

Child Life Protection.

32 routine visits to the homes of foster children were made by the Health Visitors and no unsatisfactory conditions were reported. There were 22 boarded-out children on the register at the end of the year.

Clinic Treatment of Children under 5 years.

Tonsil and adenoid operative treatment is still in abeyance, otherwise the usual facilities for treatment of the pre-school child are in operation.

The number treated during the year was:-

Tonsil & Adenoid Clinic (other than operative treatment)	3
Eye Clinic	44
Minor Ailments Clinic	84
Orthopaedic Clinic	102

Dental Clinic:

Appointments kept	161.	No. of fillings completed	23.
No. discharged treatment completed	92.	No. of extractions completed	248.
Attendances for extractions under gas	78	No. of dressings completed	7.
Attendances for extractions local anaesthesia	4.		

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF
THE AREA.

.....

There are no important developments to report under the following headings:-

Water.

Drainage.

Public Cleansing.

Cesspools.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

6 routine inspections of water courses were made during 1941, and in one instance a nuisance existed which was subsequently remedied.

STATIC WATER STORAGE.

The question of preventing mosquitoes from breeding in tanks and other collections of water reserved in static conditions has been taken in hand by the Department. The most common species found breeding in such places seldom attack human beings but are a great source of annoyance in houses and bedrooms. Other and more troublesome species breed in static water contaminated with aquatic vegetation and will bite human beings. During the breeding season, April to September, constant attention to removal of vegetation and floating matter and spraying with suitable solutions will do much to eliminate this insect nuisance.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1941:-

Type of Inspection	Nuisances found.	No. of Inspections			Total Inspections.
		On Complaint	Routine	Re-visits.	
Housing	559	420	511	1122	2053
Food Preparing Places	33	-	1594	44	1638
Trade Premises	11	2	233	23	258
Miscellaneous	137	96	293	305	694
Totals	740	518	2631	1494	4643

Mr. G. R. Woods, Chief Sanitary Inspector, has had to devote much time during the year to food control and shelters, and decontamination arrangements and duties as Milk Officer have devolved on Mr. T. C. Towersey, District Sanitary Inspector. Thus in addition to the above figures the following visits and interviews were made:-

Food enforcement enquiries	602.
A.R.P. Petrol	41.
Shelters, trenches	692.
Decontamination	42
Interviews	596.
	<u>1973</u>

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS ABATED.

Housing - Drainage	197
Dampness	109
General items	267
Water supply	45

Food Preparing places	94
Trade premises	122
Miscellaneous	179

 1013

NOTICES ISSUED.

Preliminary - Housing	413
Others	86

 499

Statutory -	Nil.
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FACTORIES.

The following figures indicate the work carried out by the Inspectors under the Factories Act, 1937:-

<u>Factory Premises.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(a) With mechanical power	141	9
(b) Without mechanical power	36	3
(c) Other premises	75	18
	<u>252</u>	<u>30</u>

The number of defects found and subsequently remedied were 98.

SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1936.

15 inspections were made under the above-mentioned Acts and two infringements were discovered and subsequently remedied through informal action. This is an unusually low figure of visitation for the specific purposes of these Acts, but some 1,896 visits to various food shops and trade premises have also been made and infringements of the Shops Acts are noted and dealt with at the same time.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

15 inspections were carried out and 3 nuisances were corrected.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is nothing of a special nature to record.

VERMINOUS HOUSES.

58 inspections were made and 16 infestations were dealt with. A further 25 visits were made in connection with disinfection purposes.

With regard to the Council's Housing Estates no noteworthy change in bug infestation routine has been adopted. In point of fact very little verminous conditions have been reported on the Estates during the year.

It must not be inferred from these comments that bug infestation is now a negligible quantity in the area. It is more likely that the opposite is the case, as, with the routine of house-to-house inspection necessarily in abeyance, the principal means of systematic discovery of infestations is therefore not functioning. The hardened culprit who permits verminous conditions to exist will not disclose the fact to the authorities, and it is only the casual complaint which can be dealt with in these times of stress.

RATS AND MICE.

The Sanitary Inspectors have given as much available time as possible to dealing with rodent nuisances. 364 inspections were made in connection with 98 known infestations.

The cunning, filth and disease spreading propensities of rats and their ability to defile and destroy millions of pounds worth of valuable food and produce annually, present difficult problems with regard to adequate control and destruction. The destruction of these pests, if to be really effective, should be continuously systematic, and complete co-operation in any measures of elimination must be exercised by all parties concerned from the central authorities, local authorities, farmers, warehouse keepers, food store keepers, shop-keepers, right through all the trading concerns to the householder. Amidst their many duties the Sanitary Inspectors cannot hope to deal with more than complaints received.

At the time of writing it had been announced that

the Ministry of Agriculture had passed their control under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, to the Ministry of Food. The scope of action envisaged and called for by the Ministry of Food would occupy the attention of health staffs to the exclusion of almost every other duty.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

No legal proceedings under the foregoing headings were taken, but proceedings under the Food and Drugs Act are reported later in this Report.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

In the reports of the pre-war years I have deprecated the increasing practice of transforming houses into so-called flats with a minimum attempt to provide separate sanitary, cooking and washing facilities. As a result of raid devastation sub-division of houses has been intensified, but alleviation of this undesirable feature in housing conditions must of necessity be deferred for earnest consideration to the days of reconstruction.

This is only one small point arising in the great social reform of re-housing with all its complications which awaits the planning of post-war housing. It would be idle at this juncture to attempt to forecast post-war housing policy, but of one thing we may be certain, a vast housing programme awaits us which must be planned on a nation wide basis. The war will alter many of our pre-war social habits; for example community feeding may continue into the post-war period; the equal employment of women in the labour market will influence the continuance of war-time nurseries and the care and attention of the child in its pre-school age.

In the midst of additional duties due to war-time conditions the depleted staff of Sanitary Inspectors have been unable to attend to the essentials of housing inspection during 1941. On complaint 420 houses have been inspected involving a total of 1,630 inspections. Over 600 housing defects of one kind or another have been abated and 413 houses rendered fit as the result of cordial co-operation between the owners, agents and the staff without resort to any statutory action.

Two instances of gross overcrowding were investigated on complaint and the adverse conditions found were abated. It is impracticable at this juncture to report on overcrowding conditions. Abnormal cases are being dealt with as and when they arise.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION
OF FOOD.

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In addition to the normal statutory duties carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors in relation to the inspection and supervision of food under the Food and Drugs Act, the duties of Enforcement Officer under the regulations of the Ministry of Food have been undertaken by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, at the special request of the Local Food Control Committee and with the consent of the Local Authority. The special qualifications for food inspection held by the Sanitary Inspectors, with their extensive knowledge of local conditions, have been of inestimable value in securing effective supervision and co-operation in this particular work. The employment of the personnel normally undertaking food supervision in an area avoids that undesirable element of dual control which experience has demonstrated is so often an irritating factor in co-operation between authorities and the public.

MILK SUPPLY.

92 routine inspections of registered dairy shops were made, and 3 instances of defective conditions were found and subsequently abated. In 57 instances milk was examined in the course of distribution.

The current register of dairies and milk shops contained the following figures of registration:-

(i) Premises within the Borough	76.
(ii) Premises outside the Borough	25.

The Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936-1938.

The Local Authority has issued licences for graded as follows:

Pasteuriser's Licence	1.
Dealers' Licence :	
"Pasteurised" milk	13.
"Tuberculin Tested" milk	7.
Supplementary Licences:	
"Pasteurised" milk	3.
"Tuberculin Tested" milk	3.

5 samples of "Tuberculin Tested" milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, and satisfied the prescribed tests. 42 "Pasteurised" milk samples were submitted for test of which 3 were found on examination not to consist of "pasteurised" milk, and in 1 case pasteurisation had not been thorough; the remainder satisfied the prescribed tests. 8 ordinary milk samples sent for test were found satisfactory.

Details of 94 samples of milk taken under the Food and Drugs Act appear under that heading as follows.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The following table gives the number and description of samples taken during 1941:

	<u>Formal.</u>	<u>Informal.</u>	<u>Genuine.</u>	<u>Adulterated.</u>
Alcoholic drink	-	1	1	-
Arrowroot	1	-	1	-
Aspirin tablets	-	1	1	-
Brawn	7	-	7	-
Barley, Pearl	1	1	2	-
Coffee	11	1	10	2
Custard Powder	1	2	3	-
Cocoa	1	1	2	-
Dessert Powder	-	1	1	-
Flour	1	-	1	-
Flour, Self Raising	2	-	2	-
Glauber Salt	-	1	1	-
Jam, Raspberry	1	-	1	-
Margarine	9	-	9	-
Meat Roll	1	-	1	-
Medicinal Paraffin	1	-	1	-
Milk	93	1	85	9
Milk, Condensed	1	1	1	-
Oatmeal	1	-	1	-
Peas, tinned	2	1	3	-
Pea Flour	-	1	1	-
Pineapple, tinned	-	12	2	-
Pepper, white	-	1	1	-
Rice	1	-	1	-
Rice, Ground	-	1	1	-
Sago	1	1	2	-
Salad Oil	1	-	1	-
Sausages	17	-	17	-
Sausage Meat	2	-	2	-
Sweetener	1	-	1	-
Tapioca	-	1	1	-
Vinegar	3	-	3	-
Yeast Tablets	1	-	1	-
Totals	160	19	168	11

The total number of samples taken during 1941 was 179 compared with 164 for 1940. 94 of the total for 1941 were milk samples of which 9 were found to be adulterated or otherwise inferior in quality. The following tabulation

shows details of adulterated samples and action taken:

Samples taken formally.	Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity.	Action taken.
Coffee	Contained 49.4% of chicory.	Vendor cautioned.
Coffee	" 48.5% " "	do.
Warm milk	" 21.4% of added water.	Fined 40/- and 12/6 costs.
Warm milk	28.3% deficient in fat.	Fined 40/- and 12/6 costs.
Warm milk	12.3% " " "	Vendor cautioned.
Milk	Contained 32.3% of added water	Fined) £5.) £3.11/- costs.
Milk	" 45.0% " "	Fined) £5.)
Warm milk	31.0% deficient in fat and contained 12.4% of added water.	Fined 20/- and 12/6 costs.
Warm milk	21.3% deficient in fat.	Fined 20/- and 12/6 costs.
Warm milk	7.3% " " "	Vendor cautioned.
Warm milk	7.6% " " "	do.

94 per cent of all samples were certified genuine, and, apart from the above irregular samples, the milks sold were of good quality. The Public Analyst, commenting on the general lack of concentrated feeding stuffs, observes that the result is a diminished yield, but a milk of richer quality than normal.

As a result of war conditions many types of food substitutes have appeared on the market, which entails more work and vigilance on the part of the Food Inspectors in

order that the general public may be safeguarded against food compounds which may be deleterious to health.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Private slaughtering remains in abeyance during the present emergency, and the usual tabulations of carcasses inspected for disease are omitted. Nevertheless there has been no relaxation in the necessary duties of inspection of foodstuffs unfit for human consumption. The Sanitary Inspectors have dealt with a large quantity of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption or unsuitable for sale to the public, and it is incumbent on them to determine whether unfit food shall be destroyed, or salvaged as fit for animal food, soap making, or rendered fit by treatment. Unfit food returned to the central depot is dyed green to ensure its being recognised as unfit food after having left the district.

The following is a tabulation of unsound and unwholesome food surrendered and condemned:-

<u>Article of Food.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Approximate weight (in lbs).</u>
Eggs	1544	193
Tinned Meat	52 tins	154
" Milk	762 "	571
" Fruit	132 "	273
" Fish	31 "	22
" Vegetables	105 "	95
Fish	455 lbs	455
Meat	2256 "	2256
Cheese	7 "	7
Rabbits	582	582
Jam	5 tins	8
Vegetables	2091 lbs	2091
Cake	15 "	15
Fruit	7 "	7
Sago	35 "	35
Cooked meats	876 "	876
Biscuits	39 "	39
Chocolate	53 pkts	6
		<hr/>
	Total	7685 lbs.

(Total: 3 tons 8 cwts 2 qrs 13 lbs.)

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

The following table gives numbers of cases of infectious diseases notified, with age groups, during 1941:-

Disease	Total cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Age Groups												
			0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	
Scarlet Fever	119	92	-	-	5	7	8	60	22	12	2	1	2	-	
Diphtheria	31	31	-	-	1	3	2	5	5	6	8	1	-	-	
Pneumonia	31	15	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	7	8	6	5	
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	
Erysipelas	13	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	3	4	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	5	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	
Dysentery	5	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Typhoid	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	3	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles	645	13	5	30	50	62	77	366	28	12	11	2	2	2	
Whooping Cough	159	6	9	9	19	27	24	64	5	-	2	-	-	-	
Totals	1020	175	15	39	79	102	112	499	62	31	39	19	14	9	

SCARLET FEVER

119 cases were notified during 1941 compared with 49 in the previous year. The incidence rate per 1,000 population for 1941 is 2.35. This rate is high because it is calculated on the present low estimated population figure of 50,430. The incidence for England & Wales is 1.47 per 1,000 for 1941, and under normal population conditions our rate should also be in the region of this figure.

92 cases were admitted to hospital - equivalent to 77 per cent compared with 95 per cent admission for 1940. This decrease in hospital isolation is a trend in the right direction, but whilst scarlet fever remains comparatively mild in character the policy of home isolation is to be still further encouraged.

The following tabulation shows the number of children in families in which cases occurred and how the cases were disposed of:

	Home Nursed.	Secondary cases arising.	Admitted to Hospital.	Hospital "Return" cases.
1 child in family	12	-	19	-
2 children family	8	1	23	1
3 " " "	4	1	20	2
4 " " "	-	-	3	-
5 " " "	-	-	14	-
6 " " "	-	-	2	-
7 " " "	-	-	2	-
Adult cases with no children in family	2	-	4	-
Adult cases with 2 children in family	1	-	1	-
Non-civilian cases	-	-	4	-
Totals	27	2	92	3

From the facts of investigation into the home environment of the above cases, home isolation could have been adequately carried out in the 19 cases of the one child in family group, in the 23 cases of 2 children in family group, and in the 4 adult cases with no children in the house. Thus one may assert that 46 cases were needlessly hospitalised. It is significant to note that out of 27 home nursed cases only 2 other cases arose in the homes where isolation was carried out.

All cases were generally of a mild character and no mortality occurred.

DIPHTHERIA.

31 cases occurred during 1941 and it is regrettable to record that 3 cases died - equivalent to nearly 10 per cent of cases.

Attempts to control the spread of diphtheria by the time-honoured methods of notification, removal and disinfection have for all practical purposes reached their limit of usefulness, and "hospitalisation does not control diphtheria, it only promotes the salvage of the diphtheria patient". The reason for this is that the disease is spread by direct and fairly intimate contact with a case, or "carrier". Occasionally milk or recently infected articles as spoons or pencils may be responsible for spread of infection.

In recent years it has come to be generally recognised that in dealing with diphtheria the only procedure even under modern social conditions, which can effectively reduce the incidence of the disease is to employ methods of artificial immunisation. Thus it is that everything is being done at the present time to intensify that campaign for protective immunisation against diphtheria throughout the country. I am satisfied that general propaganda methods in Bromley will not materially increase the number of cases for immunisation, but we are concentrating on the individual approach through school clinics, welfare centres and private schools.

We may claim that approximately only 50 per cent of the children in the town, under 15 years of age, have been immunised, but until at least 30 per cent of children of pre-school age and at least 70 per cent of those of school age have been immunised, no general effect on the incidence of diphtheria can be reasonably expected.

The work of the Immunisation Clinic for 1941 is indicated in the following figures:

No. of children immunised in 1941 -

(a) Under 5 years	565.
(b) Over 5 years	1849.

2414.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

7 cases were notified of which 5 were treated in hospital, and 2 cases died.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

3 cases were notified during the year affecting children under 10 years of age. 2 cases occurred in one family of whom one died.

DYSENTERY.

There were 5 cases of Sonne's Dysentery notified. The sources of infection were inconclusive, and all patients made a normal recovery.

TYPHOID.

One case was notified. The source of infection was not discovered and the case made an uneventful recovery.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

5 cases notified during 1941, compared with 10 in the previous year. No deaths occurred.

MEASLES.

An epidemic of measles which commenced in the autumn of 1940 ran its course until it reached peak in mid-June, 1941, and almost immediately subsided in July. 645 cases were notified and 13 cases were removed for hospital treatment. 56 per cent of cases occurred in the 5-10 age group. Contact in shelters was an additional factor in the spread of infection. Fortunately the infection was generally mild in character throughout the epidemic, and there were no known cases with serious after complications except in the case of one death.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Whooping cough was mildly prevalent throughout the year - 159 cases being notified. 6 patients were treated in hospital. There was no mortality.

A disturbing feature in the first table of the above figures is the 13 cases coming to knowledge after death - a ratio of 1 in 5 cases notified for the year. 9 of these deaths occurred outside the area and little information could be discovered regarding the history of the cases, with the exception of two cases, residence here had been of a transitory character or were newcomers to recently built estates. With the exception of two cases the ages of these patients ranged from 35 to 74 years.

Tuberculosis administration being subject to divided

TUBERCULOSIS.

The recordings in the register during 1941 were as follows:

	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Other Forms.</u>		<u>Total No. of cases.</u>
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
On register 1.1.1941	197.	179	72	85	533
New cases	28	25	7	3	63
Cases coming to knowledge after death	6	7	-	-	13
Inward Transfers	6	12	-	1	19
Totals	237	223	79	89	628
Deletions - deaths, removals & recovery	31	39	4	2	76
On Register at 31.12.41	206	184	75	87	552

The following table of incidence rates and death rates compare over the past ten years:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>New Cases - Incidence per 1,000 population.</u>		<u>Death Rates.</u>	
	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Other Forms.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Other Forms.</u>
1932	1.2	0.3	0.5	0.19
1933	1.01	0.25	0.6	0.12
1934	1.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
1935	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.03
1936	1.2	0.3	0.5	0.1
1937	1.2	0.2	0.4	0.08
1938	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.08
1939	0.9	0.1	0.4	0.05
1940	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.07
1941	1.3	0.2	0.6	0.08

A disturbing feature in the first table of the above figures is the 13 cases coming to knowledge after death - a ratio of 1 in 6 cases notified for the year. 9 of these deaths occurred outside the area and little information could be discovered regarding the history of the cases. With the exception of two cases, residence here had been of a transitory character or were newcomers to recently built estates. With the exception of two cases the ages of these patients ranged from 35 to 74 years.

Tuberculosis administration being subject to divided

control demands very close co-ordination between the county councils, county districts, clinics, institutions and general practitioners. We are not without evidence of the need of tightening up the transmission of information between the authorities concerned regarding movements of tubercular patients from one area to another. In practice one suspects that dual notification of the old quiescent cases is a factor not to be overlooked in regard to the increased incidence of cases when at the present time such considerable movement of population is occurring. In the last war there was a brisk rise in tuberculosis which fell away again in 1919, and since the outbreak of the present hostilities there has been a marked increase throughout the country.

New Cases and Mortality, 1941.

Age periods.	New Cases notified or otherwise revealed. X				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	4	4	-	-	-	-	1
15 - 25	13	10	1	3	1	6	1	1
25 - 35	4	7	-	-	1	4	1	-
35 - 45	4	5	1	-	5	3	-	-
45 - 55	8	-	-	-	2	3	-	-
55 - 65	2	5	-	-	2	1	-	-
65 & over	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	34	32	7	3	12	18	2	2

X In addition inward transfer patients as follows:-

Respiratory - Male 6.
Female 12.

Non-Respiratory - Male -
Female 1.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action under these enactments was necessary during 1941.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

Dr. S. Roy C. Price, Tuberculosis Officer, has kindly furnished the following brief summary of work in respect of

the Borough, at the Dispensary for 1941:-

New Cases attending the Dispensary for the
first time for Examination during 1941.

	Adults.		Children	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Pulmonary	15	18	2	1
Non-Pulmonary	-	2	2	-
Negative	55	38	7	9
Totals	70	58	11	10

No. of contacts examined during 1941	16
No. of cases found to be positive (not included in above table)	9
No. of attendances at Dispensary	239

Cases which are under observation are included in
"Negative".

SECTION G. OTHER SERVICES SUPERVISED
by the HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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DISEASES OF ANIMALS.

No. of Movement Licences received	44.
Animals concerned - pigs	493.

Swine Fever.

There were three cases of suspected Swine
Fever which were not confirmed. In each case all
the prescribed precautions were put into operation.

No. of inspections under the Diseases of Animals Acts	45.
" " interviews " " "	40.

REGISTRIES FOR DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

There were 8 registry offices on the register at
the end of the year. No occasion arose necessitating
special action during the year.

RETAIL MARKET.

There is nothing special to report.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Total No. of Licences issued:-	
(a) For Petroleum Spirit	86.
(b) Carbide of Calcium	1.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
for 1941

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS
FOR 1941.

No. of children on the School Rolls		4,789.
No. of individual children who attended medical clinics		1,787.
No. of individual children medically examined at schools		1,291.
No. of medical examinations at the clinics		4,514.
(a) North Clinic	1,865	
(b) South Clinic	2,063	
(c) Special Clinics	586	
No. of attendances for treatments by the School Nurses		9,279.
(a) North Clinic	5,410	
(b) South Clinic	3,869	
No. of inspections for uncleanness and verminous conditions by the School Nurses		11,256.
No. of attendances of Elementary School Children for treatment at the Dental Clinics		3,538.
No. of attendances under other Dental Schemes		1,254.
No. of treatments at the Eye Clinic		471.
No. of spectacles prescribed		177.
No. of attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinic		3,936.
(a) For consultations	357.	
(b) For treatments, massage,	3,579.	
No. of attendances at Ultra Violet Ray Clinics		1,708.

HYGIENE OF SCHOOLS.

There is nothing of special interest to report.

35

SECTION A. MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

The total number of routine medical inspections at schools: 1,291

(a)	Entrants	526.
(b)	Second Age Group	357
(c)	Third Age Group	362
(d)	Other routine inspections	<u>46</u>

The total number of special inspections and re-inspections at school clinics 4,768.

In the early part of the year owing to raids many children had been voluntarily evacuated to quieter areas, thus appointment lists for inspections were disorganised and failures to keep appointments were frequent.

FINDINGS AT MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

MALNUTRITION AND CLEANLINESS.

The following table summarises the statistics of the past three years:

Nutrition Standard.	1941		1940		1939	
	No. of Children.	Per Cent.	No. of Children.	Per Cent.	No. of Children.	Per Cent.
Excellent	95	7.63	126	8.36	102	9.38
Normal	1049	84.25	1262	83.75	853	78.47
Subnormal	100	8.03	117	7.76	109	10.03
Bad	1	0.08	2	0.13	23	2.12

In discussing the subject of malnutrition one is sorely tempted to preface one's remarks with the trite saying "it all depends what you mean by malnutrition". There are so many factors to be assessed: underfeeding, bad home management, the inter-currence of disease or hereditary, are some of the essential factors. The nutritional standard in Bromley, taken as a whole, is good, and during the past three years we have been unable to detect any obvious deterioration in the nutrition of the children. Conditions of ill-nutrition are slow in developing and any serious deterioration of nutrition would be disclosed through increased severity and fatality of the commoner ailments, and this is not occurring at the present time.

Reference to provision of meals appears in Section C of this Report.

Some increase in uncleanliness is reflected through the tabulated figures of medical inspections and clinic treatments for skin troubles. Energetic measures to cope with scabies and impetigo infections were undertaken by the Clinic Staff and as a result the numbers attending for these treatments were largely diminished. Cleanliness plays a large part in the measures to be taken to prevent scabies - dirty clothing harbours the parasite, and it is therefore essential that clothing worn next the skin is clean.

MEDICAL DEFECTS.

Defects found on routine medical and special inspections may be briefly summarised as follows:-

Defect or Disease.	Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
	Treat- ment.	Observa- tion.	Treat- ment.	Observa- tion.
Skin	6	1	673	20
Eyes	61	40	136	6
Ears	1	2	97	4
Nose and Throat	15	110	226	38
Defective Speech	-	-	2	1
Heart	2	8	4	5
Lungs (non-T.B.)	3	3	86	10
Tuberculosis - Pulm.	-	1	-	1
Non-Pulm.	-	-	1	-
Nervous System	-	-	25	8
Deformities	17	4	50	1
Miscellaneous	9	19	701	145
Totals	114	188	2001	239

SECTION B. TREATMENT.

The number of treatments for minor ailments during 1941:

Skin Diseases	571
Minor Eye Defects	133
" Ear "	96
" Throat "	17
Miscellaneous (e.g. minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains &c)	539
	<u>1356</u>

Total attendances for treatment by the School Nurses:

9279.

EYE CLINIC.

No special report has been called for from Dr. R. H. Rushton, Eye Specialist, in respect of 1941. The work of the Eye Clinic is indicated briefly in the figures as follows:-

No. of sessions held during 1941	63.
No. of children dealt with for errors of refraction	325
No. of re-inspections included in the foregoing figure	273
Other defects or diseases treated	146
Spectacles prescribed and obtained	177

EAR, NOSE & THROAT CLINIC.

Owing to war circumstances operative treatment for tonsils and adenoids has not yet been resumed at the School Clinic. Cases needing urgent treatment are referred to the County Hospital, Farnborough, in most cases.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

The Clinic and its ancillary services of massage and remedial exercises have been fully operative throughout 1941:-

No. of children treated at the Clinic	115.
No. of children's attendances for consultations	357.
No. of children's attendances for massage, treatment, &c	3579
No. of children's attendances for Ultra Violet Ray, &c treatment	1708.

Nine cases received inpatient treatment at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore.

The following tabulation summarises the new cases seen by the Orthopaedic Surgeon during 1941:-

1. Congenital Defects	11.	9. Sequelae of acute fevers	-
2. Birth Injuries	3.	10. Fractures	8.
3. Rickety Deformities	14	11. Tuberculosis - joints	-
4. Knock-knees (non-rickety)	19	12. Other bone diseases	3.
5. Postural defects spine	10.	13. Osteomyelitis	1.
6. Structural curvature of the spine	1.	Not classified	24.
7. Flat Feet	20		
8. Infantile paralysis	1.		

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE.

Mr. T. S. Latham resigned his appointment as School Dental Surgeon in August, 1941. Appointed as the first full-time School Dental Surgeon, Mr. Latham had with unremitting zeal built up an efficient service not only for the school children but also inaugurated the dental service for children under 5 years of age, and the dental scheme for nursing and expectant mothers. His successor, Mr. J. H. Glen, who took up his appointment in December, 1941, pays tribute in his report on the year's dental work to the vast amount of work accomplished. He draws attention to the ever increasing demands by higher education scholars to the exclusion of the elementary scholars with whom the school dental scheme is primarily concerned, who have been fortunate if time has been found to examine them once a year. The higher education children are examined every six months by the County Dental Officer and have accounted for some 18 per cent of the total attendances (664). The attendances produced 33 per cent of the total number of fillings done (554) and 15 per cent of the permanent extractions (160).

The question of how best to cope with the growing demands on the dental services is under consideration at the time of writing in order that the statutory obligations to the elementary school population may be fulfilled.

The following figures indicate the volume of work accomplished during 1941 notwithstanding the gap between the departure of Mr. Latham in August and Mr. Glen's commencement of duty in December. During this gap we were indebted to Mr. Fairman J. Ordish whose assistance on a part-time basis enabled us to grapple with the stress of urgent cases.

	<u>Total of All schemes.</u>
Appointments kept	4,792
No. discharged treatment complete	1,819
Attendances - Gas extractions	1,489
Local "	2,378
Denture work	179
Regulations and other operations	750
No. of fillings done	3,863
No. of dentures fitted	69
No. of sessions employed	518

With the return of more normal conditions for school work and attendance, it has been possible during the past year to restore the subject of Physical Education to a position not much below its pre-war level. Improvement has

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BOARD OF EDUCATION - TABLE IV. Dental
Inspection and Treatment

(1) No. of children inspected by the Dentist
 (a) Routine age groups.

Age	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
No.	7	140	301	380	311	414	328	342	230	206	2659
				(b) Specials							357
				(c) Total (Routine and Specials)							<u>3016</u>

(2) No. found to require treatment	1673.	(7) Extractions -	
		Permanent teeth	667
(3) No. actually treated	1385.	Temporary teeth	2407
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	3538.	(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics	1212
(5) Half-days devoted to- Inspection	13	(9) Other Operations -	
Treatment	449	Permanent teeth	429
	467.	Temporary teeth	<u>272</u> 701
(6) Fillings -			
Permanent teeth	1108.		
Temporary teeth	182.		

SECTION G.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

At the time of writing effect will have been given to certain changes in the exclusion of contacts of infectious disease from school attendance. The changes will be no exclusion of contacts of measles, german measles, whooping cough, mumps and chicken pox, unless otherwise directed by the Medical Officer of Health. This procedure will lead to a great saving of school attendance with corresponding beneficial results especially easier supervision by school medical and nursing staff and facilitation of early detection of fresh cases whenever the situation demands close supervision.

OPEN AIR EDUCATION.

There were no developments to record in this direction.

STATEMENT on PHYSICAL EDUCATION DURING 1941.

1. INTRODUCTION.

With the return of more normal conditions for school work and attendance, it has been possible during the past year to restore the subject of Physical Education to a position much nearer its pre-war level. Improvement has

been due partly to the increased regularity of the physical training and games lessons, and partly to general raising of the standard of teaching among those members of school staffs who, since the outbreak of war, have been required to fill the gaps left by their younger colleagues who had been called to the Services.

Offsetting this improvement, increasing difficulties have been experienced in obtaining replacements of physical training and games materials, and with the recent rationing of clothing and footwear, the problem of ensuring the satisfactory personal equipment of children for their P.T. lessons has already given cause for concern.

The immediate needs of the schools have since been met by the provision of a supply of plimsolls. These shoes are kept at schools and are loaned to individual children, but they remain the property of the Education Committee.

The appointment of more young teachers in the schools of the area would add to the life and vitality of the subject and increase its effectiveness.

2. PHYSICAL EXERCISES.

Loss of continuity of lesson work during the first 18 months of the War resulted in a general slowing down in the rate of progress in all schemes of work. Additional efforts on the part of teachers during the past year, however, have largely restored the position and the majority of classes in all schools are again receiving instruction appropriate to their age and physical development.

3. ORGANISED GAMES.

Increasing difficulties of transport have again restricted the fuller development of organised field games on the Committee's playing fields, nevertheless, it has been possible to arrange for most of our senior school children to enjoy the benefits of a weekly period of organised games throughout the year.

Weather conditions have had a very drastic effect on the teaching of field games. Experience has proved during the past year that many weeks have elapsed when the ground has been unfit for use and no teaching possible. Consequently the standard of play is not at present as good as it might be.

4. SWIMMING.

Owing to the lack of shelter accommodation at the Open Air Swimming Bath no arrangements have been possible for the inclusion of organised instruction for school children.

This is to be regretted since the Bromley children are keen and enthusiastic swimmers if given the opportunity, but safety precautions cannot be overlooked under present precarious conditions.

5. ADDITIONAL SOCIAL and RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

The urge for developing facilities for Youth Service in the area encouraged the experiment of opening physical training centres in the Burnt Ash and Aylesbury Road Schools for the Spring and Summer terms. All types of schools in the area were notified with the result that an advanced Gymnastics Section was arranged for County, High, and Private School girls, with a considerable amount of previous gymnastic training and an Elementary section organised for the girls who were not quite so proficient. These sections later developed into Open Air Centres where coaching in Tennis, Cricket, Rounders and instruction in Swimming were successfully carried out.

Many girls from these Centres assisted on the land during specified weekends for weeding purposes.

Acting on the advice contained in the Joint Memorandum on Juvenile Offences issued by the Board of Education and the Home Office, in June, the Chairman of the Education Committee sought the co-operation of Head Teachers and the Organisers of Physical Education with the object of developing facilities for additional social and recreational activities among scholars of 13 - 14 years of age. A plan for the organisation of "Scholars' Clubs" was subsequently approved and it is now hoped that in the near future each senior will have completed its arrangements under which this much neglected sphere of social training can be encouraged and developed. The plan, if successful, should provide a valuable link between the schools and their Old Scholars' Associations and might well become an important factor in Youth Service generally.

6. TRAINING OF TEACHERS

Existing staffing difficulties in Schools prevent the arrangement of teachers' training classes such as were previously held during school hours. Extraneous duties of a varied nature occupy much of the spare time of teachers and also make the arrangement of classes out of school hours an impossibility.

The revival of these classes will be considered at

the first available opportunity, for without these useful training and refresher courses, much good work is lost to the children.

GEO. H. ATKINSON,

FLORENCE M. BENTLEY

District Organisers of Physical Education.

PROVISION OF MEALS.

The scheme referred to in the Report of 1940 for the installations of canteens will be in operation in 1942 at the following schools: Valley, Burnt Ash, Southborough and Aylesbury Road Council Schools, and at St. Joseph's R. C. School. Arrangements for feeding the children of the Bickley and Widmore School at the County School for Girls came into operation on the 1st December, 1941. A canteen is now open at the Parish C. E. School and pupils from St. Mary's Plaistow School have the use of this canteen or the one at St. Joseph's School.

The number of meals served at the existing canteens at Raglan Road, Princes Plain, Keston and Hayes Schools has increased and on 8th December, 1941, the figure reached approximately 600. A number of scholars obtain free meals or meals at half rate and the scale adopted is based on that used by the K.C.C. Assistance Board as under:

- (a) Total family income, less
- (b) Expenses (rent, rates, insurance, travelling expenses to and from work and abnormal expenses).

(c) Living allowances:

Head of household	16/-	} (All plus 25% but less 2/- in respect of each child to be provided with free meals.)
Wife	10/-	
Dependent adults over 16	16/-	
Children over 10, each	6/-	
" under 10, each	5/-	

- (d) The resulting figure - referred to as available income to be divided by the number in family - if this resulting figure is less than 1/-, free meals should be given, if between 1/- and 2/- at half rate, and if more than 2/- full payment should be made.

The scale is also used for determining those children eligible for free or half rate milk.

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME.

During 1941 the average number of children receiving milk reached 67.65 per cent. A return made to the Board on the

8th December, 1941, showed the following figures:

No. of children receiving milk for full payment:-

one-third pint 2397.

Two-third pint 835.

No. receiving free milk:-

one-third pint 6.

two-third pint 2

The charge made for one-third pint is $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

SECTION D.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA.

	<u>Residen- tial School.</u>	<u>Special Day School.</u>	<u>Elemen- tary School.</u>	<u>At no School.</u>
Blind	3	-	-	-
Partially Sighted	-	-	-	-
Deaf	2	-	-	-
Partially Deaf	-	-	3	-
Mentally Defective	7	3	9	-
Epileptic children	-	-	1	-
Physically Defective	11	2	7	2

The epileptic child classified above as attending school is not in the category of a severe case.

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

A nursery class has been established at Burnt Ash Infants' Council School with accommodation for 24 scholars under 5 years of age, and the formation of another class at Valley Council School was under consideration at the close of the year.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

The ever increasing number of secondary school children referred to the School Medical Service for treatment of one kind or another has become a matter of some concern having regard to our obligation to the elementary school population. The present facilities and staff available were designed to cope with the requirements of the elementary scholars and the child under 5 years of age. The pressure on our services from the demands of the higher education scholars is heaviest in the Dental and Eye Clinics. It is of equal importance

that the health standards of these children must be safeguarded if they are to benefit to the full from the secondary education being imparted to them, but this cannot be accomplished at the expense of the elementary scholars. Thus it is that the matter at the time of writing is the subject of negotiation in respect of the Dental Service in order that the problem may be solved in the interests of all the scholars concerned.

PARENTS' PAYMENTS.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

SPECIAL ENQUIRIES.

There has been no noteworthy change under the foregoing headings.

SECTION E.

OCCUPATION CENTRE FOR THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.

Closure owing to war conditions is still in operation.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

Children medically examined by the School Medical Officers during 1941 and for whom medical certificates were issued:

No. examined	94
Fit certificates issued:-	94
(a) Boys employed	81
(b) Girls "	13

CHILDREN'S CARE COMMITTEE

BOOT CLUB COMMITTEE.

During 1941 the Bromley Elementary Schools Boot Club Committee was formed to take over the duties formerly administered by the late Mrs A. G. Mann. Steps have already been taken to increase the number of boot clubs in the schools, and the general interest in them has met with a fair measure of success.

The bonus granted to the contributors to the funds has been increased to 10 per cent and 430 vouchers were issued during 1941 for boots and shoes. The Committee has also approved payments being made to the Care Committee for the purpose of providing free footwear for elementary school children in financially necessitous cases.

Much of the work connected with the Boot Club falls upon the teachers who undertake collection of contributions and issue of vouchers, and the increased interest shewn by parents in the Club is in no small measure due to their efforts.

SECTION F.APPENDIX OF STATISTICAL TABLES.

The detailed statistical tables furnished annually to the Board of Education are not reproduced here, but are compiled and available for reference in the records of the Department. Extracts from these tables will be found under the appropriate headings in this Report.

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