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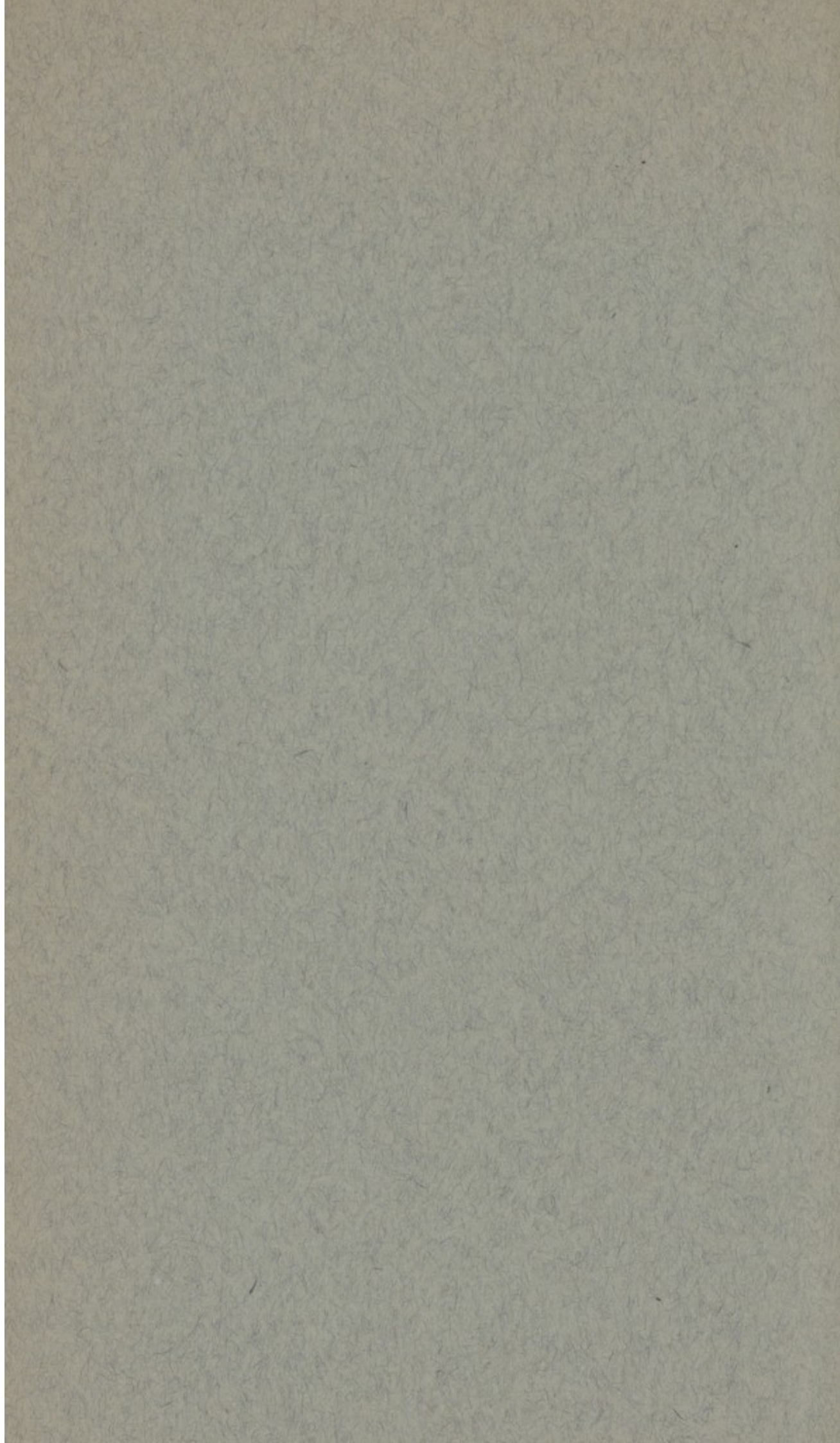
Borough of Walthamstow

REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

For the Year 1939.

A. T. W. POWELL, M.C., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT—THORPE COOMBE MATERNITY
HOME AND ISOLATION HOSPITAL





Borough of Walthamstow

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1939.

INDEX.

	PAGE		PAGE
Acreage	5	Measles	25, 26
Adulteration	22	Meat Inspection	21, 22
Albuminuria	49	Medical Aid	61
Anaesthesia and Analgesia	60	Examinations	32
Ante-Natal Clinic	39, 58	Midwives	47, 48, 57
Bacteriological Analyses	20	Milk, Assisted Scheme	45
Bakehouses	13	Supply, etc.	19
Births	5, 7, 35	Miscellaneous	32
Breech Delivery	60, 61	Mothercraft Instruction	63
Caesarean Section	62	Neo-Natal Mortality	36
Cancer	8	Notices, Sanitary	12
Caravans	14	Notifications and Rates	7
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	25, 26	Nursing Homes	11
Child Welfare	37	Nutrition	63
Child Life Protection	40	Obstetric Consultants	47
Clinics	9, 39, 40	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	52
Committees	3, 33	Ophthalmic Treatment	44
Comparability Factor	6	Orthopaedic Treatment	42
Connaught Hospital	10	Outworkers	25
Consultants	47	Overcrowding	18, 19
Dampness	13	Pneumonia	25, 26
Deaths	6, 8, 31	Population	5
Death Rate	6, 7	Post-Natal Clinic	39, 58
Dental Treatment	43	Public Assistance	10
Diphtheria	25, 26	Cleansing	11
Immunisation	27, 28	Puerperal Pyrexia	7, 50, 51
Diseases of Animals Acts	23	Sepsis	7
Disinfestation	19	Rateable Value	5
District Midwifery	47	Rats and Mice Destruction Act,	
Drainage	11	1919	23
Dysentery	25, 26	Refuse Disposal	11
Eclampsia	59	Rent Restriction Acts	23
Emergency Unit	57	Research	63
Enteric Fever	25, 26	Rheumatism Clinic	27
Erysipelas	25, 26	Rivers and Streams	11
Essex County Council Act	11	Sanitary Inspection	12
Factories and Workshops	13, 24	Scarlet Fever	25, 26
Fishmongers	14	Schick Tests	27, 28
Food Inspection	19	Sewerage	11
Foot Clinic	9	Smoke Abatement	14
Forceps Delivery	62	Social Conditions	5
Haemorrhage—		Special Premises	13
Ante-Partum	59, 61	Staff	35
Post-Partum	62	Statistics	5, 6
Health Services	9	Stillbirths	6, 7, 56
Visitors	35, 37	Sunlight Treatment	44
Home Helps	45	Swimming Baths	15
Hospital Accommodation	10, 46, 55	Thorpe Coombe Maternity	
Infectious Disease	29, 30, 31	Hospital	54
House-to-House Inspection	17	Tonsils and Adenoids	44
Housing	15	Tuberculosis	31, 32
Act, 1936	17, 18	Tuberculous Meat	22
Inspection	15, 16	Twin Delivery	60, 61
Ice Cream	14, 20	Unemployment	10
Immunisation	27, 28	Vaccination	29
Infant Mortality	6, 36, 56	Vertex, Posterior	60
Infectious Diseases	13, 25, 27	Vital Statistics	5, 6
Institutional Treatment	10, 45	Walthamstow Child Welfare	
Invalid Children's Aid Asscn.	44	Society	40
Isolation Hospital	29, 30, 31	Walthamstow District Nursing	
Laboratory Work	28, 29	Association	46
Massage	40	Water	11
Maternal Mortality	7, 52, 53	Whooping Cough	7
Maternity and Child Welfare	33	Women's Clinic	9
Homes	11	Zymotic Diseases	6

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANATORIUM VISITING COMMITTEES.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. MILLER.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR—ALDERMAN H. FROST, J.P.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR—ALDERMAN MRS. C. McENTEE, J.P.

CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE—ALDERMAN ROSS WYLD, J.P.

ALDERMAN A. G. BOTTOMLEY. ALDERMAN MISS E. M. PRACY, B.Sc.

„ W. B. FITT. „ MRS. E. M. RICHARDS.

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„ MRS. B. M. FRIEDBERG. „ R. E. SMITH.

„ W. GILLETT. „ MRS. E. B. TOYNBEE.

„ J. W. LIS.

Town Clerk :

F. G. GARNER, Esq.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit, herewith, my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1939. On the instructions of the Ministry of Health the report has been curtailed as far as possible.

The large amount of time and energy which has been given to the organisation of the Casualty Service in connection with Civil Defence was amply repaid by its smooth operation at the outbreak of War. As far as possible the Public Health Services were continued unaltered after the declaration of War.

Mercifully, the incidence of serious infectious disease during the first months of War remained low.

I gratefully acknowledge your help and consideration and the good work of the Staff of the Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. T. W. POWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

Staff.—No change from previous report except that the following members of the Staff were called up for service with the Armed Forces:—

Miss M. McCallum, S.R.N. (Senior Chiropodist), R.A.F. Nursing Service.

Mr. F. Northcote, A.R.S.I. (Sanitary Inspector). (Later released.)

Mr. W. H. Dunn (Ambulance Staff), R.A.F.

A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	4,343
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-year 1939)		130,000
Number of Assessments, 1st April, 1939	.. .. .	35,874
Rateable value	.. .. .	£871,442
Sum represented by a penny rate	.. .. .	£3,475

Population.—The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-year, 1939, is 130,000, a decrease of 800 on the previous figure.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.—The Registrar-General's mid-year 1939 population (viz., 130,000) has been supplied for the purpose of calculating Birth rates only, but for the purpose of calculating Death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases a separate figure of 123,900 has been provided. Similarly, two sets of figures with respect to live births have been supplied, (a) 1,606 for the calculation of the Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (130,000) and, (b) 1,540 for the purpose of calculating Infant and Maternal Mortality rates. The explanation of the separate figures is due to temporary movement of residents owing to war conditions.

		Total	Males	Females		
Live Births	{ Legitimate	1,566	801	765	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.3
	{ Illegitimate	40	23	17		
	{ Total	.. 1,606	824	782		

Stillbirths ..	62	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	37.0
Deaths ..	1,312	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10.5

Deaths from puerperal causes:—		Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.	
Puerperal Sepsis Deaths ..	2	1.19	
Other Puerperal Causes ..	—	—	
Total	2	1.19	

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	29.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	30.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	—

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	3
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	4

(All rates are per 1,000 of estimated residential population.)

Comparability factor	1.11
Adjusted death rate	11.6
Ratio of local to national crude death rate	0.86
Percentage reduction of adjusted death rate below that for England and Wales	4.1
Zymotic disease death rate	0.07
Pulmonary Tuberculosis death rate	0.61
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis death rate	0.04

The natural increase of population, i.e., excess of births over deaths was 294.

The usual comparison of vital statistics rates, with those for the whole country, is shown in the table on the following page.

Births.—Births are dealt with under the Maternity and Child Welfare Section of the Report.

Deaths.—The Registrar-General's classification of causes of death by sex totals is given.

The total number of deaths in 1939 (1,312) compares with 1,340 during 1938, the respective death rates per 1,000 population being 10.5 and 10.2.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1939.

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns (Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London).	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Adminis- trative County.	Walthamstow.
		Rates per	1,000 po	pulation.	
<i>Births:—</i>					
Live	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3	12.03
Still	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44	0.47
<i>Deaths:—</i>					
All Causes	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9	10.5
Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.01
Influenza	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18	0.02
<i>Notifications:—</i>					
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53	1.4
Diphtheria	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98	0.26
Enteric Fever	0.4	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.02
Erysipelas	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37	0.35
Pneumonia	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99	1.13
		Rates per	1,000 Live Births.		
Deaths under 1 year of age ..	50	53	40	48	29
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2	2.4
<i>Maternal Mortality:—</i>					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.77	} Not available		{	1.29
Others	2.16				—
Total	2.93				1.29
		Rates per 1,000 Total	Births (i.e. Live	and Still)	
<i>Maternal Mortality:—</i>					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.74	} Not available		{	1.24
Others	2.08				—
Total	2.82				1.24
<i>Notifications:—</i>					
Puerperal Fever	14.35	17.26	12.99	{ 3.31 }	22.78
Puerperal Pyrexia				{ 14.22 }	

Causes of Death as given by the Registrar-General for the year 1939.

Whole District.

Causes of death.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Total 1938.
1. Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers	—	—	—	—
2. Measles	—	—	—	5
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough.. .. .	1	2	3	2
5. Diphtheria	1	1	2	2
6. Influenza	18	8	26	7
7. Encephalitis Lethargica.. .. .	4	—	4	4
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	3
9. T.B. of respiratory system	46	30	76	72
10. Other Tuberculous diseases	3	3	6	13
11. Syphilis	1	1	2	5
12. General paralysis of the insane, (tabes dorsalis)	1	2	3	5
13. Cancer, malignant disease	102	126	228	210
14. Diabetes	8	15	23	21
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	38	43	81	88
16. Heart disease	162	159	321	346
17. Aneurysm	4	4	8	7
18. Other circulatory diseases	23	18	41	52
19. Bronchitis	31	27	58	49
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	36	38	74	88
21. Other respiratory diseases	9	2	11	14
22. Peptic Ulcer	8	1	9	20
23. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	2	2	4	7
24. Appendicitis	3	4	7	11
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	3	—	3	6
26. Other diseases of liver, etc.	3	3	6	5
27. Other digestive diseases	7	9	16	32
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	11	12	23	26
29. Puerperal Sepsis	—	2	2	1
30. Other Puerperal causes	—	—	—	2
31. Congenital Debility, Malfor- mation, Premature Birth, etc.	19	11	30	34
32. Senility	36	31	67	50
33. Suicide	7	5	12	15
34. Other violence	25	16	41	33
35. Other defined causes	66	59	125	104
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—	—	1
Totals	678	634	1312	1340

The age distribution of Cancer deaths was as follows :-

Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. & over
1	—	—	1	1	11	101	113

B—Clinics and Treatment Centres:—

Foot Clinic.—Total attendances were 13,509, and of these 1,452 were by new cases and 12,057 were re-attendances by old cases. The receipts were £509 4s. 0d.

Two part-time chiropodists were employed when necessary, in addition to the three full-time chiropodists, and for certain periods all five were fully employed.

In September a subsidiary clinic was opened on Saturday morning only at the Markhouse Road Centre. This clinic ceased on the outbreak of war.

Women's Clinic.—Sessions were held weekly, with one consultant session monthly.

Miss Basden continued as Consultant-in-Charge with Miss Helen Rodway, M.R.C.O.G., in charge of the weekly sessions.

Dr. Rodway submits the following report:—

Number of sessions held:—

(a) Monthly Consultant Clinic	..	..	..	11
(b) Assistant Medical Officer's Clinic	..	..	..	51
(c) Senior Sister's Clinic	..	..	..	7
Total	..	..	..	69

Total of attendances made by patients:—

	New.	Old.
(a) Consultant's Clinic	7	115
(b) Assistant Medical Officer's Clinic	329	1,077
(c) Senior Sister's Clinic	—	42
Total	336	1,234

Average attendance per session:—

(a) Consultant's Clinic	0.63	10.45
(b) Assistant Medical Officer's Clinic	6.45	21.11
(c) Senior Sister's Clinic	—	6.00
Referred to private doctors	..	6
Referred from private doctors	..	43
Referred to the South London Hospital for Women	..	23
Referred to other Hospitals	..	12
Operations at the South London Hospital on patients referred from the Clinic	..	18

The 18 in-patients spent a total of 314 days in hospital. In addition, 23 out-patients made 41 attendances.

The Council made a grant of £30 to the Hospital.

Institutions	Men	Women	Children	Total
Central Homes	148	164	53*	365
Whipps Cross Hospital .. .	677	714	199	1,590
Forest Gate Hospital .. .	12	82	5	99
Harold Wood Hospital .. .	—	—	—	—
Forest House	15	16	—	31
Aldersbrooke Children's Homes	—	—	45	45

*The majority of these children were ultimately transferred to Aldersbrooke.

48 infants (7 stillborn) were born to Walthamstow mothers in Forest Gate Hospital during the year.

The number of patients from Walthamstow in Mental Hospitals was 430 on the 31st December, 1939.

THE CONNAUGHT HOSPITAL.

		In-Patients		Out-Patients	
	No. Admitted	Average Stay	Daily Average	New Cases	Attendances
1939 ..	1,390	20.96	83.10	8,448	56,632
1938 ..	1,937	20.5	108.05	14,470	78,104

The decrease in figures is, of course, due to the fact that a number of beds have been allocated for casualties under the Emergency Hospital Scheme, and also certain Out-patient Departments were temporarily closed owing to the outbreak of war, but they are now in full swing again.

Particulars as to Departmental activities were the same as those for 1938.

1. Public Assistance:—

		1938.		1939.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Total amount of out-relief granted to Walthamstow residents during year ended 31st December ..		51,598	17 11	52,360	1 10
Average weekly number of Walthamstow residents in receipt of relief during year ended 31st December ..	Men ..	707		733	
	Women ..	1,154		1,171	
	Children ..	597		536	
Total		2,458		2,440	

2. Maternity and Child Welfare.—See Section H of the Report.

3. Public Health Act, 1936.—Nursing Homes:—

	No. of Homes.	No. of Patients provided for		
		Maternity Patients.	Others.	Totals.
Homes first registered during the year	Nil	—	—	—
Homes on Register at the end of the year	5	31	17	48

In addition, three beds were registered in 1938, but have never been brought into use.

No applications were refused, cancelled or appealed against. 19 quarterly inspections were made by the medical staff.

Routine enquiries are made with regard to unregistered homes. No difficulties in regard to supervision arose.

Essex County Council Act.—Four licences to practise chiropody were granted by your Council.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) **Water.**—A new main has been installed in Lowther Road.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewage.**—No new major works of this character have been carried out during the present year.

2. **Rivers and Streams.**—Periodical cleaning of the Dagenham Brook was carried out to the requirements of the Lea Conservancy Catchment Board.

3. (i) **Closet Accommodation.**—The number of cesspools in use is seven.

(ii) **Public Cleansing.**—Mr. Eric Bell, M.I.P.C., A.R.San.I., Cleansing Superintendent, reports as follows:—

“During the past year there have been no outstanding alterations in the methods employed for the collection and disposal of domestic and trade refuse, nor in street cleansing operations.

“Naturally, the evacuation of a large number of school children on the outbreak of war resulted in a very large decrease in the weight of refuse collected, but the gradual drift back again increase the weights so that by the end of the year the department was once again almost back to normal.

“The work of decontamination in connection with A.R.P. has been readily undertaken by the staff of the Department without additional pay, and squads of seven men have been on duty 24 hours a day ever since the outbreak of war, almost 100 per cent. of the

employees sharing the duty. In the event of a gas attack, arrangements have been made for 10 fully trained and equipped Decontamination Squads to be available for voluntary service from employees of the Department."

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Mr. M. E. Duncan, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

No. of inspections made.	No. of nuisances detected.	No. of complaints received.	No. of Informal Notices.		No. of Statutory Notices.		Total Visits.
			Served.	Complied with.	Served.	Complied with.	
9,892	9,836	1,599	2,207	2,175	98	88	26,085

Failing compliance with Statutory Notices by the owners, the Council carried out these requirements to 9 houses involving an expenditure of £288 13s. 3d.

The nature and variety of the work done during 1939 is shown in the following tables:—

Drains tested, 443; Drains reconstructed or repaired, 474; Drains, obstructions removed, 226; Drains, means of access provided, 52; Drains, ventilation provided or improved, 77; Drains, ventilation repaired, 99; Soil pipes repaired, 51; Soil pipes, new, provided, 75; Rain-water pipes renewed, 273; Rain-water pipes disconnected from drains, 22; Roofs repaired or renewed, 877; Gutterings repaired or renewed, 495; W.C. pans or traps provided, 440; Gully traps provided, 104; W.C. flush cisterns provided, 86; W.C. flush cisterns repaired, 163; W.C. floors concreted, 68; W.C.'s repaired and cleansed, 581; W.C.'s light and ventilation improved, 22; Waste pipes renewed and trapped, 293; Waste pipes repaired, 148; New sinks provided, 172; Water supply re-instated, 6; Water supply taken off main, 2; Cisterns cleansed and covered, 64; Conveniences cleansed or repaired, 7; Sculleries paved, 83; Yards and forecourts paved and repaired, 531; Dirty houses cleansed, 16; Dirty rooms cleansed, 2,922; Floors repaired, 307; Ventilation under floors provided, 225; New damp-proof courses provided, 233; Sites concreted, 5; Offensive accumulations removed, 48; Animals improperly kept, removed, 3; Manure receptacles provided, 2; Stables cleansed, paved and drained, 54; Man-holes repaired or re-sealed, 96; Other cases of dampness remedied, 494; Miscellaneous repairs, 2,712.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Visits to premises, 674; Re-visits to premises, 90; Premises disinfected, 566; Articles disinfected at Low Hall, 6,041; Articles destroyed at Low Hall, 167.

DAMPNESS IN HOUSES.

Sites concreted, 5; Damp-proof courses provided, 233; Yards and forecourts paved and drained, 531; Roofs made water-tight, 877; Rain-water pipes made good, 273; Guttering repaired or renewed, 495; Other cases of dampness remedied, 494; Ventilation under floors provided, 225; House-to-house inspections, 737.

SPECIAL PREMISES.

	Number.	Visits paid.
Factories	485	723
Outworkers	477	157
Slaughterhouses	9	426
Butchers' Shops	94	543
Bakehouses	41	173
Fishmongers, Fish Fryers and Curers, etc.	50	192
Eating-houses and Coffee Stalls	98	100
Ice Cream Vendors	196	230
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	228	128
Laundries	9	7
Rag and Bone Dealers	7	23
Elementary Schools	—	} 2
Private Schools	7	
Piggeries	4	22
Street Stalls	Numerous	62
Greengrocers	..	111
Stables	..	183

As a result of the regular periodical visiting of the Special Premises the following works were carried out:—

BUTCHERS' SHOPS AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Special cleansings, 40; Paving repaired, 4; Accumulations removed, 7; New galvanised bins provided, 21; Drains repaired, 11; W.C's repaired and cleansed, 13; Yard paving repaired, 3; Floors repaired and ventilated, 2; Roofs repaired, 7; Drains cleared, 5; New drinking water cisterns, 1; Light and ventilation improved, 1; Other improvements, 2.

BAKEHOUSES.

Special cleansings, 65; W.C's cleansed and doors repaired, 8; Yards re-paved, 3; W.C. cisterns repaired, 5; Roofs repaired, 5; Premises, general repairs, 6; Obstruction from drains removed, 3; New ceilings fixed, 1; Floors repaired, 1.

FISHMONGERS.

Special cleansings, 47; Yards re-paved, 5; Accumulations removed, 4; Roofs repaired, 5; Drains cleared, 5; Gutters renewed, 5; Other improvements, 14; Defective bins, 1.

COFFEE AND EATING HOUSES.

Special cleansings, 33; Yard pavings repaired, 4; W.C. cisterns repaired, 3; Drains repaired, 2; Defective dustbins, 3.

ICE CREAM VENDORS.

Special cleansings, 13; Special cleansing of utensils, 6; Yard pavings repaired, 4; W.C. flush improved, 3; Other improvements, 1.

COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Special cleansings, 17; Pavings re-laid, 2; Fittings and other improvements, 3; Roofs repaired, 3; W.C's repaired, 1.

STABLE PREMISES.

Cleansings, 62; Accumulations removed, 22; Roofs repaired, 5; Pavings repaired, 3; W.C's repaired, 8; Manure receptacles provided, 2.

LAUNDRIES.

Special cleansings, 14; Paving repaired, 2; Accumulations removed, 2; Other improvements, 2.

RAG AND BONE DEALERS.

Cleansings, 14; Paving repaired, 2; Accumulations removed, 2; Other improvements, 2.

PIGGERIES.

Cleansings, 11.

(iv) **Shops and Offices.**—107 inspections have been made in reference to infringements under the Shops Act, as reported by the Shops Act Inspector, and the necessary action taken for the abatement of such infringements.

(v) **Camping Sites.**—There are no sites in the area used as camping sites. There are, however, several van dwellers in the Higham Hill area, and the Council have authorised these to be dealt with under the Essex County Council Act.

(vi) **Smoke Abatement.**—18 complaints of nuisances caused by smoke were investigated—only 11 of which were justifiable—and remedial measures adopted.

Unsuitable coal and/or bad stoking were the causes of smoke emission, and consultations with those responsible brought about the cessation of the nuisance.

(vii) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**—The model bye-laws of the Ministry of Health were adopted during the year. Twelve samples were taken from four baths and all were satisfactory.

(viii) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—As for 1938.

4. **Schools.**—As for 1938.

D.—HOUSING.

(a) Statistics.

The particulars of new houses erected during 1939 are given in the form used in previous years.

The following are the figures supplied by the Engineer and Surveyor.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(1) By Local Authority	Nil
By other authorities	Nil
By other bodies or persons	211 houses. 77 flats.
	288

The 288 houses and flats are situated as follows :—

Hale End Ward	204 (a)
High Street Ward	Nil
Higham Hill Ward	16 (b)
Hoe Street Ward	Nil
St. James Street Ward	Nil
Wood Street Ward	68 (c)

(a) Includes 6 flats; (b) Includes 14 flats;

(c) Includes 57 flats.

(b) Inspection.

The following information is given in the form required by the Ministry of Health, and is supplied by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	3,006
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	14,744
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (I) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	737
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	3,729

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1

(N.B.—These comprise individual unfit houses.)

- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 2,301

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 2,175

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

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

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. 94

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—

(a) By owners 75

(b) By local authority in default of owners (at a cost of £288 13s. 3d.) 9

B. *Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—*

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.. .. . 4

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—

(a) By owners 4

(b) By local authority in default of owners .. Nil

C. *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 3

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 3

D. *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 2

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
---	-----

IV.—HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING:—

A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	138
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	138
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	1,094
B. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	18
C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	95
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	609
D. Cases of overcrowding occurring during the year after the Council had re-housed an overcrowded family	Nil
E. Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it advisable to report .. .	See later pages

House-to-House Inspection.

During the year, house-to-house inspections were carried out in the following streets:—

Ritchings Avenue.	Green Pond Road.
Orchard Street.	Cross Street.
Stoneydown Avenue.	Sylvester Road.
The Links.	Wyatts Lane.
Fairfield Road.	Lime Street.
Farnborough Avenue.	Parkhurst Road.

Parts of:—

Pretoria Avenue.
Clacton Road.
Grange Road.
Ringwood Road.
Somers Road.
Chingford Road.
Marten Road.
Springfield Road.
Fulbourne Road.
St. John's Road.
Turner Road.

Parts of:—

Alexandra Road.
Herbert Road.
Longfellow Road.
Milton Road.
Carlton Road.
Blackhorse Lane.
Gloucester Road.
Stirling Road.
Selbourne Road.
Hatherly Road.
Beaconsfield Road.

(c) Housing Act, 1936.**Unfit Houses.**

During the year one house was dealt with under this Act as follows:—

37, Higham Street—Demolition Order.

(d) Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

Total number of houses in the Borough scheduled as overcrowded on 1st January, 1939	215
Additional cases added during the year	18

Cases abated during the year:—

Rehoused by the Council	58
Removals, altered accommodation, decrease of family units, etc.	37
	95

This leaves a total of 138 cases of overcrowding remaining on the schedule at the end of the year.

The 18 cases added to the schedule are classified as follows:—

Increasing age of existing children	4
Family increased	2
Combined age advance and family increase	9
Adjustment of "permitted number" allowed	2
Restored to schedule	1
Total	18

Permitted Numbers.—A total of 412 visits were paid by the District Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the Housing Act, 1936, as it relates to overcrowding.

(e) General.

Mr. J. E. West, your Council's Housing Manager, kindly contributed the following statement:—

Overcrowding cases brought forward 1st January, 1939 ..	215
Additional cases reported	18
	233

Rehoused	58
Abated	37
	95

138

The number of vacancies arising	75
(a) Rehoused from insanitary areas	8
(b) Rehoused from overcrowding schedule	58
(c) Rehoused by redistribution	13
(d) Rehoused from Housing Register	7
	86

(b) Includes one case of overcrowding in Council Houses.

Analysis of Cases on the Overcrowding Schedule.

- (a) Number of cases on Schedule at 1st January, 1939,
in 215 dwellings and involving 1,616 persons .. 215
- (b) New cases reported during the year ending 31st
December, 1939, involving 87 persons 18
- (c) Number of cases relieved:—
58 involving 356 persons rehoused.
37 involving 253 persons by redistribution, abatement, re-
movals, etc.

—	—
95 cases	609 persons relieved.
—	—

Analysis of Requirements.

1 case requiring 1 bedroom type house.					
6 cases	„	2	„	„	„
21	„	3	„	„	„
57	„	4	„	„	„
43	„	5	„	„	„
9	„	6	„	„	„
1 case	„	7	„	„	„

—
138
—

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

The number of cases treated during the year was 20.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Routine phosphatase tests were carried out on samples of pasteurised milk, more particularly to control the efficiency of the two plants licensed in the Borough.

The following is contributed by the Chief Sanitary Inspector:—

The average number of cows kept in the district is eight. There is only one cowshed, and 12 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors, in addition to special visits paid by your Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The number of retail purveyors of milk is 227, most of whom carry on a general shop and sell milk in bottles as they receive it. Visits were paid to maintain the general standard of cleanliness.

During the year, 26 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination. Of these, 9 were from pasteurised milk supplied to schools in the Town, and these samples gave satisfactory results. Of the remaining 17 samples, all were satisfactory excepting one, where a positive coliform result was obtained.

The samples are summarised as follows:—

				<i>No. of Samples.</i>	
				<i>Satisfactory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>
Tuberculin tested	..	..		2	1
Pasteurised	..	..	..	19	—
Raw	..	..	..	4	—
				—	—
Totals	..	..		25	1
				—	—

THE MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1936.

Much attention was again directed to this Order during the year with a view to minimising the risk of contamination, infection and adulteration of the milk supply to the Town.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The number of licenses granted for the sale of Milk under Special Designations classified in the above Order was as follows:—

Dealers' Licences.

In respect of:—

Supplementary Licences.

Pasteurised Milk	30	Pasteurised Milk	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk ..	15	Tuberculin Tested Milk ..	2

Bottling Licences.

In respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk, 2; Pasteurised Milk, 2.

Ice Cream.

Under the requirements of the Essex County Council Act, 1933, all Ice Cream Vendors or Manufacturers in the Town must be registered.

There are 196 Vendors of Ice Cream in this Town, the majority of whom sell a proprietary article.

During the year registration was granted in 60 cases, and refused in two instances.

In May and June 45 samples of this commodity were taken and submitted for analysis on fat content, and 41 samples were also submitted to bacteriological examination.

The results of the above analyses—ranging from 1.1 to 13.1 per cent. fat content showed, on the whole, a very poor standard. The bacterial counts ranged from 300 to 370,000 per millilitre, and of these only seven were above 100,000 per millilitre.

The following table indicates the low fat contents of the samples submitted:—

Below 2 per cent.	3 per cent.	5 per cent.	8 per cent.
4	18	34	38

Following these analyses, I interviewed all Vendors of Ice Cream whose commodity showed a very poor fat content and/or where cleanliness was apparently lacking—in all, 36 Vendors were interviewed and subsequently samples were obtained of their commodity.

The following showing fat contents, if compared with the above table, will show the improvement in the fat content of Ice Cream sold in this Town as a result of these interviews, and although still not satisfactory, is a great advance on the former standard of this commodity, and appears fully to justify the energy and expense incurred:—

Below 2 per cent.	3 per cent.	5 per cent.	8 per cent.
—	4	16	28

It may be interesting to know that there was a period of two months between the two sets of samples being obtained.

One Vendor, whose commodity gave a bacterial count of 1,800,000, refrained from dealing with this commodity under my advice.

In two instances where fat contents were low, the Vendors concerned discontinued making the commodity and commenced to sell a proprietary article.

The total number of samples taken was 154—71 for fat content, 83 for bacteriological examination.

Several Vendors use a proprietary brand of ice cream powder, adding water thereto as prescribed by the makers of the powder, and make a cold mix.

I have found, as a consequence of analyses, that in several instances considerably more water has been added to the mix than that specified by the makers of the powder, with a consequent reduction in the percentage of fat content of the commodity.

Vendors have laid blame to the powder for the low fat content, and in such cases I have ascertained, by analysis, this to be incorrect.

Some Vendors, in taking the matter up with the makers of the powder, have omitted to state the fact that more water than specified has been added to the powder, which is unfortunate and likely to bring about a strained position between such makers of proprietary brands of powder and the local authority concerned.

Except for the Isle of Man—where recently a standard of at least 8 per cent. of fat, and a bacterial count of not more than 100,000 per millilitre has been fixed by legislation (to come into force in two years' time)—there appears to be no standard for Ice Cream throughout the British Isles.

(b) Meat and other Food.

During the year 2,611 animals intended for human consumption were slaughtered in the Town.

Every animal was inspected at time of slaughter, and for this purpose 426 visits were paid to the slaughterhouses.

The following table indicates the number of each type of animal slaughtered, the percentage of such affected with tuberculosis and other diseases.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.. ..	235	12	143	1,565	656
Number inspected ..	235	12	143	1,565	656
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	46	2	2	20	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	19.57	16.66	1.39	1.28	5.34
<i>Tuberculosis only:—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	27	9	1	—	37
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	12.34	75.0	0.69	—	5.79

In addition to the meat involved in the above table, the following miscellaneous articles were condemned and destroyed as unfit for food:—

2 $\frac{3}{4}$ barrels Apples.	22 Fillets Cod.
56 lbs. Tomatoes.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ stone Skate.
48 lbs. Pears.	5 stone Pollock.
2 Hams and 2 portions.	2 stone Dogfish.
6 stone Beef and Mutton.	12 stone Dabs.
2 portions Gammon.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ stone Cod.
2,379 tins Smoked Brisling.	

(c) **Adulteration, etc.—Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

The latter Act replaced the former one on 1st October and the Corporation then became the Food and Drugs Authority. Prior to this date, and as in the past, samples—chiefly of milk—have been procured as “such good work has been carried out” to quote from the Annual Report for 1938.

Since then the operation of the new Act has, of course, been greatly accelerated. This now includes a large variety of food and drugs.

During the year 100 samples have been taken and submitted for analyses. Seven of these were informal samples.

Two samples were unsatisfactory and the particulars are as follows:—

Description of Article.	Result of Analysis.	Decision taken.
Tinned Brisling .. (Smoked)	Tins in bad condition..	Inspection of retailer's stock; 2,397 tins of this particular consignment confiscated without recompense.
Lard	Not lard fat—actual Government Cooking Fat (purchased 29th December)	Retailer warned.

RENT AND MORTGAGE RESTRICTIONS ACTS, 1894-1928.

During the year 13 Certificates were granted to tenants and five Certificates have been issued to owners upon their application and completion of the scheduled works.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894-1928.

Regulation of Movement of Swine Order, 1922.—Four Isolation Notices affecting 43 swine were received. The Licenses were in all cases duly observed.

Foot and Mouth Disease (Infected Areas Restrictions) Order, 1938.—This standstill Order was made because of danger of widespread infection. It was in operation from 5th—20th November, 1939. Under the Order, Movement Licences were issued affecting 216 animals.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Much has been done in combating the rat nuisance, and where necessary poison—barium carbonate in biscuit form—has been issued gratis.

As a result of investigation carried out upon complaints being received, action has been taken as follows:—

Notices served	43	Cyanogas pump used ..	4
Drains tested	118	Accumulations removed ..	2
Drains and manholes re-paired	82	Sheds lifted or removed ..	6
Drains relaid	8	Pavings lifted and runs traced	16
Poison issued	124	Premises rat-proofed ..	7

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following table shows the work done under this Act :—

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, ETC.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prose- cuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	540	26	Nil.
Workshops without mechanical power	150	6	Nil.
Other premises under the Act. ..	33	1	Nil.
Total	723	33	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, ETC.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences (in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness	54	54	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	2	2	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	3	3	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences {	insufficient	2	2	—
	unsuitable or defec- tive	102	103	—
	not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences	52	50	6	—
Total	215	214	6	Ni

NUMBER AND TRADES OF OUTWORKERS NOTIFIED DURING 1939.

Wearing Apparel, making of	344	Pencils	..	..	..	1
Brush Making	..	..	38	Artificial Flowers	..	7
Boxes	..	..	22	Toys	..	29
Carnival Hats	..	..	2	Handbags	..	3
Envelopes	..	..	2	Novelties	..	1
Furniture	..	..	1	Feathers	..	2
Furs..	..	..	5	Shoes	..	20
Total	..	..	477			

Outworkers were notified from the following areas:—

City of London	..	103	Leyton	..	123	Tottenham	..	20
Bethnal Green	..	3	Poplar..	..	3	Walthamstow..	50	
Finsbury	..	45	Woodford	..	5	Westminster	..	11
Hackney	..	71	Stepney	..	11	Other Areas	..	13
Islington	..	8	Shoreditch	..	11			
Total	..	477						

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

General.—The accompanying tables show the age and ward incidence of the various infectious diseases which are discussed separately in later pages of the Report:—

Disease.	All ages.		Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 & over.
	1939	1938							
Scarlet Fever	192	281	—	37	122	20	12	1	—
Diphtheria	35	65	—	6	23	4	2	—	—
Enteric Fever	3	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia	147	147	4	14	14	2	38	33	22
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	38	35	—	—	—	15	23	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	5	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	54	76	—	1	1	4	8	33	7
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (under 5 years) ..	10	772	4	6	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	23	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	141	164	—	7	14	35	60	20	5
Totals { 1939..	631	—	13	74	176	101	146	87	34
{ 1938..	—	1575	53	843	268	108	184	86	33

Disease.	St. James Street.	High Street.	Hoe Street.	Wood Street.	Hale End.	Higham Hill.	Totals
Scarlet Fever	28	25	31	27	40	41	192
Diphtheria	3	6	4	3	10	9	35
Enteric Fever	—	1	1	—	1	—	3
Pneumonia	6	11	6	8	4	3	38
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	28	17	24	21	23	34	147
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	1	1	1	—	5
Erysipelas	8	7	12	1	9	17	54
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	1	1	—	—	1	3
Anterior Poliomyelitis..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (under 5 years)	2	2	2	—	1	3	10
Dysentery	1	1	1	—	—	—	3
Tuberculosis	19	18	23	18	34	29	141
Totals { 1939..	97	89	106	79	123	137	—
{ 1938..	262	203	210	225	335	340	1575

The statistics given in the foregoing table are those for the calendar year 1939.

The Registrar-General gives the statistics for the 52 weeks ended 30th December, 1939, and these are given in the following table together with the case rates per 1,000 population both for England and Wales and for Walthamstow:—

Disease.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Erysipelas
Number ..	192	35	3	147	38	54
Case Rate—						
Walthamstow	1.4	0.26	0.02	1.13	0.24	0.35
England and Wales	1.89	1.14	0.04	1.02	14.35	0.34

The rate for Puerperal Pyrexia is better expressed in relation to the number of births (i.e. live and still-births) registered than to population. When calculated on this basis the rate is:—

Walthamstow	23.7
England and Wales	14.35

Disease.	Total notified.	Removed to Hospital.	Per cent. removed to Hospital.	Deaths.	Deaths per cent. of cases notified.
Scarlet Fever	192	177	91.7	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	35	35	100	2	5.6
Enteric Fever	3	3	100	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	147	67	46	74	50.3
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	38	5	13.1	2	5.2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	2	40	—	—
Erysipelas	54	8	14.8	Not a classified cause of death	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	3	3	100	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	100	—	—
Measles (under 5 years) ..	10	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	1	33.3	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis	141	185*	—	82	58.1

*This figure also includes cases notified during previous years.

Infectious Diseases Clinic:—

Number of clinics held in connection with Infectious

Diseases and Immunisation	51
Number of attendances made	2,233
Average attendance per session	43.7
Number of Scarlet Fever cases discovered	2
Number of Diphtheria cases discovered	Nil
Number of virulence tests taken in Diphtheria carriers ..	4
Number of children recommended to Rheumatism Clinic	18
Number of children recommended to Ear Clinic	16

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following summarises the work done:—

Schick tested for the first time	67
Negative (including pseudo and negative)	27
Positive (including pseudo and positive)	40

Total number of immunisations completed during 1939:—

(a) School age	499
(b) Pre-school age	318
(c) Over school age	1
Total	818

Number not completing immunisation or left district ..	164
Number of Schick tests following immunisation	54

Number of re-Schick rests following immunisation in previous years	384
Number of attendances made at clinic for immunisation	1,901
Immunisation at schools (included above):—	
Number completely immunised	474
Number partly immunised	39
Number having second dose, immunised in previous years	107

Follow-up of Double Dose A.P.T. Immunisation for Schick Test.—531 children were sent for and 271 responded. Of these 18 gave a positive result or 6.6 per cent. had lost some of their immunity and were given another dose.

Diphtheria in Immunised Children.—One case occurred, the patient, a boy of 6 years, was admitted to the Isolation Hospital with a bad throat which, though clinically resembled diphtheria, was thought to be mainly due to Vincent's Angina. The bacteriological result of the swab taken was "K.L.B. virulent and of the intermediate type, also organisms of Vincent's Angina were found." The boy made a good recovery, which would probably not have been so had he not been immunised and therefore had a certain amount of protection.

First Birthday Letters.—1,564 letters were sent to the parents of all children following their first birthday, advising them to have their infants protected against diphtheria. 156 children were brought and protected and 20 others were immunised by private practitioners.

Immunisation by General Practitioners.—Diphtheria prophylactic is available to general practitioners. During 1939, 22c.c's of alum precipitated toxoid were issued. This quantity is sufficient to protect 22 children.

Scarlet Fever Immunisation.—There were no Dick tests for scarlet fever during 1939.

MUNICIPAL LABORATORY.

The following numbers of Diphtheria swabs were examined during 1939:—

Swabs.	Negative.	Positive.	Totals.
Private Practitioners.. ..	537	30	567
Health Department	107	14	121
School Medical Department..	202	1	203
Totals	846	45	891

The total number of Diphtheria specimens examined in 1938 was 1,771.

Direct examinations were done on 54 Diphtheria specimens, and 7 were positive; 3 were positive on culture, although negative on direct examination.

In addition, 156 specimens of urine were examined, as compared with 163 in 1938.

A total of 1,565 tubes of culture media were made by Mr. West and of these, 636 were sent to the Sanatorium.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL SCHEME.

The Essex County Council also provides facilities for examination of pathological specimens, and the County Medical Officer states that 1,997 specimens were examined for local practitioners during 1939, as follows:—

Diphtheria swabs, 146; Sputa, 759; Typhoid specimens, 28; Ringworm specimens, 7; Miscellaneous, 1,055; Diphtheria Virulence Tests, 2.

VACCINATION.

Mr. E. Sharp, Vaccination Officer for the Area, has furnished the following return for 1939:—

Births Registered	Successfully Vaccinated	Percentage Vaccinated	Insus-ceptible	Exemptions	Death before Vaccinated	Post-poned
1,457	204	14.10	1	867	27	47

In addition to the above, 11 primary vaccinations were recorded, and 18 re-vaccinations.

During 1939 the vaccinal condition of all school children examined at Routine Medical Inspection was recorded, and a summary of the findings for the year showed that 22.4 per cent. were vaccinated.

Infectious Diseases notified by the Medical Staff.—Scarlet Fever, 10; Diphtheria, 7; Dysentery, 6; Total, 23.

G.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

Renovations, etc.—Various works of renovation and maintenance were carried out during 1939.

The following table shows the admissions, discharges and deaths during 1939 :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Other Diseases.	Tuber- culosis.	Totals.
Remaining in Hos- pital 1st January..	15	20	3	20	58
Admitted during year	216	98	5	26	345
Discharged during year	228	108	7	28	371
Died during year ..	—	1	—	7	8
Remaining in Hos- pital 31st December	3	9	1	11	24

DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL

(including Tuberculosis cases).

January ..	59.3	May ..	48.7	September ..	34.0
February ..	61.3	June ..	49.9	October ..	28.4
March ..	64.0	July ..	50.3	November ..	25.2
April ..	47.2	August ..	39.9	December ..	24.8
Average whole year ..		..		44.3	

CLINICAL REPORT.

Dr. Hamilton, Resident Medical Officer, reports as follows:—

AGE AND SEX OF PATIENTS ADMITTED DURING 1938.

Disease.	Under 5 years.		5-10 years.		10-15 years.		Over 15 years.		Total.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Scarlet Fever ..	26	23	27	63	18	24	15	20	86	130	216
Diphtheria ..	15	11	21	13	8	9	7	14	51	47	98
Whooping Cough ..	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	6
Rubella ..	3	2	3	6	—	2	2	1	8	11	19
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	26	26
Staff ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	25	25
Other diseases ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	5	7
Totals ..	47	41	51	82	26	35	26	89	150	247	397

Other diseases include C.S.M., 1; P.T.F., 1; Diarrhoea, 3; for observation, 2.

AGE AND SEX AT DEATH.

Eight deaths occurred, details of which are given below :—

7 Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	Females, aged 49, 30, 22, 36, 21, 39 and 43 years.
1 Diphtheria (Heart Block)	..	Male, aged 19 years.

Staff.—Members of the staff were admitted to hospital beds suffering from the following complaints:—Purpura (1); Facial Dermatitis (1); Tonsillitis (3); Intestinal Adhesions (1); Varicose Dermatitis (1); Abscess of Breast (1); Epistaxis (1); Injured Ankle (1); Endocarditis (1); Jaundice (1); Common Cold (2); Dental Abscess (1); Rubella (1).

Operations at Hospital.—One operation (Tracheotomy) was performed.

Specialist Consultations.—Twelve consultant visits were paid by six consultants, viz.:—C.S.M., 3; Heart Disease, 2; Meningitis, 2; Mastoid, 2; Sinusitis, 2; Skin Trouble, 1.

Swabs.—345 swabs were taken and examined during the year in the laboratory at the Hospital.

Number of Outside Authorities' Cases and Nature.—

		Diph- theria.	Scarlet Fever.	Dysentery.	Total
From Whipps Cross Hospital	..	5	1	—	6
From Leyton B.C.	..	16	16	—	32
From Army Authorities	..	2	—	3	5
Total	..	23	17	3	43

The following cases were transferred to Whipps Cross Hospital:—

1 Cleft palate.	1 Drug eruption.
1 possible case of T.B.	1 Diabetes.
Meningitis.	1 to continue treatment of anterior poliomyelitis.

Duration of Treatment.—The average duration of treatment in Hospital was as follows:—

Diphtheria	..	..	..	40.6 days.
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	23.1 days.
Other diseases	..	..	..	16.5 days.

The County Medical Officer has kindly furnished the following return of patients treated in the Tuberculosis Pavilion during 1939 :—

Classification in accordance with Ministry of Health Memorandum 37.T. (Rev.).	In Hospital on 1st January, 1939.	Admitted during year.	Discharged during year.	Died during year.	In Hospital on 31st December, 1939.
Observation	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Minus	2	6	7	—	1
T.B. Plus Group I ..	1	—	1	—	—
T.B. Plus Group II ..	15	20	17	8	10
T.B. Plus Group III	1	2	3	—	—
Totals	19	28	28	8	11

Ten of the 28 admissions were Walthamstow cases.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

During the year, 53 examinations were carried out by the Medical Staff in respect of the Superannuation and Sick Pay Schemes.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Your Council made the following grants during the year to voluntary organisations :—

Invalid Children's Aid Association	£100
Walthamstow Association of Tuberculosis Care Helpers	£25

Mortuary.—A Coroner's Court, mortuary (with special provision for Infectious Disease cases) and a post-mortem room is provided by your Council at Queen's Road Cemetery.

The Cemetery Superintendent reports that the number of inquests and post-mortems were as follows :—

Inquests only	146
Post-mortems	86
Post-mortems and Inquests (not included in above) ..	29
Total	*261

*Included in the above are 149 non-residents.

SECTION H.
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. A. SMITH.

Ex-Officio :

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR—ALDERMAN H. FROST, J.P.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR—ALDERMAN MRS. C. McENTEE, J.P.

CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE—ALDERMAN ROSS WYLD, J.P.

ALDERMAN W. B. FITT.	COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. MILLER.
„ MRS. E. M. RICHARDS.	„ G. M. PAGE.
„ W. J. SHARP.	„ R. W. A. RUSSELL.
COUNCILLOR MRS. L. P. BAILEY.	„ R. E. SMITH.
„ MRS. B. M. FRIEDBERG.	„ J. H. THOMASON.
„ MRS. A. L. MEADOWS.	MRS. E. B. TOYNBEE.

Co-opted Members :

DR. J. L. MACKENZIE BROWN.	MRS. W. H. KINDELL.
MRS. S. CANDY.	MRS. A. R. ROBBINS.
MRS. HATTON.	MRS. W. J. SHARP.
MR. W. H. KINDELL.	MR. J. DE VRIES.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MATERNITY
AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present herewith a report on the Maternity and Child Welfare Services in your Borough for the year 1939.

The year is notable for the lowest Infantile Mortality rate ever recorded in Walthamstow, viz., 29, the previous lowest being 37 in 1935, and a new low record in the Maternal Mortality rate, viz., 1.29.

The Services were maintained as fully as possible during the year and in spite of four months of war, the work done at Thorpe Coombe and at clinics was almost up to that of previous years.

Again I have to acknowledge the help of your Chairman and the good work of the Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. W. POWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

As for 1938, with the addition of Miss F. Donovan, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., appointed 14th June, 1939, for Health Visiting and supervision of Out Workers.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

1,678 births (158 of which belonged to other areas) were notified during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936. Notifications were received as follows :—doctors and parents, 323; midwives, 1,355.

Included in the above are 244 births which were notified as having occurred outside the Borough.

Also included are 52 stillbirths, 4 of which did not belong to the area. 17 were notified by doctors and 35 by midwives. Of the total, seven occurred outside the area.

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 population was 0.40.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS.

The Registrar-General's returns show the following registrations during the calendar year :—

(a) Live Births.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	801	765	1,566
Illegitimate	23	17	40
	824	782	1,606

(b) Stillbirths.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	43	17	60
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	44	18	62

Of the 1,455 birth registrations received in the Department between 7th January, 1939, and 30th December, 1939, a total of 22 were not notified in this area, but some may possibly have been notified elsewhere. Appropriate action was taken when necessary.

Of the 1,455 local registrations, 204 belonging to other areas are excluded, leaving a nett total of 1,251.

The local registrations for 1939 were 104 less than in 1938.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of infants under one year of age were:—

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	..	..	24	21	45
Illegitimate	..	..	—	—	—
			—	—	—
Total	..	..	24	21	45
			—	—	—

The death-rates of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births when calculated on the totals given by the Registrar-General are therefore:—

Legitimate, 29; Illegitimate, —; Total 29.

The Infant Mortality Rate for other areas during 1939 was as follows:—

England and Wales	..	..	..	..	50
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	..	..	..	..	53
148 Smaller Towns (25,000 to 50,000)	..	..	..	..	40
London	..	..	..	..	48

Neo-Natal Mortality.

The neo-natal mortality is the number of deaths of infants under one month per 1,000 live births. During 1939, 28 infants died in the first four weeks of life, yielding a rate of 17.4.

The following rates refer to Walthamstow:—

INFANT DEATHS, NEO-NATAL MORTALITY AND STILLBIRTHS.

Year.	Live Births.	Birth Rate.	Stillbirths.			Neo-Natal Deaths.		Infant Deaths.	
			No.	Per 1,000 live births.	Per 1,000 population.	No.	Per 1,000 live births.	No.	Per 1,000 live births.
1939 ..	1,606	12.3	62	38.6	0.47	28	17.4	45	29
1938 ..	1,617	12.3	70	43.2	0.53	28	17.3	66	40
1937 ..	1,675	12.7	60	35.8	0.45	35	20.8	87	51
1936 ..	1,715	12.8	54	31.4	0.40	29	16.9	72	42
1935 ..	1,670	12.4	57	34.1	0.42	36	21.5	62	37
1934 ..	1,715	12.6	60	33.8	0.44	35	20.4	77	44
1933 ..	1,670	12.3	65	37.4	0.47	49	29.3	89	53
1932 ..	1,789	13.2	82	43.8	0.60	55	30.8	103	57
1931 ..	1,947	14.5	59	29.4	0.43	51	26.2	110	56
1930 ..	1,959	15.7	60	34.0	0.55	41	20.9	78	39

The neo-natal mortality for England and Wales for the decennium 1921-30 was 33.

The death-rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 2.49.

CHILD WELFARE.

The equivalent of whole-time Municipal Health Visitors at the end of the year was $7\frac{1}{2}$, equal to one whole-time Health Visitor per 224 notified births, and one whole-time Health Visitor per 194 registered births during 1939.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

As for 1938.

A. MUNICIPAL SCHEME.

The detailed findings at first visits paid during 1939 are given in the following table:—

The particulars in respect of housing accommodation show the following comparison:—

		House or Flat.	Half House.	1-3 Rooms.	Total.
1939 ..	..	1,049	291	143	1,483
1938 ..	..	1,128	293	199	1,620

WARD.	Visits to Children under 1 year.			Visits to Children 1-5 years.	Grand Total.	Unsuccessful Visits.	Visits to Nurse Children.	Visits re Milk Scheme.	Ante-Natal Visits.			Other Visits.	Total Visits.
	First.	Re-visits.	Total.						First Visit.	Subsequent Visits.	Total Visits.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	—	—	9	10	Cols. 5-10.
St. James Street ..	251	418	669	1,092	1,761	486	41	166	59	23	82	144	2,680
High Street	215	407	622	780	1,402	231	63	93	43	—	43	47	1,879
Hoe Street	185	405	590	627	1,217	290	33	158	32	14	46	85	1,829
Wood Street	212	366	578	496	1,074	336	32	139	59	1	60	118	1,759
Hale End	328	1,058	1,386	1,676	3,062	462	130	210	56	12	68	63	3,995
Higham Hill ..	292	807	1,099	2,032	3,131	468	87	296	45	21	66	123	4,171
Total, 1939 ..	1,483	3,461	4,944	6,703	11,647	2,273	386	1,062	294	71	365	580	16,313
Total, 1938 ..	1,620	3,882	5,502	7,752	13,254	2,151	494	1,321	351	146	497	1,250	18,967

The following table shows the number and nature of visits paid in Wards during 1939:—

CLINICS.

Dr. Sheppard reports as follows :—

“During the first eight months of 1939, the progress of Maternity and Child Welfare in the Borough was very favourable.

“Serious depletion of the Staff was caused in the early days of the war through evacuation and A.R.P. duties. The Welfare work was, nevertheless, not permitted to suffer.

“The drift back of mothers and babies began in a week or two and in a very short time the numbers attending the Centres were almost normal.

“The mothers of Walthamstow are to be congratulated that all through the very anxious period at the end of 1939 the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee kept their Services running as usual, although hampered by the need for giving help to the Reception Areas.

“The black-out was another difficulty, but that was overcome by the Staff shortening their dinner hour and opening all the Centres by 1.30 p.m. so that the mothers could have every attention and yet be able to leave in time to reach home before dark.

“Thanks are due to the voluntary workers who so ably assisted the Staff during the year and especially during those difficult months at the commencement of the war.”

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Services.

The following table summarises the attendances at the Clinics held :—

New Patients :—			Ante-Natal	Post-Natal
Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital			733	401
Low Hall Lane Clinic	..	..	401	17
			—	—
Total	..	..	1,134	418
			—	—
Total Attendances :—				
Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital			6,483	556
Low Hall Lane Clinic	..	..	642	34
			—	—
Total	..	..	7,125	590
			—	—

The total number of new patients attending the Clinics represent the following percentages of total notified births (live and still) :—

Ante-Natal, 67.5; Post-Natal, 24.9.

Apart from the patients receiving ante- and post-natal care under the Municipal Scheme, most of the remaining expectant and nursing mothers have received ante- and post-natal medical care, either at a hospital or from a private practitioner.

SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCES AT WELFARE CLINICS.

Clinic.	First Attendances of New Cases.			Re-attendances.			Grand Total.
	Under 1 yr. of age.	1-5 yrs. of age.	Total.	Under 1 yr. of age.	1-5 yrs. of age.	Total.	
Markhouse Road	540	159	699	10088	10319	20407	21106
Higham Hill ..	260	59	319	3952	4020	7972	8291
Hale End ..	223	41	264	4458	4804	9262	9526
Total { 1939 ..	1023	259	1282	18498	19143	37641	38923
{ 1938 ..	1035	285	1320	19890	19316	39206	40526

Nurse Children.—At the end of 1939 there were 58 nurse children on the register, compared with 108 at the end of 1938. During the year 94 removed, 1 was adopted, and 25 reached the age of nine years. 70 new children were registered. There were no deaths among nurse children during 1939.

Massage.—Five massage sessions per week were held at the Welfare Centres, i.e., Low Hall Lane, Monday, Thursday and Friday; Highams Park, Tuesday; and Higham Hill, Wednesday.

197 cases attended for massage, and these made 1,932 attendances.

Sale of Milk, etc., at Clinics.—The quantity and value of milk and food sold and issued free during 1939 was £1,784 7s. 4d.

WALTHAMSTOW CHILD WELFARE SOCIETY.

The organisation, staffing, and accommodation provided by the Society was fully dealt with in the 1935 Report.

The work done during the calendar year is shown in the following table compiled from information kindly supplied by Miss O. M. Francis.

CLINICS.

			First Attendances of New Cases.			Re-attendances.			Grand Total.
			Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	Total.	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	Total.	
1939	..	..	521	87	608	8368	4484	12852	13460
1938	..	..	496	115	611	9387	5066	14453	15064
1937	..	..	469	94	563	7524	3737	11261	11824
1936	..	..	427	81	508	5483	3402	8885	9393
1935	..	..	387	81	468	5526	4759	10285	10753

SPECIAL TREATMENT, ETC.

			Massage Treat- ments.	Sun- light Treat- ments	Total cases admitted to Observation Ward	Local Authority's cases admitted to Observation Ward.
1939	...	...	1489	1224	10	4
1938	...	...	2314	1949	35	1
1937	...	...	2468	1847	24	2
1936	...	...	2107	1461	28	10
1935	...	...	2197	1727	27	—

HOME VISITS.

	Visits to Children under 1 year.			Visits to Children 1-5 years.	Grand Total.
	First.	Subsequent.	Total.		
1939.. ..	495	1398	1893	1058	2951
1938.. ..	508	1691	2199	1097	3296
1937.. ..	464	1751	2215	1289	3504
1936.. ..	380	1251	1631	2639	4270
1935.. ..	338	1441	1779	2672	4451

SUMMARY OF MUNICIPAL AND VOLUNTARY SCHEMES.

The following tables give the total number of attendances at clinics and home visits :—

ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS.

	First Attendances.			Re-attendances.			Grand Total.
	Under 1 year of age.	1-5 years of age.	Total.	Under 1 year of age.	1-5 years of age.	Total.	
Municipal Scheme	1023	259	1282	18498	19143	37641	38923
Brookscroft ..	521	87	608	8368	4484	12852	13460
Total {	1939 ..	1544	346	1890	26866	23627	50493
	1938 ..	1531	400	1931	29277	24382	53659
							55590

HOME VISITS

	To Children under 1 year of age.			To Children 1-5 years of age.	Total.
	First.	Subsequent.	Total.		
Municipal Scheme ..	1483	3461	4944	6703	11647
Brookcroft	495	1398	1893	1058	2951
Total {	1939	4859	6837	7761	14598
	1938 ..	5573	7701	8849	16550

Percentage of notified births represented by
number of children under 1 year of age
who attended the Centres for the first
time (i.e., new cases) } 1939 .. 94.9

Percentage of total notified births represented
by number of expectant mothers at-
tending Ante-Natal Clinics } 1939 .. 67.5

TREATMENT.

(a) Orthopaedic.—

DEFECTS SEEN AT ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC IN CHILDREN UNDER
FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	5	Talipes	7
Bowed Tibiae	25	Torticollis	4
Rickets—		Congenital Defects ..	7
(a) Genu Varum ..	8	Amyotonia	1
(b) Genu Valgum ..	26	Miscellaneous	14
Pes Plano Valgus	24		
Spastic Paralysis	5	Total	126

ADMISSIONS TO BROOKFIELD ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL
(UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE).

Hemiplegia 2

Two operations were performed. The hospital was closed at the outbreak of War.

(b) **Dental.**—The following work was done by the Education Committee's Dental Surgeons in respect of Maternity and Child Welfare patients:—

	1937		1938		1939	
	Mothers.	Children under 5.	Mothers.	Children under 5.	Mothers.	Children under 5.
Cases Treated ..	339	138	210	130	184	92
Attendances ..	536	207	521	183	657	160
Fillings ..	150	114	176	56	221	84
Extractions ..	618	146	431	279	446	139
General Anaesthetics	227	76	180	96	171	73
Scalings ..	67	—	63	—	92	—
Dressings ..	8	235	10	26	34	30
Dentures ..	10	—	27	—	26	—

Mr. L. W. Elmer, L.D.S., Senior Dental Surgeon, submits the following report from Mrs. W. R. Thorne, L.D.S., with regard to dental treatment under the Maternity and Child Welfare scheme:—

“During the year 1939, 401 maternity and nursing cases, mostly pre-natal, have been referred for dental treatment.

Number of appointments kept:—

(a) Expectant mothers from Thorpe Coombe ..	170
(b) Expectant mothers from Welfare Centres ..	43
(c) Nursing mothers	13
Total	226

Number receiving complete treatment	33
Number receiving partial treatment, but not attending for completion	193
	216

Number failing to keep appointments	28
Number deciding to postpone treatment indefinitely ..	3

“For the last quarter of the year a much greater time has been devoted to maternity cases, owing to the evacuation of the school children. The acceptance rate for that period was exceptionally high. There has been a slight decrease in the incidence and severity of diseases of the gums.

“Conservative work has increased. Fifteen patients were supplied with dentures. 27 dentures were fitted.

“The provision of dental treatment for mothers of child-bearing age is not wide enough in its scope, and should not be restricted to the ante-natal and nursing periods.”

(c) **Tonsils and Adenoids.**—Seven cases were operated on under the arrangement made by the Education Committee with the Connaught Hospital.

(d) **Ophthalmic Defects and Minor Ailments.**—Children are given treatment either at the School Clinics or by special appointment.

(e) **Sunlight.**—No infants were referred for sunlight treatment during 1939.

(f) **Child Guidance.**—No case was referred in 1939.

(g) **Invalid Children's Aid Association.**—Miss Lewis, Secretary to the local branch of the Invalid Children's Aid Association, kindly reports that the following cases of children under five years of age were dealt with by her Association :—

Referred by :—

Medical men, Hospitals and Dispensaries	..	..	30
Orthopaedic Clinics	..	..	70
Rheumatism	..	..	1
			101

Suffering from :—

Anaemia and Debility	..	..	..	1
Marasmus and Malnutrition	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Asthma, etc.	..	..	..	6
Bone Disease (non-T.B.)	..	..	..	57
Congenital Deformities	..	..	..	16
Paralysis	..	..	..	1
After Infection	..	..	..	6
Diseases of :—				
Glands (non-T.B.)	..	..	..	1
Ear	..	..	..	4
Nose and Throat	..	..	..	1
Various	..	..	..	7
				101

HELP GIVEN TO OLD AND NEW CASES, 1939.

Sent to Special Hospitals and Convalescent Homes	..	*20
Provided with Surgical Boots and Appliances	..	21
Referred for Visiting and Advice	..	92
		133

* Includes 3 admissions to Brookfield Hospital.

ASSISTED MILK SCHEME.

Number of applications during 1939	6,339
Number of families assisted	1,281

Of the 6,339 applications, approximately 37 per cent. were from families where the father was unemployed.

Scale.	Amount.	Approximate cost to Authority.		
		£	s.	d.
Free	595 pints	7	11	0
$\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pint	53,512 ,,	589	4	10
1d. per pint	132,255 ,,	1,515	8	6
Half Cost	22,544 ,,	187	17	0
	208,906 ,,	£2,300	1	4

The following is a summary of the applications for milk for the past five years :—

	Milk.	Dried Milk.	Unem- ployed.	% Unem- ployed.	Average per week.	
					Milk.	Dried Milk.
1935	5,539	512	2,836	46.8	106.5	9.8
1936	5,947	550	2,589	39.8	114.4	10.6
1937	5,882	572	2,414	37.4	113.1	11.0
1938	6,452	508	2,962	42.5	124.1	9.9
1939	5,766	573	2,324	37.0	110.8	11.0

HOME HELPS.

In addition to the 125 Home Helps approved during 1939, many mothers attending the Clinic made their own arrangements to obtain the help of suitable women whose names were supplied by the Health Visitors.

Four applications were rejected.

STERILISED MATERNITY OUTFITS.

A total of 273 sets were used in the Borough and 212 outfits were issued below cost price.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT, ETC.

Eleven children were sent to Institutions under arrangements approved by your Committee.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR CONFINEMENTS.

The following numbers of confinements occurred at the Institutions specified (Walthamstow residents only):—

Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital	..	595
Maternity Homes in Walthamstow	..	107
Mothers' Hospital, Clapton	.. ..	62
Forest Gate Hospital.. ..	.. ..	46
Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford	.. ..	3
City of London Maternity Hospital	..	20
Other Maternity Homes	.. ..	84
		917

There are five nursing homes in the Borough with a total maximum accommodation of 31 beds for maternity cases. In addition, the Municipal Maternity Hospital has 43 lying-in beds and 4 isolation beds, making a total for the Borough of 74 lying-in beds and 4 isolation beds.

WALTHAMSTOW DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION.

Homes:—

Central Home	.. ..	19, Carisbrooke Road, E.17.
Branch Home	.. ..	36, Carisbrooke Road, E.17.
Branch Home	.. ..	384, Hale End Road, E.4.

Mrs. Drury, the Honorary Secretary, kindly reports as follows:—

"The year has been a disastrous one for the Association owing to the fact that, at the beginning of hostilities, it was not possible properly to protect No. 19, Carisbrooke Road as a Maternity Home, and, therefore, it was decided to close it down temporarily. The Staff of the Home were employed until they obtained posts, which they did very soon. Where possible, cases already booked for the Home were attended to in their own homes, but many, of course, evacuated and were lost to the Association.

"In consequence of No. 19, Carisbrooke Road being unused, 36, Carisbrooke Road was given up and the nurses all moved over to the houses Nos. 17 and 19, Carisbrooke Road.

"The District Nursing Work has been fully maintained and was increased considerably by the fact that Hospitals evacuated their cases at an early stage. All calls have been met.

"The Staff at December 31st, 1939, was as follows:—

"One Superintendent.

"One Assistant Superintendent.

"Four Queen's Nurses (all Midwives).

"Two Municipal Midwives.

"One Voluntary Midwife.

"One Emergency Midwife.

"One Non-Queen's Nurse

and two Queen's Candidates who were given their training, passed their examination and were approved on the Queen's Roll by H.M. Queen Mary. They are now on the Staff.

"General cases attended during the year, January			
1st to December 31st, 1939	..	..	918
"Visits for general cases	..	..	22,129
"Midwifery and Maternity cases attended on the			
District	..	..	218
"Midwifery and Maternity cases attended in the			
Maternity Home..	..	..	77
"Cases outside the Borough in and out of the			
Home (included above)	..	..	68
"Gas and Air—Cases to which this was adminis-			
tered on Home and District	..	..	59

"Twelve Pupil Midwives were trained during the year, comprising eight from Thorpe Coombe and four from L.C.C. Hospitals.

"The Nurses of the Association have been allocated by the M.O.H. to Dressing Stations in the event of Air Raids.

"Sixty-one Lectures were given by the Superintendent to men and women to enable the majority of the members to enter for the St. John Ambulance examination.

"Anti-Gas Lectures were given to the Staff of Messrs. Marks & Spencer by Miss Duff.

"The Provident Scheme was badly affected by evacuation, but counteracted by the fact that many new members were made, and also, we were working in conjunction with the Greater London Provident Scheme.

"The Association sustained a great loss in the retirement of the Chairman, Dr. A. P. Eldred. His successor is Dr. Myer Cohen."

ANAESTHETIST'S FEES.

During 1939 recovery on the scale for assisted Maternity and Child Welfare services was made in the two cases in which this service was approved.

CONSULTANT OBSTETRICIANS.

The services of a Consultant Obstetrician were requested by a General Practitioner on one occasion (*i.e.*, apart from the Maternity Hospital).

The conditions for which medical aid was summoned by midwives in domiciliary practice have been summarised and were as follows :—

For complications during pregnancy :—

Albuminuria	3
Threatened abortion	1
Miscarriage	1
Other conditions	11
Total	16

For complications during labour :—

Delayed 1st and 2nd stage	27	Ante-partum haemorrhage	7
Perineal laceration	55	Retained placenta	8
Malpresentation	10	Phlebitis	5
Pyrexia	7	Other conditions	20
Post-partum haemorrhage	2		141

For complications in regard to the infant :—

Prematurity and feebleness	4	Cyanosis	1
Discharging eyes	7	Other conditions	14
Jaundice	3	Total	29

Details of medical aid notices issued by midwives employed at Thorpe Coombe are given in the Maternity Hospital report.

Municipal Midwifery and Maternity Service.—

The table below shows the number of visits done :—

Ante-Natal Visits.			Deliveries.		Lying-in Visits.	Total Visits.
Patients' Homes.	Midwife's House.	Clinic.	Mid.	Mat.		
1746	2007	439	353	108	10235	14888

Public Health Act, 1936 (Nursing Homes).—See Public Health Section of the Report.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Thirty-eight cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during 1939. The notifications were received from the following sources:—Maternity Hospital, 26; Hospitals outside the area, 3; and General Practitioners, 9.

The Puerperal Pyrexia rate for 1939 was 22.1 per 1,000 births, and the mortality due to Puerperal Sepsis was 5.2 per cent. of the cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified.

The Registrar-General has issued the following rates with regard to the notification of Puerperal Pyrexia. The Walthamstow rates are set out in comparison.

Area.	Per 1,000 live and still births.	
	Puerperal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
England and Wales		14.35
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..		17.26
148 Smaller Towns (25-50,000 population)		12.99
London Administrative County	3.31	14.22
Walthamstow		22.1

The notifications and rates for Walthamstow for the past five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Per 1,000 Total Births (live and still).					
	Puerperal Fever.		Puerperal Pyrexia.		Total.	
	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
1939 ..	Not notifiable		38	22.78	38	22.78
1938 ..	Not notifiable		35	20.80	35	20.80
1937 ..	4	2.30	34	19.59	38	21.89
1936 ..	5	2.82	30	16.96	35	19.78
1935 ..	4	2.31	31	17.95	35	20.26

PUERPERAL PYREXIA INCIDENCE, 1939 (Excluding Maternity Hospital).

No. of Case.	Date of Notification.	Date Notification Received.	Age.	Ward.	Facilities requested on notification.	Date of Birth or Mis-carriage.	Onset of Pyrexia.	Date removed to Hospital.	Remarks.
1	11.2.39	13.2.39	29	Wood Street ..	Removal to Hospital	8.2.39	10.2.39	11.2.39	Abortion.
2	25.2.39	2.3.39	20	Hale End ..	Already in Hospital..	16.2.39	22.2.39	15.2.39	Influenza. Occurred outside district.
3	11.3.39	13.3.39	18	High Street ..	All facilities available	19.2.39	10.3.39	Not removed	Influenza.
4	16.3.39	18.3.39	25	High Street ..	All facilities available	20.2.39	4.3.39	Not removed	Influenza.
5	19.4.39	20.4.39	—	Ex. ..	Removal to Hospital	14.4.39	17.4.39	17.4.39	
6	25.4.39	27.4.39	26	High Street ..	Removal to Hospital	6.4.39	14.4.39	26.4.39	
7	2.7.39	3.7.39	38	High Street ..	Removal to Hospital	24.6.39	30.6.39	2.7.39	Abortion.
8	24.7.39	25.7.39	25	High Street ..	Already in Hospital..	16.7.39	24.7.39	24.7.39	
9	20.8.39	21.8.39	22	Hoe Street ..	All facilities available	16.8.39	19.8.39	Not removed	Cerebral thrombosis. Ex- tended breech.
10	31.8.39	8.9.39	35	Hoe Street ..	Already in Hospital..	23.7.39	25.7.39	22.7.39	Caesarean section. Urinary infection. Occurred out- side district.
11	19.9.39	22.9.39	40	Higham Hill ..	Already in Hospital..	16.9.39	17.9.39	11.9.39	Bronchitis. Occurred out- side district. Died.
12	24.11.39	25.11.39	32	St. James Street	All facilities available	9.11.39	22.11.39	Not removed	Caesarean Section.

ABORTION.

Circular 1661.—The number of cases in which medical aid notices were issued during 1939 by midwives in accordance with Rule E of the Central Midwives Board was:—

Threatened abortion and miscarriage	1
Abortion and miscarriage	1

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

The number of cases notified during the last two years were:—

Year.	Totals.	St. James Street.	High Street.	Hoe Street.	Wood Street.	Hale End.	Higham Hill.
1939 ..	5	2	—	1	—	1	1
1938 ..	4	—	—	2	1	—	1

Year.	Treated		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
1939 ..	1	4	5	—	—	—
1938 ..	2	2	4	—	—	1

The cause of death was prematurity.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

During 1939, six deaths associated however slightly with pregnancy and child-bearing were investigated for the completion of enquiry forms.

Particulars relating to the six deaths are given in the accompanying table.

The following table shows the maternal mortality rates for 1939 (calculated on the two deaths assigned by the Registrar-General to Headings 29 and 30).

Deaths of Women due to Pregnancy and Child-Bearing.									
Births Registered.	WALTHAMSTOW.						England and Wales.		
	Puerperal Sepsis. (Heading 29 R.G.)	Other Puerperal Causes. (Heading 30 R.G.)	Total.	Rates per 1,000 Births registered.			Rates per 1,000 Births registered.		
				Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Puerperal Causes.	Total.	Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Puerperal Causes.	Total.
Live, 1,606 ..	2	—	2	1.29	—	1.29	0.77	2.16	2.93
Live and Still-births, 1,668	2	—	2	1.24	—	1.24	0.74	2.08	2.82

DEATHS DUE TO PREGNANCY AND CHILD-BEARING AND/OR ASSOCIATED THEREWITH.

Case No.	Date of Death.	Certified Cause of Death and Classification.	Age.	Ward.	Circumstances.	No. of Pregnancy and Duration.		Ante-Natal Care. Doctor. Midwife.		Physical Condition.	Date of Confinement or Abortion.	Doctor called.	Admission to Hospital.
							Weeks.						
1	26.1.39	General peritonitis due to perforation of uterus by an instrument	23	Ho.	Moderately comfortable	1	? 8	No	No	Good ..	26.1.39	26.1.39	26.1.39
2	10.3.39	Multiple pulmonary infarction associated with thrombo-phlebitis of iliac veins (Bilateral) associated with child-birth	24	Ho.	Fairly comfortable	1	40	Yes	Yes	Satisfactory	5.2.39	—	—
3	2.4.39	Puerperal septicaemia—miscarriage	37	W.	Poor ..	4	? 16	No	No	?	2.3.39	3.3.39	20.3.39
4	21.8.39	Valvular disease of the heart	38	He.	Comfortable	16	32	Yes	Yes	Poor ..	19.8.39	—	16.8.39
5	24.8.39	Heart failure, myocardial degeneration. Acute yellow atrophy of liver	30	Ho.	Comfortable	1	—	Yes	Yes	Good ..	23.8.39	3.8.39	12.8.39
6	19.9.39	Paralytic ileus following Caesarean section	39	H.H.	Poor ..	2	39	Yes	Yes	Pre-existing disease	16.9.39	—	11.10.39

The following table sets out the maternal mortality, stillbirth and neo-natal death rates for the past five years:—

Rate (per 1,000 live births).	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.
Maternal Mortality	1.29	1.85	3.57	1.74	3.00
Stillbirths	38.6	43.2	35.8	31.4	34.1
Neo-Natal Deaths	17.4	17.3	20.8	16.9	21.5

The maternal mortality rates for the past five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Total Births Registered.	Deaths.			Rates per 1,000 Births. (Live and Still).		
		Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Puerperal Causes.	Total.	Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Puerperal Causes.	Total.
1939 ..	1,668	2	—	2	1.19	—	1.19
1938 ..	1,687	1	2	3	0.59	1.18	1.78
1937 ..	1,735	4	2	6	2.30	1.15	3.45
1936 ..	1,769	1	2	3	0.56	1.13	1.69
1935 ..	1,727	3	2	5	1.73	1.16	2.89

THORPE COOMBE MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

Alterations and Extensions.—

The extensions approved by the Minister of Health were commenced in 1938.

The total accommodation of the Hospital when these extensions are completed will be:—

Lying-in beds, 47; Isolation beds, 6; Total, 53.

General.—(a) Form M.C.W. 96A (Ministry of Health).

1. Name and address of Institution—Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital, 714, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E.17.

2. Number of maternity beds in the Institution (exclusive of isolation and labour beds)—43.
- 2a. Number of beds, if any, under item 2 which have been allocated to, and reserved for, expectant mothers in need of hospital treatment—Variable according to requirements. No definite reservation.
3. Number of maternity cases admitted during the year—675 (including ante- and post-natal cases).
- 3a. Number of women treated during the year in the beds shown against item 2a. (Included in item 3).—119.
4. Average duration of stay of cases included against item 3—14.12.
5. Number of cases delivered by—
 - (a) Midwives—500.
 - (b) Doctors—95.
6. Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency—264.
7. Number of cases notified as—
 - (a) Puerperal fever—Nil.
 - (b) Puerperal pyrexia—26.
8. Number of cases of pemphigus neonatorum—Nil.
9. Number of infants not entirely breast fed while in the Institution—107 complemented, 31 (artificially fed).
- 10a. Number of cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum—1.
- 10b. Result of treatment. Satisfactory after-treatment at St. Margaret's Hospital.
11. (a) Number of maternal deaths—2.
 - (b) Cause of death in each case :—
 - (1) Pulmonary infarction associated with thrombophlebitis of iliac veins.
 - (2) Auricular fibrillation; Mitral incompetence; Death occurred following Cæsarean Section.
12. (a) Number of infant deaths—
 - (1) Stillborn—19.
 - (2) Within 10 days of birth—12.
 - (b) Cause of death in each case, and results of post-mortem examination (if obtainable).

1. STILLBIRTHS:—

(a) <i>Premature</i> —					<i>Recent.</i>	<i>Macerated.</i>
Hydrops foetalis..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Maternal Haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	1	2
Maternal toxaemia and placental in-						
sufficiency	..	..	..	..	—	2
Undetermined	..	..	..	..	—	2
					—	—
					2	6
					—	—
(b) <i>Full Term</i> —						
Maternal toxaemia, placental in-						
sufficiency	..	..	..	..	2	—
Hydrocephaly	..	..	..	..	1	1
Intra-cranial trauma	..	..	..	..	2	—
Pressure upon cord	..	..	..	..	2	—
Atelectasis	..	..	..	..	1	—
Undetermined	..	..	..	..	2	—
					—	—
					10	1
					—	—

2. INFANT DEATHS:—

(a) <i>Premature</i> —						
Respiratory failure due to prematurity	..	..	..	..	5	
Intestinal obstruction due to congenital volvulus	..	..	..	..	1	
Haemorrhagic discharge of the new-born	..	..	..	..	1	
					—	
					7	
					—	
(b) <i>Full Term</i> —						
Intra-cranial trauma	..	..	..	..	2	
Atelectasis, suprarenal haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	2	
Hydrocephaly and spina bifida	..	..	..	..	1	
					—	
					5	
					—	

The stillbirth rate was 33.0 per 1,000 live births, and the neonatal mortality within 10 days of birth was 20.8 per 1,000 live births.

(b) *Occupation of Beds.*—The average daily occupation of beds was as follows:—

January	..	..	27.0	July	..	..	33.06
February	..	..	33.9	August	..	..	37.32
March	..	..	27.9	September	..	..	11.74
April	..	..	33.7	October	..	..	12.8
May	..	..	30.1	November	..	..	13.7
June	..	..	33.7	December	..	..	19.7

The average for the whole year was equal to 74.8 per cent. beds occupied (based on 39 beds).

(c) *Emergency Unit*.—The services of the emergency unit were required on three occasions during the year.

(d) *Training of Pupil Midwives*.—The Hospital is approved by the Central Midwives Board, jointly with the Middlesex Hospital, for the training of pupil midwives in both Part I and Part II of the training under the new rules.

During 1939, 13 pupils from Thorpe Coombe obtained the Part I Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

The following clinical report has been compiled by Dr. Helen Rodway, M.R.C.O.G., Resident Obstetrician.

THORPE COOMBE MATERNITY HOSPITAL. CLINICAL REPORT.

During the year there were 675 admissions to the Hospital, 595 confinements, 6,483 attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic and 556 at the Post-Natal Clinic.

In September, at the outbreak of war, the Hospital was partly cleared temporarily in preparation for any special war-time function for which it might be required. Owing to the evacuation of expectant mothers, there was, for several months, a considerable decrease in admissions and future bookings, but by the end of the year, the bookings were only ten less than in December, 1938.

An unabridged statistical and clinical report had, as usual, been compiled, but will not be printed in detail this year. Type-written copies will be filed and made available for reference. A general outline of the work of the Hospital is given below:—

Admissions:—

(a) for confinement	..	..	552
(b) ante-natal	..	..	*119
(c) miscarriage	..	..	—
(d) post-natal	..	..	4
			—
Total	..	..	675
			—

*43 of these patients were delivered before discharge from the Hospital.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Number of Clinics held:—	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.
(a) Consultant's Clinic ..	8	12	12	12	21
(b) Resident Obstetrician's Clinics	176	155	129	117	125
(c) Midwives' Clinics ..	234	294	349	352	225
Totals	418	461	490	481	371

Number of Expectant Mothers who attended Ante-Natal Clinics	733	702	753	691	762
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Total attendances at Ante- Natal Clinics:—					
(a) New patients	733	702	753	691	762
(b) Old patients	5,750	6,032	5,501	5,354	4,543
Totals	6,483	6,734	6,254	6,045	5,305

Total number of attendances at:—					
(a) Consultant's Clinics ..	117	186	—	—	—
(b) Resident Obstetrician's Clinics	2,904	2,229	2,382	2,648	2,868
(c) Midwives' Clinics ..	3,462	4,319	3,872	3,397	2,437
Totals	6,483	6,734	6,254	6,045	5,305

Average attendances per ses- sion:—					
(a) Consultant's Clinics ..	14.62	15.5	—	—	—
(b) Resident Obstetrician's Clinics	16.5	14.38	16.9	—	—
(c) Midwives' Clinics ..	14.79	14.69	11.0	—	—

Post-Natal Clinics.

Number of Clinics held	47
Number of attendances:—	
(a) New patients	401
(b) Old patients	155
Total	556

The percentage of new patients relative to the number of confinements in the Hospital was 67.3.

Average attendance per session, 11.8.

ANTE-NATAL ADMISSIONS.

There were 119 admissions during the ante-natal period this year; 43 patients were delivered before discharge from the Hospital.

Reasons for Admission:—

Albuminuria and hyperpiesis	33
(Seven of these were re-admissions)	
Pre-eclamptic condition	3
Eclampsia	1
Hyperpiesis	4
Hyperpiesis and hyperemesis	2
Hyperemesis	2
Oedema	1
Glycosuria	1
Cardiac condition	10
Ante-partum haemorrhage	8
Phlebitis	1
Pyelitis	3
For observation following a fall	4
For rest	12
	85
For observation and discharged because not in labour	34
Total	119

EMERGENCY ADMISSIONS.

Reasons for Admission:—

Ante-partum haemorrhage	4
Pre-eclamptic state	2
Obstructed labour	1
Delay in progress of labour	2
Face presentation	1
Breech presentation	1
Maternal distress	1
Prolapsed cord	1
Post-maturity	1
Disproportion	1
Transferred from other Hospitals	3
Total	18

In addition, two infants were admitted with their mothers; in one case the mother was confined at home, but was admitted because she was booked for admission here, in the other case the patient was re-admitted after discharge for observation prior to transfer to a Mental Hospital.

Number of Confinements:—

(a) Primigravidae	..	..	..	..	..	352
(b) Multigravidae	..	..	..	..	..	243
Total	..	..	..	..	..	595

Number of Patients delivered by:—

(a) A doctor	..	..	..	..	..	95
(b) A midwife	..	..	..	..	..	500
Total	..	..	..	..	..	595

ANALGESIA IN LABOUR.

In every suitable case sedative drugs and gas-air analgesia were administered to patients. In no case was there any ill effect on the mother or infant.

Presentation and Position during Labour:—

	Primi-gravida.	Multi-gravida.	Total.
Vertex left occipito-anterior ..	218	154	372
Vertex right occipito-anterior ..	89	67	156
Vertex right occipito-lateral ..	2	—	2
Vertex left occipito-lateral ..	8	—	8
Vertex right occipito-posterior ..	10	3	13
Vertex left occipito-posterior ..	13	4	17
Breech	19	10	29
Face	2	—	2
Brow	1	—	1
Not stated	3	—	3
Totals	365	238	603

This includes 8 cases of twin confinement.

INFANTS.

The number born in the Hospital was 603.

Number completely breast fed	434
Number complemented with other milk	107
Number not breast fed	31

Stillbirths:—

	Number.	Per-centage.
Premature, i.e., under 5½lbs.	8	1.3
Full Term, i.e., over 5½lbs.	11	1.8
Total	19	3.1

Infant Deaths:—

					Number.	Per-centage.
Under 5½lbs.	..	..	..	..	7	1.1
Over 5½lbs.	..	..	..	..	5	0.8
Total	..	..	..	..	12	1.9

MEDICAL AID NOTICES.

In 264 cases medical aid was sought by midwives working in the Hospital. Treatment was given by the Resident Medical Officer.

(a) For Complications during Pregnancy:—

Pre-eclamptic condition	..	..	..	1
Eclampsia	..	..	..	1
Collapse of patient	..	..	..	1
Cardiac condition	..	..	..	1
				4

(b) For Complications during Labour:—

Ante-partum haemorrhage	..	..	..	7
Pre-eclampsia	..	..	..	1
Eclampsia	..	..	..	3
Epileptic Fit	..	..	..	1
Collapse in first stage (on admission)	..	..	..	1
Cardiac: second stage	..	..	..	10
Toxaemia: second stage	..	..	..	6
Delay in first and second stages	..	..	..	35
Delay in third stage	..	..	..	2
Obstructed labour	..	..	..	1
Breech presentation in a primipara	..	..	..	15
Brow presentation	..	..	..	1
Twins	..	..	..	3
Face presentation	..	..	..	1
Obstructed labour	..	..	..	1
Maternal distress	..	..	..	3
Foetal distress	..	..	..	7
Ruptured perineum	..	..	..	146
Post-partum haemorrhage	..	..	..	2
				246

(c) For Complications during Puerperium:—

(Post-Natal admission)

Ruptured perineum	..	..	..	1
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(d) For Complications in regard to the Infant:—

Asphyxia	10
Feeble condition	3
	13

SUMMARY OF ABNORMAL CASES.

Pregnancy toxaemia including eclampsia	29
Chronic nephritis	1
Ante-partum haemorrhage—	
(a) Placenta praevia	6
(b) Toxaemia	1
(c) Undetermined	2
Organic heart disease	10
Post-partum haemorrhage (over 20 ounces)	30
Manual removal of placenta	3
Puerperal pyrexia—	
(a) Local infection	2
(b) Uterine and peritoneal infection	1
(c) Urinary infection	1
(d) Pyelitis	1
(e) Non-suppurative mastitis	14
(f) Suppurative mastitis	1
(g) Influenzal cold	4
(h) Undiagnosed	2
Total	108

Operations performed:—**Caesarean section, on account of—**

(a) Cardiac disease	2
(b) Disproportion and contracted pelvis	8
(c) Previous still-births	1
(d) Placenta praevia	2
Induction of labour	8
Forceps delivery.. .. .	53

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were two maternal deaths in the Hospital during the year. In the first case this was due to pulmonary infarction associated with thrombo-phlebitis of the iliac veins; in the second case the patient's death was due to auricular fibrillation and occurred after Caesarean Section.

RESEARCH.

(a) Nutrition of Expectant and Nursing Mothers in relation to Maternal Mortality and Morbidity:—

The results of this investigation, in which the Hospital, with nine mothers, took part, have not yet been reported. The research was carried out under the guidance of the People's League of Health, who supplied accessory food factors to fifty per cent. of our mothers from March, 1938, until July of this year.

(b) Investigation into Daily Diets of Patients:—

Since March, 1938, this investigation has also been carried out by us in co-operation with the People's League of Health. Each patient, when first attending the Hospital, is given a sheet in which to give details of her diet day by day for a week. In addition, questions are asked with a view to finding out what amount of protective foods patients include in their diets. This investigation has made it possible for us to give greater help to patients in the correction of faulty diets, and, where diet is inadequate, to make arrangements for the supply of necessary food.

(c) Investigation into the Cause of Mastitis in Nursing Mothers:—

This investigation was begun this year, with the help of Dr. Camps, who is having the bacteriological part of the work carried out at Chelmsford.

MOTHERCRAFT INSTRUCTION.

The keenness of our young mothers attending the ante-natal clinics made us aware that they were looking to us for help, advice, and instruction in preparing for their babies, which was not possible to give, much as we wished, at the ante-natal clinics. On this account, we began in December to have fortnightly classes in which to teach our mothers the simple principles of mothercraft.

RESEARCH IN NUTRITION AND DIET

1. Nutrition of Expectant and Nursing Mothers in Relation to Maternal Mortality and Morbidity

The results of this investigation, in which the Hospital with its Maternity Ward, have not yet been reported. The research was carried out under the guidance of the Faculty of Medicine, who supplied necessary food factors to this part of our studies from March, 1933, until July of this year.

(a) Investigation into Daily Diet of Patients

Since March, 1933, this investigation has been carried out in co-operation with the Faculty of Medicine. Each morning when the attending physician is present in which a representative of her diet for the day or a week, in addition, mothers are asked to contribute to studies and a list amount of nutritive food factors is made in their diets. This investigation was made it possible for us to give greater help to patients in the selection of family diets and, when diet is insufficient, to make arrangements for the supply of necessary food factors.

(b) Investigation into the Cause of Abnormalities in Nursing Mothers

This investigation was begun in March, 1933, with the aim of finding out the factors which lead to abnormal conditions in nursing mothers.

MOTHERCRAFT INSTRUCTION

The purpose of our young mothers' instruction is to give them a basis for their own health and the health of their children. On the basis of this, we wish to give them a basis for their own health and the health of their children. In the instruction, we have to take into account the physical, mental, and moral aspects of the mother.

CONCLUSION

The results of our research in nutrition and diet, in the investigation into the daily diet of patients, in the investigation into the cause of abnormalities in nursing mothers, and in the mothercraft instruction, show that a systematic approach to these problems is necessary for the improvement of maternal and child health.