

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

Contributors

Richmond upon Thames (London, England). Council.
Pereira, Eric.
Dancy, John.

Publication/Creation

[1946]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/k7bk9p5h>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

BOROUGH OF RICHMOND

(SURREY)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

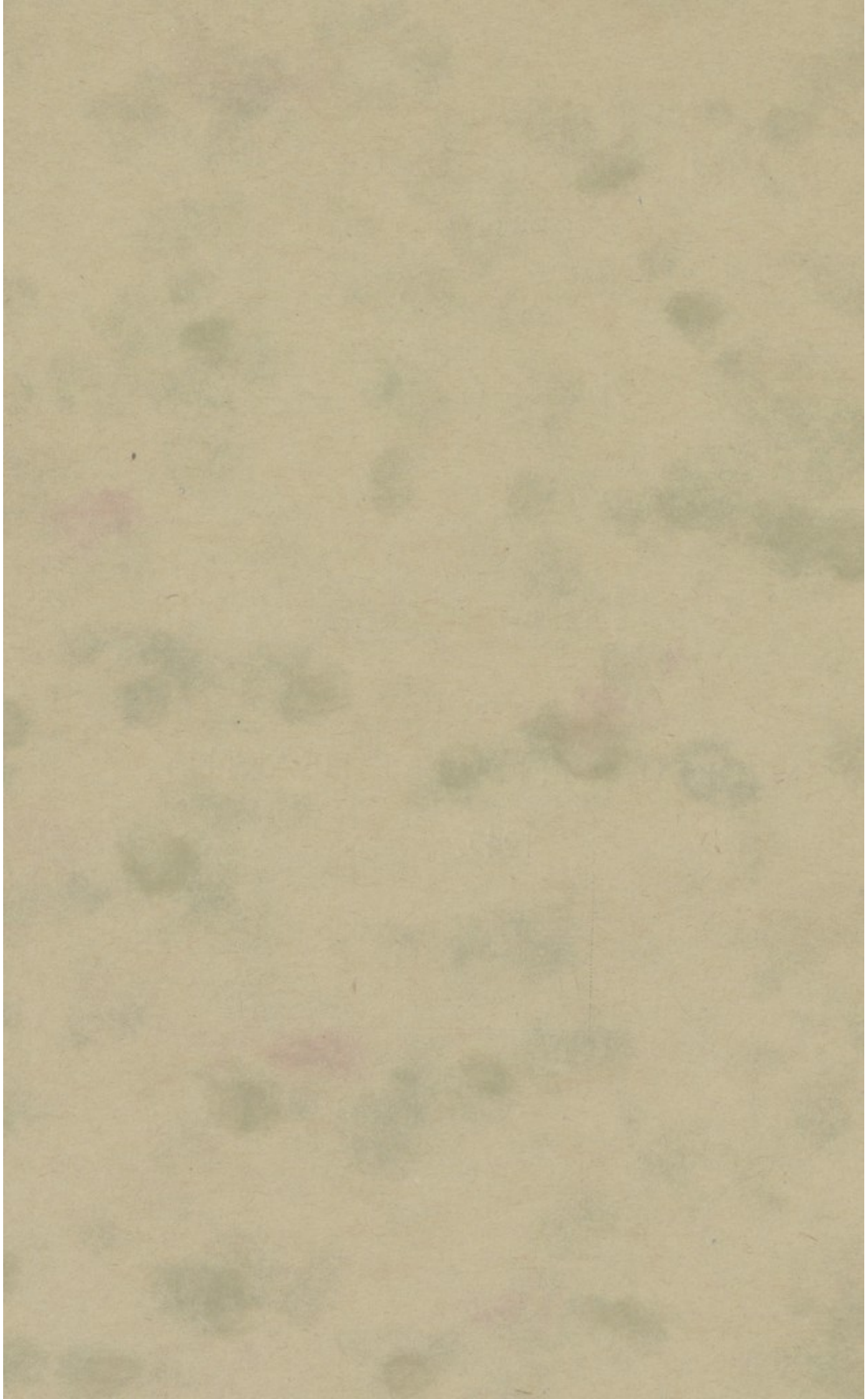
1945.

RICHMOND :

J. H. BROAD AND CO., LTD.,

PRINTERS,

8, KING STREET.



BOROUGH OF RICHMOND

(SURREY)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1945.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
Introductory Letter	1
List of Staff	2-3
SECTION A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.	
Social Conditions	4
Births	4
Deaths	4-6
Birth-Rate, Death-Rate & Analysis of Mortality (Table) ...	7
The Health of the People	8-10
SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.	
Laboratory Work	11
Ambulance Facilities	11
Ambulance Calls, Analysis of	12-13
List of Treatment Centres & Clinics	14
Health Visitors	15
Premature Infants	16
Care of Illegitimate Children	17-19
Nursing Homes	19
Wartime Nurseries	19
Home Helps, Maternity	20
Home Helps, Domestic	20-21
SECTION C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.	
Water Supply	21
Sanitary Inspection	22-24
Sanitary Defects	25-27
Notices Served	27-28
Complaints Received	28-29
Food Inspection	29-30
Petroleum Acts	31
Disinfection and Disinfestation	31
Destruction of Insect Pests and the Use of D.D.T. ...	31-34
Diseases of Animals Acts	34
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	34-35
SECTION D—HOUSING.	
Housing	36
Billeting and Evacuation	36-37
SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.	
Sale of Food and Drugs Acts	38
Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936	39
SECTION F—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.	
Notification of Infectious Disease	39
Assistance to Householders in Case of Epidemics	40
Precautions against Typhus and Smallpox	40-41
Admissions to South Middlesex Fever Hospital	41
Diphtheria Immunisation	41-44
Verminous Conditions—Scabies and Head-lice	44-45
Tuberculosis	45-47
INDEX	48-49

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
PARKSHOT,
RICHMOND, (SURREY).

August, 1946.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF RICHMOND, (SURREY).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1945 upon the Sanitary Circumstances, Sanitary Administration and Vital Statistics of the Borough.

At the request of the Ministry of Health, the material for this Report has once more been curtailed by the omission of certain tables of statistics. As in previous years, these will be retained in the Public Health Department for purposes of record.

Full reference has however been made to the Care of Illegitimate Children, to the new insecticide D.D.T., and to certain changes which have been made in the routine of Diphtheria Immunisation and in the running of the Borough Ambulance Service.

During the War years the work of the Department has gathered both in volume and in scope, and at present there would appear to be no indication that it will diminish during the post-War period.

I desire to express my thanks to all members of the Council for their appreciation and encouragement during a particularly full year of work, and once again to record my gratitude to all members of the staff of the Public Health Department for their ungrudging support during Dr. Pereira's absence.

No account of the year's happenings would be complete without a reference to the retirement of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Laws devoted 35 years of his life to the service of Richmond. In the Department he was respected by his colleagues and trusted by the public. Among his peers at the Royal Sanitary Institute he was repeatedly elected to positions of the highest possible dignity. Finally, for his services to the Nation, he was honoured by His Majesty the King.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN DANCY,

Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

LIST OF STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

ERIC PEREIRA, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (On War Service).

Temporary Medical Officer of Health:

JOHN DANCY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics:

PHYLLIS M. REX, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part-time).

Medical Officer to Child Welfare Clinics and Day Nurseries:

MARJORIE F. CARTLEDGE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part-time)

Ophthalmic Surgeon to Maternity and Child Welfare Department:

C. J. L. BLAIR, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dental Surgeon to Maternity and Child Welfare Department:

MISS EVELYN RUSSELL, L.D.S., R.C.S.(Eng). (Part-time until March 1945).

GEORGE PACKHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S. (Part-time from April 1945).

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

GEORGE LAWS, M.B.E., F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A. (Retired 7/7/45).

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors:

BERNARD AISTHORPE, M.R.San.I. (Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector from 8/7/45).

ERNEST S. POWER, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

CHARLES S. SMEATON, M.R.San.I.

Health Visitors:

MISS E. D. STEUART, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Cert.
MRS. N. H. ELDER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Cert. (On War Service).

MISS E. M. MORTIMER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Cert.

MISS J. L. EDDYVEAN, S.R.N., H.V.'s Cert. (Temporary).

MISS D. F. MARTIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Cert.
(Temporary until 25/7/45).

MISS M. J. GALLIGAN, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Cert.
(Temporary from 10/9/45).

Social Welfare Worker:

MISS H. OLIVER.

Clinic Assistant:

MRS. E. ELVIDGE.

Clerks:

MISS V. SLACK (Chief Clerk).

MISS I. E. WORLAND.

MRS. N. PHILLIPS.

MISS S. MOORE.

MISS D. K. A. BONNER (from 7/8/45).

Drain Tester and Disinfector:

J. DAVIS.

SECTION A—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres ...	...	...	4,234
Population (Census 1931) ...	...	...	37,791
Population (estimated 1944) ...	...	...	34,160
Number of inhabited houses (estimated) ...	...	...	9,988
Rateable value ...	...	...	£584,039
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	...	...	£2,275

BIRTHS.

BIRTH-RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	16.7
Total number of births (live and still) ...	571

Analysis:—	M.	F.	Total
Live Births: Legitimate ...	259	239	498
Illegitimate ...	34	28	62
Still Births: Legitimate ...	4	5	9
Illegitimate ...	1	1	2
Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 total births ...			19

Environment of Births:—

Proportion taking place in the Borough ...	63%
Proportion taking place outside the Borough ...	37%
Proportion taking place in Institutions ...	75%
Proportion taking place in dwelling-houses ...	25%
Proportion notified by midwives alone ...	95%
Proportion notified by doctors or parents ...	5%

DEATHS.

DEATH-RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	13.9
Total number of deaths from all causes ...	478

Analysis:—	M.	F.	Total
All Causes ...	218	260	478
Cancer ...	37	47	84
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	1	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under two years) ...	2	—	2

MATERNAL-MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 total births	...	1.75
Total number of maternal deaths ...	...	1

Analysis :—

Deaths from puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	...	—
Deaths from other maternal causes	...	1

Environment of Maternal Deaths :—

Number occurring in the Borough	...	—
Number occurring outside the Borough	...	1
Number occurring in Institutions	...	1
Number occurring in dwelling-houses	...	—

INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year of age).

Infant-Mortality Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	...	34
Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	30
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	65
Total number of infant deaths in the Borough	...	19

<i>Analysis :—</i>	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	6	9	15
Illegitimate ...	2	2	4

Environment of Infant Deaths :—

Number occurring in the Borough	...	11
Number occurring outside the Borough	...	8
Number occurring in Institutions	...	12
Number occurring in dwelling-houses	...	6
Found in River Thames ...	...	1

Causes of death under 1 year of age.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
1. Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	6
2. Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth ...	4	2	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	6
3. Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Enteritis ...	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	2
5. Whooping-cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Other defined diseases ...	1	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	...	5
	6	2	...	1	9	4	4	2	...	19

BIRTH RATE, CIVILIAN DEATH RATE & ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1945
(Provisional figures).

(The Mortality rates for England and Wales refer to the whole population but those for London and the towns refer to civilians only).

Note: A dash signifies that there were no deaths.

	Rate per 1,000 Civilian population.		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.									Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total Deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	16·1†	0·46†	11·4†	0·00	0·00	0·02	0·00	0·02	0·02	0·08	5·6	46*
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	19·1	0·58	13·5	0·00	—	0·02	0·00	0·02	0·02	0·07	7·8	54
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ...	19·2	0·53	12·3	0·00	—	0·02	0·00	0·01	0·02	0·07	4·5	43
London Administrative County ...	15·7	0·40	13·8	0·00	—	0·01	0·00	0·02	0·01	0·07	7·6	53
RICHMOND ...	16·7	0·32	13·9	—	—	0·03	—	—	—	—	3·5	34

*Per 1,000 related births.

†Per 1,000 total population.

	Abortion with Sepsis.	Abortion without Sepsis.	Puerperal Infections.	Other.
The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows Per 1,000 Total Births	0·25	0·08	0·24	1·22
The maternal mortality rates for Richmond are as follows ... Per 1,000 Total Births	—	—	—	1·75

THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE.

The definition of health.

The word 'health' implies by derivation a state of haleness or wholeness as opposed to one of illness. Hence the popular fallacy, which continues to linger, that health is largely a matter of freedom from sickness.

When Preventive Medicine entered the field of public health its primary objective became the abatement of disease insofar as it appeared preventable. The attack therefore opened upon infectious diseases, with special reference to those which were notifiable.

Today, our conception of the problem is less static. Preventive Medicine has become Social Medicine, under which health can no longer be evaluated in terms of disease, nor can it be achieved by its elimination. The health we demand for the people is rather a reserve of fitness in face of all baneful biological influences, of which disease is only one, and, even so, only in part preventable. In any case, preventable disease can only be prevented by disentangling its roots, which include poverty, bad housing, malnutrition, and ignorance. Moreover, the new fitness must be physical, mental and spiritual: it must be total and maximal.

To express this ideal, the term Positive Health has recently become current, conveying as it does the conception of good health progressing to even better health, with the goal for ever moving ahead of achievement. Accepted in this dynamic sense it follows that positive health aspires to become a matter rather for international comparison than for Local Government statistics.

The available Statistics.

The statistical evidence for the year 1945, in Richmond as throughout England and Wales, suggests that despite the War the physical health of the civil population has suffered remarkably little. Births have replaced deaths with an increasingly easy margin. The country as a whole has fed better, and certainly more fairly, than at any other period in English history. The specific infectious diseases, for reasons partly unknown to us, have remained quiescent, even failing to thrive under conditions of gross overcrowding: the only exception would appear to be Sonne Dysentery, but even here the rise is in part to be explained by better diagnosis.

Meanwhile, the infant-mortality rate, always accepted hitherto as the most sensitive and reliable index to the health of the people, has pursued a steady downward trend throughout the War and, singularly enough, this applies equally in cities that have been bombed. Doubtless the credit lies with certain off-setting factors, notably the favourable effect of differential rationing which has been universal, and the fact that more and more babies today are indirectly reaping the harvest of the great maternity and child welfare movement which was officially started in 1918. If so, this would account also for the parallel fall which has occurred in the rates for still-births, neo-natal deaths and prematurity, all of them tokens of the standard of motherhood.

Of the remaining rates, that for illegitimacy still stands disquietingly high, whilst the malformation-rate alone clings to its pre-War level. This is hardly surprising since, with few exceptions, the cause of congenital malformation is genetic and its incidence is therefore mathematical. The fact however that malformations have not increased with the War should at last put a term to the ancient superstition that they are due to some horrifying experience on the part of the expectant mother.

The limit of statistics.

On the other hand, these routine figures only take into account a small fraction of the known diseases, and even so merely to the extent that they happen to be notifiable or to have caused death.

Nowhere is expression given to the fact that each year we lose in industry in England and Wales an average of 40 million working weeks; or that one out of six of our school entrants is still arriving with some outspoken defect requiring immediate treatment. What is more, the mass of minor ailments which in the aggregate account for the major invalidity of the nation passes entirely unrecorded: yet the Wartime Social Survey has indicated that 60% of all civilians between the ages of 16 and 64 experience several times a year some ill-health which is appreciable although not necessarily demanding their absence from work. The fact is that these minor ailments fall largely within the sphere of the private practitioner, in whose personal files a wealth of statistical material has in the past been lost to the nation.

Psycho-physical illness.

Much of this type of invalidity is both mental and physical, a feature of disease which is reserved for the human species alone.

The present century has already seen a steady rise in psycho-physical illnesses of all kinds. To these the War has now added both a rush of new cases and a variety of new types corresponding to ever-changing stresses.

Of those stresses one can only speak in general terms. The effects of bombing and of battle have proved less serious than had been forecast. It seems finally clear that, where the body escapes, the human mind can withstand a shock even of extreme violence so long as it is of brief duration and admits of some sort of direct or indirect action in reply. The true factors possessing the power to break down human resistance are long-continued anxiety to which no term can be fixed; or, again, long periods of unreasonably severe self-denial or privation. To this one should add that, where any particular stress has to be suffered in the home rather than in the field, the load becomes proportionately greater.

Looking at our community in this light, it becomes evident that, although on the physical side the people have escaped the major disasters of famine and pestilence, on the mental and moral sides they have come through devastating experiences from which they cannot expect to escape unscathed. Apart from causing anxiety and privation, the War has broken down that first bulwark of national health which has always been the family unit. With it the education of the young has partly broken down, sowing the seeds of delinquency and unhappiness for many years to come. Among young adults, morals have loosened and standards of honesty have lapsed. Finally, in attempting to restore the family unit, we are confronted with a grievous shortage of houses.

It seems a safe prophecy that, for so long as peace remains a mere breathing space between wars, psycho-physical illness can only increase. Presumably, however, with the advent of the new Health Centres, more and more of its problems will receive statistical recognition and some may then prove amenable to statutory attention at their source.

SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

LABORATORY WORK.

The standing arrangements with Richmond Royal Hospital continued to operate satisfactorily during the year.

The following table gives particulars of the specimens examined:—

Disease Suspected.	Nature of Specimen.	Result.		Total.
		Positive.	Negative.	
Diphtheria	Swabs from Throat and Nose ...	Nil	75	75
Tuberculosis	Sputa ...	3	31	34
Haemolytic Streptococcus	Swabs from Throat and Nose ...	19	51	70
Other Diseases	...	4	29	33
Total		26	186	212

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The South Middlesex and Richmond Joint Hospital Board have ambulances for the conveyance of infectious cases.

The Richmond Council have two ambulances for use in accident and private cases, together with an Austin utility vehicle originally presented to the Council during the War by Mrs. Reynolds Veitch.

These three vehicles are based upon the yard at the rear of the Technical Institute, where shelter is afforded them by a temporary outbuilding.

At the beginning of the year the Richmond Borough Ambulance Service was manned by Civil Defence personnel, assisted by volunteers from St. John Ambulance Brigade. With the disbandment of the Civil Defence Services in May 1945 this entire staff was transferred to the control of the Health Committee. Twelve whole-time driver-attendants are now employed, of whom five are women.

The service provided in this way is adequate for the needs of the Borough, and even so is supplemented in an emergency by standing arrangements for the exchange of reciprocal services with neighbouring authorities.

In May 1945, failing any leader on the part of the Government as to the future running of civil ambulances in general, the Council revised the scale of local ambulance charges to residents, with the effect of bringing them into line with those levied by other authorities in the County. The use of the vehicles remained free to cases of accident or similar emergency, and this exemption was now extended to cover all maternity cases, public assistance cases, cases handled at the request of the Richmond Royal Hospital, and certain other classes of case. Where however a charge was to be made, authority was given for its collection at the time.

As reviewed in September 1945 the takings of the Richmond Borough Ambulance Service for the previous quarter suggested an annual revenue of £450.

The following table shows the continued increase in the work of the Richmond Ambulance Service :—

1935— 841 calls.	1943—1,497 calls.
1937— 913 calls	1944—1,480 calls.
1939—1,046 calls.	1945—1,826 calls.

Analysis of calls obeyed during the year 1945.

1945	Accident cases.	Removal cases.	Maternity cases.	Others *	Total
1st qr.	96	247	41	9	393
2nd qr.	168	292	62	7	529
3rd qr.	131	281	42	14	468
4th qr.	83	286	49	18	436
TOTAL	478	1106	194	48	1826

*Including false alarms and malicious calls.

Division of Calls into time-periods.

Number of calls received between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. ...	1379
Number of calls received between 6 p.m. and midnight ...	341
Number of calls received between midnight and 6 a.m. ...	106
Total calls for the year 1945 ...	1826

Miscellaneous Figures.

Total distance (in miles) covered by the ambulance vehicles in 1945 ...	11044
Average mileage per call ...	6
Number of calls referred to other Authorities ...	34
Number of calls answered for other Authorities ...	59
Greatest number of calls answered in any one day ...	12
Average time-lag in reaching scene of accident	5.6 mins.
Number of occasions upon which both ambulances were out at the same time ...	40
Number of complete days when one vehicle was out of commission for repairs ...	80
Number of accidents to ambulance vehicles ...	8
Number of instances of mechanical breakdown ...	9

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS—1945.

Nature of Service.	Address in Richmond.	Particulars.	By whom provided or arranged.	Total Annual Number of:—			
				Sess-ions held.	Pts. attend-ing.	Attend-ances made.	Doctor's consul-tations.
Ante-Natal Clinic	Windham Road	Six sessions per month	M. & C.W. C'ttee	73	403	1341	1101
Ante-Natal Consultns.	Grove Rd. Hosp.	Two sessions per month	County Council		160	247	247
M. & C.W. Clinic	Windham Road	For infants, twice weekly	M. & C.W. C'ttee	102	487	4867	1790
M. & C.W. Clinic	Windham Road	For toddlers, twice monthly	M. & C.W. C'ttee	22	227	496	330
M. & C.W. Clinic	Trefoil Ho. P'm.	Once weekly	M. & C.W. C'ttee	51	91	632	305
M. & C.W. Consultns.	Royal Hospital	Once weekly	Arranged by		82		
M. & C.W. Eye Clinic	Windham Road	By appointment	M. & C.W. C'ttee		16	16	
M. & C.W. Dental Clinic	Windham Road	Once weekly	M. & C.W. C'ttee	51	117	377	
Minor Ailments Clinic	Windham Road	For elem. school children	Education C'ttee	306	498	3545	
School Dental Clinic	Windham Road	For elem. school children	Education C'ttee	200	758	1302	
School Eye Clinic	Windham Road	For elem. school children	Education C'ttee	24	213	271	
Ear, Nose and Throat Consultations	Royal Hospital	For elem. school children	Arranged by		45		
Ringworm Treatment	2, Old Pal. Tce.	By appt. with Dr. D. Hallett	Education C'ttee		2		
Chiropody Clinic	Windham Road	Mr. C. L. Sheppard, Registered Med. Aux.	Education and M. & C.W. C'ttee	37	52	217	
Chest Clinic	S.C.C. Health Centre, Mortlake.	Once weekly	County Council	51			
Diphtheria Immunisation	Windham Road	Once weekly	Health C'ttee	47	460	988	
Scabies Treatment	Windham Road	Daily, as required	Health C'ttee		274	485	

HEALTH VISITORS.

The Borough employs four State-Registered Nurses, all possessing the New Health Visitors' Certificate, who act for one half of their time as Health Visitors and for the remainder as School Nurses.

In addition to their indoor duties in connection with the various Clinics, during the year 1945 the Health Visitors paid a total of 3,445 visits, as under:—

	First Visits.	Re- visits.
<i>Routine visits paid to:—</i>		
Expectant mothers	183	60
Children under one year	364	953
Children between 1 and 5 years	—	1667
<i>Special visits in connection with:—</i>		
Adoption cases	34	—
Diphtheria immunisation	25	—
Home Help	54	—
Infant Deaths	1	—
Infant Life Protection	—	80
Measles	1	—
Miscarriages	4	—
Neonatal deaths	1	—
Scabies cases	8	—
Special enquiries	3	—
Stillbirths	4	—
Tuberculosis	3	—
Totals	685	2760

PREMATURE INFANTS.

	Number born	Number nursed	Number born alive but dying within			Number surviving for over 28 days
			24 hrs.	7 days	28 days	
Richmond Children born in the Borough :						
(a) At Home	4	4	—	—	—	4
(b) In Nursing Homes	3	3	—	1	—	2
(c) In Hospitals	10	10	—	1	—	9
Richmond Children born outside the Borough:						
(a) In Nursing Homes	5	5	1	—	—	4
(b) In Hospitals	16	16	—	—	—	16
Children born in Richmond, mother normally residing elsewhere :						
(a) In Nursing Homes	1	1	—	—	—	1
(b) In Hospitals	1	1	1	—	—	—

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

The appointment of a Social Welfare Worker continues to justify itself both in the volume of work performed and in the widening scope of its development.

As to the volume of work, although the Social Welfare Worker is only employed in Richmond for one half of her time, during the year she paid the following visits:—

First visits	...	...	...	69
Re-visits	...	...	...	411
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	233
				—
			Total	713
				—

Arising out of these visits, the following arrangements were concluded:—

On Behalf of Mothers:—

Accommodation provided in:—

Ante-and post-natal home	...	...	...	4 cases
Post-natal home	...	...	...	4 "
Maternity home	...	...	...	12 "
Short-stay Shelter	...	...	...	4 "
Residential employment found	...	...	...	12 "
Affiliation Order obtained	...	...	...	4 "
Voluntary allotment secured	...	...	...	1 "
Returned to own home in Eire	...	...	...	3 "

On Behalf of Children:—

Children placed apart from their mothers:—

By adoption	...	...	...	3
In Church Homes	...	...	...	2
With foster-mothers	...	...	...	1
In residential nurseries	...	...	...	1

As to the scope of the work, cold statistics can give little idea of the multifarious and time-consuming activities involved.

The office of the Social Welfare Worker is based upon the Health Centre, where she holds the goodwill of the Health Visitors, whose co-operation is a first essential. From there she acts as liaison officer between the Richmond Welfare Authority and the many voluntary and religious organisations interested in rescue work. Among her other regular contacts are officials of the Public Assistance Department, Lady Almoners covering a wide range of hospitals, Probation Officers, and Clergy of many denominations.

As friend to the expectant mother, she acts as chaperone during her interviews with the putative father and with legal advisers. She goes with her to reason with relatives; to find alternative accommodation; to secure suitable work. She attends with her to book her stay at some hostel or other institution, often many miles distant, and to arrange for her confinement. She travels with her upon her admission, makes repeated journeys to visit her during her stay, and finally goes and fetches her home together with the baby. In one instance it was necessary for a mother and her baby to be given personal conduct all the way to her parents' home in Eire.

The cases handled by the Social Welfare Worker fall commonly into two classes.

There is first the illegitimate child who has been conceived extramaritally. These cases have naturally multiplied during the War. Here, the ideal aimed at is a reconciliation with the husband, which has the effect of preserving intact the home for the child. Alternatively, in some cases the home may yet be reconstituted by divorce and remarriage. In others there remains only adoption.

The second class of case is by far the more common. It is that of the unmarried girl whose partner will not or cannot marry her. The policy here is to hope for a reconciliation with the grandparents, who may then accept the child as their own; unfortunately they cannot always afford the expense.

Since the line of least resistance, both for the unwed mother and for her scandalised parents, is to seek secrecy in hasty adoption, it speaks volumes for the success of the Social Welfare Worker in Richmond that, with 157 officially ascertained cases upon the illegitimacy register, in only seven instances during the year was it found necessary to place the child apart from its mother.

Especial praise is likewise due this year to the Richmond and District Girls' Aid Society for their valuable help, as also to the Public Assistance Committee of the Surrey County Council and to their officials for ready co-operation, given promptly and with added flexibility.

NURSING HOMES.

The Surrey County Council have registered eight Nursing Homes.

44, Onslow Road,	General Medical and Maternity
25, West Park Road,	" "
86, Mount Ararat Road,	General Medical
22, Cardigan Road,	" "
19, Grena Road,	" "
18, Mortlake Road,	" "
108, Church Road,	" "
Beaconsfield, Kew Green,	Maternity only.

All these Homes have been visited during the year.

WARTIME NURSERIES.

With the approval of the Ministry of Health the following Day Nurseries are maintained in the Borough:—

(a) PARKSHOT DAY NURSERY, RICHMOND (52 PLACES).

(b) GREY COURT DAY NURSERY, HAM (52 PLACES).

The total attendances made at each nursery during the years 1944 and 1945 were as follows:—

			1944	1945
Parkshot Nursery	...	...	9,799	9,587
Grey Court Nursery	...	...	5,854	10,820

From these figures it will be seen that during 1945 the attendances at Grey Court Day Nursery were almost double those made during the previous year.

This is explained by the fact that throughout the year the Council operated a daily car service whereby Richmond children were conveyed to and fro between the Town Hall and the Day Nursery, thus ensuring maximal attendance.

In this way, practically one half of the attendances at Grey Court during 1945 were made by Richmond children.

PROVISION OF MATERNITY HOME HELPS.

Throughout the year one whole-time and one part-time Home Help were employed by the Department, and in addition three casual workers were employed, each for a period of two weeks.

Altogether, assistance was given in 97 cases for an average of 23.5 hours per case.

After allowing for charges waived in necessitous cases, sick absences on the part of the Home Helps, and the intermittent character of their occupation, the balance sheet at the end of the year was as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Wages paid	231	19	3
Payments received or due	139	8	2
Excess of expenditure over income	92	11	1

PROVISION OF DOMESTIC HELP.

In December 1944, the Minister of Health issued a Circular expressing concern as to the position of certain sick or infirm persons who might be unable to afford the current charges for private domestic work.

To meet this situation, the Circular gave powers to Local Authorities to institute and, where necessary, to subsidise a scheme of domestic help. Reasonable expenses would in either case be reimbursed by the Ministry.

The following types of case were specified as being eligible for assistance under the scheme:—

- (a) Where a housewife falls sick or is obliged to undergo an emergency operation.
- (b) Where a wife is suddenly called away to visit her husband in hospital, and arrangements must therefore be made for the separate care of the children.

- (c) Cases of infirmity or sudden illness in the elderly.
- (d) Simultaneous illness of several members of the same family.
- (e) Other temporary domestic predicaments of a similarly deserving and urgent nature.

By the 15th of January, 1945, the Public Health Department had appointed their first Domestic Help, and all local medical practitioners, nurses and others interested had been notified of the commencement of the scheme.

During the first six months of the year, 22 households were provided with varying amounts of domestic assistance.

In June the Scheme was temporarily discontinued owing to lack of demand, but it was revived again at the end of November. During the last month of the year the services of a Domestic help were made available to six households.

SECTION C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

Richmond has two separate sources of drinking water :—

- (a) from certain local wells,
- (b) from the Metropolitan Water Board.

The wells are seven in number, one of them being sunk 320 feet deep to reach 2 miles of adits in the chalk, whilst the supply from the Metropolitan Water Board is received through six connections off the 30-inch diameter M.W.B. Main.

As to purity, the whole of the drinking water for the Borough is chlorinated before going into supply, a small residuum of chlorine being allowed to remain in solution as an extra precaution. Of the water so treated, 32 samples were taken during the course of the year, all of which reached the highest standard of bacterial purity. During the year, one sample was also taken from the raw water itself and found upon analysis to be bacteriologically satisfactory.

As to physical properties, Richmond well water contains 27 parts per 1,000,000 of hardness, whilst the M.W.B. water contains 22. So mixed, the water supply is made available by piped delivery to every building in the Borough.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

For the following particulars I am indebted to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, who submitted his Report in accordance with the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

Inspections during 1945.

Houses visited and particulars recorded (Housing Act) ...	339
Houses visited (Public Health Acts) ...	1,729
Re-visits in connection with above	
(a) Housing Act ...	30
(b) Public Health Acts ...	1,472

Visits paid in connection with :—

Overcrowding ...	13
Reinspections ...	6
Vermin ...	32
Reinspections ...	23
Disinfestation ...	44
Infectious Disease ...	66
Corporation dwellings ...	245

Routine inspections in connection with :—

Factories (mechanical) ...	18
Factories (non-mechanical) ...	4
Outplaces ...	2
Bakehouses ...	9
Butchers' shops ...	33
Fishmongers and Poulterers ...	13
Other registered food stores ...	8
Cowsheds ...	6
Dairies and Milk Shops ...	15
Ice-cream premises ...	50
Restaurants and Tea Shops ...	45
Fried Fish Shops ...	11
Stables ...	47
Piggeries ...	8
Public Sanitary Conveniences ...	9
Shops Acts ...	2
Theatres and Cinemas ...	2

Rats and Mice	...	...	...	836
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	2
Schools—Elementary and Secondary	...	...	...	4
Water Supply	...	...	...	45
Drainage	...	...	...	14
Destructive Insects and Pests Act	...	...	...	2
Employment Agencies	...	...	...	4
Massage Establishments	...	...	...	3
Chiropodists' Establishments	...	...	...	4
Milk Sampling (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	35
Food and Drugs Sampling	...	...	...	7
Unsound Food	...	...	...	181
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	134
Rent Restrictions Acts	...	...	...	5
Visits in connection with billeting	...	...	...	497
Interviews	...	...	...	405
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	2029
				8488

Drains and Sewerage Systems Tested.

Hydraulic tests	...	...	...	7
Smoke tests	...	...	...	16
Chemical tests	...	...	...	5
Examinations	...	...	...	5

Factories Act, 1937.

At the end of the year there were 200 factories on the Register (128 mechanical and 72 non-mechanical), carrying on the following trades :—

			Mechanical	Non-mechanical
Aircraft parts ...	...	...	2	—
Artificial wreaths, etc. ...	...	...	3	—
Bakeries ...	...	...	11	2
Boiler-making ...	...	...	1	—
Boot-making ...	...	...	10	6
Building ...	...	...	3	9
Butchery ...	...	...	2	—
Carpentry, etc. ...	...	...	—	1
Carpet-repairing ...	...	...	—	1
Clothing ...	...	...	7	—
Dressmaking ...	...	...	—	10
Electrical Instruments ...	...	...	8	—
Engineering ...	...	...	10	—
Furniture and Upholstery ...	...	...	3	5
Furriers ...	...	...	—	2
Laundering and Cleaning ...	...	...	6	2
Motor Engineering ...	...	...	5	—
Motor-Vehicle Repairing ...	...	...	14	4
Printing ...	...	...	6	—
Research Laboratories ...	...	...	2	—
Sausage-making ...	...	...	2	—
Sawmills ...	...	...	2	—
Tailoring ...	...	...	—	15
Toy-making ...	...	...	4	—
Undertaking ...	...	...	1	—
Welding ...	...	...	3	—
Wireless Repairs ...	...	...	2	—
Miscellaneous Trades ...	...	...	21	15
			<hr/> 128	<hr/> 72
Inspections made during the year ...	...	...	...	21
Written notices served ...	...	...	...	3
Defects found ...	...	...	...	16
Defects remedied ...	...	...	...	16

Shops Acts, 1934.

Shops on the Register ...	...	...	720
Visits made ...	...	...	183

SANITARY DEFECTS REPORTED.

Water Supply :

Defective storage-tanks	...	...	...	5
Foul storage-tanks	...	...	...	5
Defective fittings (notified to Water Engineer)	...	...	...	12

W.C.s and Urinals :

Defective pans	...	...	...	42
Foul pans	...	...	...	21
Defective woodwork around pans	...	...	...	1
Defective seats	...	...	...	8
Absence of water-supply	...	...	...	23
Defective flushing-apparatus	...	...	...	78
Defective flush-pipe connections	...	...	...	34
Defective walls, floors or roofs	...	...	...	22
Defective doors and windows	...	...	...	11
Want of light and ventilation	...	...	...	1
Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	1
Closets not separate for sexes	...	...	...	4
Defective walls and channels of urinals	...	...	...	2
Insanitary urinals cleansed	...	...	...	5

Soil-pipes :

Defective or insufficient soil-pipes and vent-shafts	...	...	...	19
Want of, or defective ventilation-shafts	...	...	...	2
Rain-water pipe acting as ventilation-shaft	...	...	...	7
Defective Fresh-air inlets	...	...	...	5

Drains :

Defective drains	...	...	...	31
Defective sewers	...	...	...	15
Want of additional house-drains	...	...	...	7
Choked or foul drains or gullies	...	...	...	45
Defective or insufficient gullies	...	...	...	6
Defective grating, dishing or curbing	...	...	...	7
Absence of, or defective, interceptor	...	...	...	16
Defective manholes	...	...	...	7
Defective manhole covers and frames	...	...	...	7
Want of additional manholes	...	...	...	4

Dustbins :

Defective receptacles	...	...	120
Defective or insanitary dust-chutes	...	...	3

Paving :

Defective paving of yards, forecourts, etc.	5
---	-----	-----	---

Sinks :

Defective or insanitary sink	...	...	6
Want of sink	...	...	2
Insanitary wall-surface around sink	...	...	1

Waste-pipes :

Defective waste-pipes	...	...	63
Untrapped or unventilated waste-pipes	...	...	3
Waste-pipes directly connected to drain	...	...	1

Dampness :

Defective roofs	...	...	157
Defective gutters or spouting	...	...	99
Want of damp-proof course	...	...	4
Defective external brickwork	...	...	13
Defective pointing of door and window reveals	...	...	16
Damp and insanitary site under floor	...	...	1
Floor-cavity unventilated	...	...	1
Defective wall or floor ventilators	...	...	8

General Defects :

Verminous rooms	...	...	37
Verminous bedding	...	...	19
Dirty floors, woodwork, etc.	...	...	7
Accumulations of offensive matter	...	...	43
Nuisances from fowls or other animals	...	...	4
Defective plastering (no. of rooms)	...	...	231
Dirty walls and ceilings (no. of rooms)	...	...	32
Dirty walls and ceilings of staircases and passages	...	...	4
Defective floors	...	...	68
Defective doors and windows	...	...	70
Defective door and window fastenings	...	...	10

Defective sashcords	...	...	...	113
Defective window sills	...	...	...	18
Windows not made to open	...	...	...	3
Inadequate lighting and ventilation	...	...	...	3
Defective firegrates and kitchen ranges	...	...	...	91
Defective chimney pots, etc.	...	...	...	7
Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	4
Defective coppers	...	...	...	2
Defective larders	...	...	...	3
Defective coal cupboards	...	...	...	2
Defective staircases	...	...	...	31
Unfit basement rooms	...	...	...	1
Dilapidated outbuildings	...	...	...	4
Premises infested with rats and mice	...	...	...	51
Contraventions of Byelaws	...	...	...	6
Accumulations of manure	...	...	...	5
Dirty yards	...	...	...	2
Defective stable buildings	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous defects	...	...	...	140
				1,968

NOTICES SERVED TO REMEDY DEFECTS AND ABATE NUISANCES.

Informal Action.

Preliminary intimations	...	...	...	532
Interviews	...	...	...	290

Statutory Action.

ACT AND SECTION	NOTICES AUTHORISED	NOTICES SERVED
<i>Public Health Act 1936.</i>		
Section 24 (Drainage)	... 17	17
Section 39 (Drainage)	... 35	27
Section 40 (Soil and Vent Pipes)	... 1	1
Section 45 (Defective Closets)	... 19	15
Section 75 (Dustbins)	... 58	55
Section 79 (Noxious Matters)	... 2	2
Section 83 (Dirty Premises)	... 2	2
Section 92/3 (Nuisances)	... 29	25

Housing Act 1936.

Section 9 (Insanitary Dwellings) ... 131 127

Rats and Mice Destruction Act 1919.

Section 5 ... 4 4

Factories Act 1937.

Section 7 ... 2

Although in the main the work called for on Statutory Notices was carried out by owners, in three cases the owners failed to carry out their obligations and it became necessary for the Local Authority to do the work in default.

Details of these cases are as follows:—

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Act and Section</u>	<u>Cost of work carried out in default</u>
11a Dancer Road	Housing Act, Section 9	£16 4s. 0d.
242 Sandycombe Road	ditto	£21 3s. 0d.
2/4 Rosemont Road	ditto	£ 7 15s. 6d.

COMPLAINTS.

The average number of complaints received by the Department annually before the War was 500: the figure from the 1st January to the 31st December 1945 was 1,045.

This greatly increased number serves to indicate the extreme difficulty being encountered today in getting building repairs carried out. The underlying reasons are on the one hand shortage of labour and of materials, and, on the other, the limit of expenditure permitted except where the property is one covered by a building licence.

The complaints received during the year have been classified and are set out below:—

Defective sinks	...	...	...	18
Defective drains	...	...	...	96
Leaking pipes	...	...	...	36
Offensive manholes	...	...	...	5
Offensive sewers	...	...	...	9
Lack of water	...	...	...	28

Defective W.C.s	...	...	...	95
Defective roofs and gutters	...	...	...	71
Dampness	...	...	...	53
Dry rot	...	...	...	14
Defective ceilings	...	...	...	26
Defective chimneys	...	...	...	5
Defective fences	...	...	...	2
Defective stoves	...	...	...	14
Defective sashcords	...	...	...	10
Defective steps and stairs	...	...	...	8
Defective boilers	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of manure	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of rubbish	...	...	...	21
Defective dustbins	...	...	...	88
Unsound food	...	...	...	124
Nuisance from rats	...	...	...	170
Nuisance from noises	...	...	...	4
Nuisance from smoke	...	...	...	10
Nuisance from vermin, ants, etc.	...	...	...	57
General defects	...	...	...	83
				1,049

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foodstuffs, found to be unfit for human food, were surrendered by the owners and either salvaged for animal feeding or destroyed.

Commodity.	Amount condemned	Reason for condemnation.
Bacon and Ham.	16 tins	Blown or pierced.
ditto	128 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Decomposed.
Beans	207 tins	Blown or pierced.
Biscuits	3 Samples	Mouldy.
Cheese	25 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Decomposed.
Chickens, ducks, etc.	92 (339 lbs.)	Decomposed.
Dried egg	1 pkt.	Out of condition.
Fish	538 tins	Blown or pierced.
ditto	182 $\frac{3}{4}$ stones	Decomposed.
ditto	1 sack	Decomposed.
ditto	6 jars	Out of condition.
Fish cakes	1212	Decomposed.
Fruit	6 tins	Blown or pierced.
ditto	202 lbs.	Decomposed.
Jam, Marmalade, etc.	90 jars & tins	Blown or pierced.
Lemonade crystals	18 bots.	Out of condition.
Lemon curd	1 jar	Out of condition.
Meat	306 tins	Blown or pierced.
ditto	449 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Decomposed.
Meat and Vegetables	17 tins	Blown or pierced.
Milk	752 tins	Blown or pierced.
Milk (dried)	58 tins	Blown or pierced.
Oranges	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ cases	Mouldy.
Paste (fish, meat, etc.)	144 jars	Out of condition.
Peas	32 tins	Blown or pierced.
Pickles	34 bottles	Mouldy.
Pork pies	27 lbs.	Decomposed.
Potatoes	24 cwts.	Frost-bitten.
Prunes	7 lbs.	Mouldy and decomposing.
Rabbits	1948 lbs.	Decomposed.
Ryvita	1 pkt.	Mouldy.
Sauces, salad cream, etc.	4 bots.	Out of condition.
Sausages	59 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Out of condition.
Soup	40 tins	Blown or pierced.
ditto	66 cubes	Unsound.
ditto	323 pkts.	Unsound.
Sponge, cake and pudding mixtures	274 pkts.	Damaged by water.
Sugar	1 pkt.	Liquid contamination.
Sultanas	89 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Infested with insects.
Syrup	1 tin	Blown or pierced.
Vegetables	29 tins	Blown or pierced.

PETROLEUM ACTS, 1928.

Visits made	...	...	...	...	134
Licences for which applications for renewal were made during the year:—					
(a) Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	...	42
(b) Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	...	2
Licences transferred during the year	...	...	...	...	1
New licences issued during the year	...	...	...	...	4
Premises under Government control and not subject to licence by the Local Authority					
	...	...	...	...	3

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

Reason.	Houses.	Rooms.	Bedding.
Infectious Fevers	21	30	184
Tuberculosis	10	11	82
Other Diseases	6	6	88
Vermin	51	120	75
	—	—	—
Total	88	167	429
	—	—	—

Six ponds were sprayed with an insecticide for the eradication of mosquitoes.

The total costs recovered from the disinfection and disinfestation of rooms during the year amounted to £23 9s. 9d.

DESTRUCTION OF INSECT PESTS IN THE HOME.

With the release of D.D.T. for civilian use, the year 1945 has seen a revolution in our methods of vermin-destruction.

Known to chemists for over half a century, this substance was re-discovered as an insecticide in 1940, in which capacity it made its sensational debut in Switzerland by saving the entire potato crop from the Colorado beetle.

Accordingly, when in 1942 the Japanese advance robbed us of our main sources of former natural insecticides, pyrethrum and derris, D.D.T. was brought into large-scale production in America and in England. Thereafter it joined with our new quinine-substitute, mepacrine, in becoming a major weapon of war in Burma. Together these two enabled our troops to fight through that terrible country and to fight on even during the monsoon. What mepacrine did to protect the soldier from the mosquito, D.D.T. did to bring down the insects in flight and to kill their larvae in the swamps.

In 1943 D.D.T. performed a second miracle, in Naples. Faced with a sharp outbreak of typhus, the military authorities promptly brought this wonder-chemical to bear upon the body-lice of the local population, as many as 72,000 of them being treated in one day. In this way, for the first time in history, a winter epidemic of typhus was stamped out at its source. A similar epidemic at the close of the 1914-18 war had spread throughout the Balkan countries costing over 3,000,000 lives in Russia alone.

When in 1944 the news of these dramatic successes was first released, sensational claims for D.D.T. were made in press-reports, some even foreshadowing a world freed at last from all insect-pests. As a precaution, now that D.D.T. is made available for civil purposes, the public will do well to discount some of the romance and avoid exploitation by buying D.D.T. only from responsible firms, who standardise their products, and at the same time by learning something of its limitations.

Crude D.D.T. is a white powder which is insoluble in water but soluble in certain oily liquids. It is never applied in neat strength, but after dilution in the form of a liquid, a powder or a gas.

As a liquid, D.D.T. may be made up into an emulsion with water, but it is more widely useful when dissolved in kerosene or paraffin. Since the solvent may affect household paint, D.D.T. has recently been compounded with an oil-bound water paint or whitewash in which state it is actually claimed to retain its activity for a longer period than when sprayed upon a painted surface. These experiments are still continuing.

When sold as a powder the usual formula is 5-10% D.D.T. mixed with kaolin, which is china clay.

Finally, D.D.T. can be made up in 'bomb' form with a gas such as freon, being then liberated in a mist which remains suspended in the air for some minutes, eventually blowing away without settling. This method is therefore employed only against flying types of insects.

The lethal power of D.D.T. is exceptionally high, but the time taken varies with different insects. Thus mosquitoes and flies quickly succumb, but bugs and cockroaches require several hours before dying.

In using D.D.T. the first principle to accept is that it is in no sense a fumigant, since it gives off no vapour. It can therefore form no substitute for the older insect-repellants. The action of D.D.T. is purely that of a contact-poison, reaching the insect's brain by absorption through its body or its feet. For this reason it is useless to apply D.D.T. powder to clothing in the hope of preventing moth. Moth-larvae are able to browse contentedly upon one face of a lapel while D.D.T. powder lies idly upon the other. The only way to protect clothing with D.D.T. would be to spray or impregnate the whole of the fabric with a liquid solution in such a way as to leave a residual coat of D.D.T. crystals upon every surface. Similarly, in dealing with bugs, the method is to use a spray of D.D.T. in kerosene, paying attention not only to the bedstead but also to the walls surrounding the bed, together with the adjacent edges of the floor and ceiling. Afterwards, any bug desiring to return to its feed can only do so by crossing a sprayed surface.

This introduces the second principle, that D.D.T. is a stable substance possessing valuable clinging properties. Consequently any surface sprayed with D.D.T. will remain lethal to bugs for weeks or months. The chemical will thus not only achieve a large initial kill, but will remain to mop up succeeding generations as they hatch out. This residual activity places D.D.T. far in advance of anything we have possessed in the past. Indeed, experiments suggest that by the use of D.D.T. distemper we may be able literally to make bug-proof a room or an entire house for long periods. Unfortunately, in dealing with flies in the home, the clinging property of D.D.T., although useful, avails us less. Flies breed out of doors, and no amount of D.D.T. can hope to take the place of proper disposal of garbage. Unless this rule be followed, flies may die in the sprayed room, but others will still come in to take their places. In any case, food which has been

removed or carefully covered before spraying must afterwards remain covered, since most flies will live long enough to reach it, even after settling upon a sprayed surface. The use of D.D.T. 'bombs' would of course intercept this movement at once, but would be unsafe in the presence of food and should hardly be needed in its absence. The best way to hasten the effect of D.D.T. upon flies is to add to the spray-mixture a 'knock-down' agent such as 0.05% pyrethrin.

The third principle in handling D.D.T. is to realise that, although poisoning by D.D.T. is exceptionally rare in man, certain precautions are necessary in its use. Gloves and overalls should be worn by the operator in spraying, and the hands should be completely washed after work or before eating. Where a fine spray is used indoors, a gauze mask is advisable. In addition, care must be taken not to contaminate foodstuffs with D.D.T. since, although little harmful to man externally, it will cause gastric symptoms if swallowed.

In the Richmond Public Health Department full advantage was taken of D.D.T. from the earliest moment of its release. A number of local experiments were made, and it was seen at once that the chief service of this new chemical is likely to lie in the eradication of bed bugs by thorough spraying. The spray-mixture favoured at present contains both D.D.T. and a small fraction of a 'knock-down' agent.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

In Richmond Park, four hundred and forty-five sheep were dipped, and the necessary certificate was furnished to the owner of the animals.

In controlling the movement of cattle to or from infected areas, two movement licences were issued, and six countersigned.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT 1919 AND MINISTRY OF FOOD INFESTATION ORDER 1943.

During the year 170 complaints were received from occupiers as to the presence of rats on their premises, and the work of tracing and isolating the breeding-places of the rats entailed 836 visits.

In all cases of infestation the occupiers were given notice to eradicate rats from their premises, and in only 4 cases was it found necessary to have recourse to statutory proceedings under the Act.

Sewer Treatments—1945.

The following is a brief account of the operations carried out during the year in the baiting of sewers for rodent extermination:—

21.3.45 to 9.4.45.

200 manholes were prebaited for 4 days and poisoned on the 5th day.

Examination on the 6th day and calculation of poison taken, according to the formulae of the Ministry of Food, gave an estimated kill of 1,450 rats.

20.11.45 to 3.12.45.

212 manholes were prebaited for 4 days and poisoned on the 5th day.

Examination on the 6th day and calculation of poison taken, according to the formulae of the Ministry of Food, gave an estimated kill of 800 rats.

The unpoisoned prebait used was sausage-rusk, the same material, mixed with zinc phosphide, being used as the poison bait.

The sewers covered by these operations were within an area bounded by Riverside, Nightingale Lane, Queen's Road, Sheen Court Flats, Southern Railway to St. George's Road, Stanmore Gardens, St. Paul's Road, Pagoda Avenue, Kew Road from Pagoda Avenue to Old Deer Park Gardens, Evelyn Terrace, Kew Foot Road and the Chertsey Road.

The results obtained may be considered satisfactory.

SECTION D—HOUSING.

The normal work of making routine house-to-house surveys in accordance with the directions laid down in the Housing Regulations has been much curtailed as a result of the War. Even so, the extreme shortage of labour and of materials has brought almost to a standstill the service of notices for reconditioning and the closure or demolition of houses found to be unfit. Under these circumstances all classes of property in the Borough have naturally fallen into a state of progressive disrepair.

In spite of these difficulties, 339 houses were inspected under the powers of the Housing Act, 1936, and all urgent sanitary or housing defects were abated.

There is still considerable delay in the carrying out of work called for by notices, but it is hoped that, with the release of more men to the building trades, and an improvement in the supply of building material, work of this character may soon proceed at an increased rate.

The number of cases of overcrowding in the Borough is still on the increase, and there are many cases of houses occupied by two or three families (e.g. parents accommodating married sons or daughters and their families), which, while they do not constitute legal overcrowding, are very near to the sanitary limits and must lead to exceedingly uncomfortable conditions—as when several families use the same kitchen facilities and share the same living-room.

It is under these conditions that the urgent need has arisen for more and more houses, whether prefabricated or permanent, so as to meet the ever-increasing demands of the public now that hostilities have ceased and demobilisation of the armed forces has begun.

BILLETING AND EVACUATION.

When hostilities ceased the Public Health Department could not immediately be released from its obligations in connection with evacuated persons.

Already, in February 1945, the London County Council had circularised Evacuation Authorities asking them to prepare plans for the organised return to their own homes of all evacuees, whether

SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Particulars of samples taken in the Borough of Richmond by
Surrey County Council during the year ended December 31st, 1945.

Articles.	Analysed			Adulterated or Deteriorated			Prosecu- tions	Convic- tions
	Formal	In- formal	Total	Formal	In- formal	Total		
Milk	50	2	52	10	—	10	1	1*
Flour	—	1	1					
Coffee	—	3	3	—	1	1		
Sausages	2	—	2					
Confectionery and Jam...	1	—	1					
Sausage-Meat ...	4	—	4					
Wine	9	5	14	4	2	6		
Spirits	—	3	3					
Orange Squash ...	1	—	1					
Vinegar	1	—	1					
Cough Cure	—	2	2					
Lung Syrup	—	1	1					
Bloater Paste ...	—	1	1					
Ham and Beef Paste...	—	1	1					
Curry Powder ...	—	2	2	—	1	1		
Drinking Chocolate...	—	1	1					
Meat Extract ...	—	1	1					
"Savouree"	—	1	1					
"Egg Savouree" ...	—	1	1	—	1	1		
Sausage Seasoning...	—	1	1					
Sausage Preservative...	—	1	1					
Pure Meat Extract...	—	1	1					
Totals	68	28	96	14	5	19	1	1

* Seven formal samples were taken on behalf of the S.C.C. by the Bucks. County Council, of which 3 proved to have been adulterated,

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

No. of samples of milk taken for analysis during the
year ... 33

No. of samples found to be satisfactory ... 31

Applications granted for the renewal of licences to
sell Special Designated Milk :—

Pasteurised Milk ... 17

Tuberculin Tested Milk ... 9

Applications granted for the renewal of Pasteurisers'
licences ... 1

Supplementary Licences granted ... 1

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

(Civilians only).

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospitals.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	16	14	...
Diphtheria ...	1	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	3	...
Pneumonia ...	14	3	15 (all forms)
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...
Measles ...	353	5	...
Whooping Cough ...	75	2	1
Malaria ...	1	1	1
Dysentery ...	10	4	—
Total ...	475	33	18

• ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDERS IN CASE OF EPIDEMICS.

In November 1945 the Ministry of Health issued Circular 196 calling upon Local Authorities to renew their precautions against a possible winter epidemic.

The revised plans included the provision of extra medical, nursing and domestic assistance, together with the cooking and delivery of meals.

In compliance with this Circular a meeting was arranged with representatives of the former W.V.S. (Housewives' Service) and afterwards with officers of the various voluntary organisations operating locally. In this way, the central framework of an Emergency Epidemic Service was established, links being secured with certain subsidiary organisations set up in different parts of the Borough and known as Good-Neighbours' Schemes.

Notice was then circulated to hospitals, doctors, nurses and all other appropriate persons, announcing that the Epidemic Service was ready to go into action if the Minister should declare a state of emergency. Although in fact no such emergency arose during the winter, it was felt that a most useful foundation had been laid for any similar scheme in the future.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST TYPHUS AND SMALLPOX.

With the close of hostilities in May, there developed a greater flow of passengers returning from the Continent by air and sea transport.

In view of the presence in Europe of both smallpox and typhus, this led to a sudden increase in the number of contacts requiring supervision after their arrival.

The following figures serve to show the extent of this work in Richmond. The Council will already be aware that no case of either of these diseases occurred in the Borough during 1945.

Month.			Nature of Contact	
			Typhus.	Smallpox.
January	...	...	...	—
February	...	...	...	—
March	...	...	...	2
April	...	...	...	2
May	...	...	...	3
June	...	...	...	6
July	...	...	...	9
August	...	...	...	16
September	...	...	...	4
October	...	...	...	2
November	...	...	...	4
December	...	...	...	2
Total			46	7
			—	—

SOUTH MIDDLESEX FEVER HOSPITAL.

ADMISSIONS CLASSIFIED.

Disease.				No. of Patients Admitted from Richmond.
Malaria	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	14
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	5
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Other Diseases	...	...	...	13
Total				37

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Diphtheria Germ.

Diphtheria is due to a germ which survives with difficulty apart from the human body. Thus the disease spreads normally through the agency either of cases or of "carriers." In rarer instances it has been spread by milk.

Numerous types of the diphtheria germ are known to exist, but, whilst all types are similar in microscopic appearance, only a few are virulent to man. Even so, several grades of virulence are recognisable. The danger from the germ in any particular case cannot however be determined at the bedside, but by animal experiment requiring the passage of many days. Luckily the prevailing type of diphtheria germ in this country has in the past been of low or medium virulence.

The Risk of Infection.

At certain seasons the virulence of the diphtheria germ becomes self-exalted. When this occurs the carrier-rate rises, leading in a few days to a crop of cases among susceptibles. Conditions are then ripe for an epidemic to occur.

Normally some 5% of healthy children attending school are carriers of diphtheria. Children in the same class as a carrier naturally acquire the germ by contact. If unprotected by inoculation they may suffer the illness: if previously immunised they are likely merely to become carriers also. In this way, the routine immunisation of school-children, whilst reducing the number of actual cases, tends indirectly to inflate the number of carriers. Hence the paramount need for a maximal effort in securing the immunisation of each school child.

The Position in Richmond.

In the Spring of 1945 an analysis was made of the state of immunity of all Richmond school children, and a Report was issued to the Council.

It was shown that the proportion of school children of the Borough who had been subjected to inoculation against diphtheria stood as high as 78%. This compared favourably with the corresponding figures for most local authorities in Surrey, and extremely well with the figure of 56% for England and Wales.

The Changing Outlook.

In the light of modern experience, our conception of diphtheria as a disease has recently undergone a certain change. It has become clear that inoculation, as practised with such resounding success in past years, cannot fully protect a community against the diphtheria germ when it appears in its most virulent form.

Thus, on the continent of Europe, malignant diphtheria has been able recently to reappear, and has in fact spread unchecked from Germany to Scandinavia and the Netherlands, where it now provides the worst epidemic for 50 years.

In England and Wales there have been several smaller but similarly virulent outbreaks, and in each the fatalities have included a number of 'immunised' children, some of whom were also Schick-negative. Although the toll so exacted may still appear small when compared with that of former years, it is disquieting to note that each week there continue to occur in England and Wales some 500 cases of diphtheria with about 30 deaths.

With a view to consolidating the machinery for Diphtheria Immunisation throughout the country, in November 1945 the Minister of Health transferred the responsibility for this work from the local Health Authorities to the Welfare Authorities.

Newer Technique.

In keeping with the new general outlook, the technique of immunisation in this country is likewise becoming modified.

The modern view is that immunisation, to be really effective, should no longer be confined to infants but should follow up each child throughout its school life; and that, at each review, the action taken should be directed less to the measurement of susceptibility than to the securing of all possible protection to the child.

Accordingly the routine usually recommended today is that every child shall be immunised at or before the age of one year, afterwards receiving a reinforcing or 'boosting' dose at the age of four and again at the age of eight. The Schick Test thus becomes reserved for older children, subject always to their having received in full the three earlier treatments.

It is a matter for record that these modifications of technique were first introduced into the routine in Richmond during the autumn of 1944.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC.

Total number of attendances ... 869

Number of Children immunised during the year 1945.

(a) Preschool children (under 5 years) ... 391

(b) School children (5—15 years) ... 25

Total ... 416

In addition 84 children were found to have been immunised in other districts.

Grand Total of children in the Borough who had received immunising treatment by the end of the year.

(a) Under 5 years ... 1,459

(b) Between 5 and 15 years ... 3,022

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

SCABIES.

As was to be expected, the close of the War has been followed by a sharp reduction in the incidence of Scabies among the civil population, most fresh cases today being traceable to the restoration of demobilised members of the Armed Forces to their families.

Thus, during the year 1945, 274 new cases of scabies were treated at the Health Centre as against 431 in the year 1944. This figure included 141 school children.

HEAD-LICE.

On the other hand, no parallel fall has occurred in the incidence of head-infestation, which continues, in peace as in war, to bear relation rather to the proportion of school children derived from so-called problem-families. The steps taken by the Public Health Department to combat this class of infestation have been redoubled during the year in an effort to establish a fresh code of cleanliness among such families, a number of whom have recently returned from evacuation.

The following figures serve to indicate the position for the year under review ; —

Children.

Total number of inspections of children made in the schools by the School Nurses	...	...	4,471
Number of individual children found to be unclean at above	...	...	188
Number of ditto found to be unclean at School Medical Inspections	...	...	Nil
Proportion of children found unclean at all inspections			4.2%
Number successfully cleansed by parent or guardian without requiring exclusion for more than 24 hours	...		122
Number excluded for longer than 24 hours	...		12
Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken			
(a) Under the Education Act, 1944	...		Nil
(b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws	...		Nil

Adults.

No adults were referred to the Health Centre for treatment during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the final quarter of the year 1945 the Public Health Department compiled a comprehensive Report upon the many-sided problems of tuberculosis in Richmond, throughout England and Wales and on the Continent. This Report was submitted to the Council in the early spring of 1946.

The position in Richmond for the year 1945 may be summarised as follows :—

NOTIFICATIONS :**Respiratory Tuberculosis.**

Sixty-two cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified, viz. 41 males and 21 females. The corresponding figure for 1944 was 57.

Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.

Eleven new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year, and there were 3 deaths from this cause. Eight such cases had been notified during 1944.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

After all additions and deletions had been taken into account, the number of cases of tuberculosis remaining upon the Register at the close of the year was as under:—

			Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	...	...	159	22
Females	...	...	110	28
			—	—
	Total	...	269	50
			—	—

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, powers are given to prohibit any person suffering from respiratory tuberculosis from entering upon employment involving the handling of milk.

Under the Public Health Act 1936 (Section 172) powers are given to cause the removal and detention of any tubercular patient where proper precautions are not being taken and the circumstances are such as could constitute a danger to others.

During the year 1945 it was not found necessary to take action under either of the above enactments.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
5 ...	2	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
15 ...	12	8	...	2	...	...	...	...
25 ...	9	8	...	2	3	1	...	1
35 ...	6	2	1	1	1	...	...	...
45 ...	5	3	...	...	1	...	1	...
55 ...	5	...	1	...	1	1	...	...
65 and upwards ...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Totals ...	41	21	4	7	7	3	2	1

INDEX.

	Page.
Abortions and Miscarriages	7, 15
Adoption	15, 17
Ambulance Calls, Analysis of	12, 13
Ambulance Facilities	11
Ante-Natal Clinics	14
Area of Borough	4
Bakehouses	22
Billeting	23, 36
Birth-Rate	4, 7
Births, Analysis of	4
Cancer	4
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Report of	22
Chiropody Clinic	14
Clinics, List of	14
D.D.T.	31, 32, 33, 34
Death-Rate	4, 7
Deaths, Analysis of	4, 5, 7
Deaths, Maternal	5
Deaths, Neo-Natal	9, 15
Dental Clinics	14
Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	4, 6, 7
Diphtheria	4, 7, 11, 39, 41, 42, 43
Diphtheria Immunisation	14, 15, 41, 42, 43, 44
Diseases of Animals Acts	34
Disinfection	31
Disinfestation	22, 31, 32, 33, 34
Drains	23, 25
Dysentery	8, 39
Epidemics, Emergency Service for	40
Erysipelas	39
Evacuation	36, 37
Eye Clinics	14
Factories Act	22, 23, 24, 28
Food and Drugs Act	23, 38
Food, Unsound	23, 29, 30
Head-Lice	44, 45
Health, Definition of	8
Health of the People	8
Health Services	11-21
Health Visitors	15
Home Help	15
Home Help, Domestic	20, 21
Home Help, Maternity	20
Housing Accommodation	36
Housing Development	36
Housing Disrepair	36
Housing Shortage	36
Illegitimacy-Death-Rate	5
Illegitimacy-Rate	9
Illegitimate Children	17, 18
Infant Life Protection	15
Infant Mortality	5, 7, 15
Infant Mortality, Analysis of	5, 6
Infant Mortality Rate	5, 7, 9
Infectious Diseases, Notifiable	22, 39
Infestation Order, Ministry of Food	34
Influenza	7
Inhabited Houses	4

	Page.
Laboratory Work ...	11
Malaria ...	39, 41
Malformation, Congenital ...	6, 9
Maternal Morbidity ...	7
Maternal Mortality, Analysis of ...	5, 7
Maternal-Mortality Rate ...	5, 7
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics ...	14
Maternity Homes ...	16, 17, 19
Measles ...	4, 7, 15, 39, 41
Milk ...	23, 38, 46
Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 ...	39
Minor Ailments ...	9
Minor Ailments Clinics ...	14
Mosquitoes, Destruction of ...	31, 32
Notices, Sanitary ...	27, 28
Nuisances ...	See 'Sanitary'
Nursing Homes ...	19
Overcrowding ...	22, 36
Paratyphoid Fever ...	7
Petroleum Acts ...	23, 31
Pneumonia ...	6, 39, 41
Population ...	4
Premature Infants ...	6, 16
Prematurity-Rate ...	9
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	39
Psycho-Physical Illness ...	10
Rateable Value ...	4
Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919 ...	23, 27, 28, 29, 34, 35
Richmond & District Girls' Aid Society ...	19
Richmond Royal Hospital ...	11, 14
Ringworm Treatment ...	14
Sanitary Complaints ...	28, 29
Sanitary Defects ...	25, 26, 27, 36
Sanitary Inspection ...	22
Sanitary Nuisances ...	27
Scabies ...	14, 15, 44
Scarlet Fever ...	7, 39, 41
School Nurses ...	15
Sewers ...	35
Sewers, Baiting of ...	35
Shops Acts ...	22, 24
Smallpox ...	7, 40, 41
Social Welfare Worker ...	17, 18
South Middlesex Fever Hospital ...	41
Staff, List of ...	2, 3
Statistics ...	4
Stillbirth-Rate ...	4, 7, 9
Stillbirths ...	4, 7, 9, 15
Streptococcal Infections ...	11
Treatment Centres and Clinics ...	14
Tuberculosis ...	11, 14, 15, 31, 45, 46, 47
Typhoid Fever ...	7
Typhus Fever ...	32, 40, 41
Verminous Conditions ...	22, 26, 31, 44
Wartime Nurseries ...	19
Wartime Social Survey ...	9
Water Closets and Urinals ...	25, 29
Water Supply ...	21, 23, 25
Whooping-Cough ...	4, 6, 7, 39, 41

Page	Topic
11	Hooping-Cough
12	Water Supply
13	Water Closets and Urinals
14	Marine Social Survey
15	Marine Nurses
16	Terminous Conditions
17	Typhoid Fever
18	Typhoid Fever
19	Cholera
20	Cholera
21	Cholera
22	Cholera
23	Cholera
24	Cholera
25	Cholera
26	Cholera
27	Cholera
28	Cholera
29	Cholera
30	Cholera
31	Cholera
32	Cholera
33	Cholera
34	Cholera
35	Cholera
36	Cholera
37	Cholera
38	Cholera
39	Cholera
40	Cholera
41	Cholera
42	Cholera
43	Cholera
44	Cholera
45	Cholera
46	Cholera
47	Cholera
48	Cholera
49	Cholera
50	Cholera
51	Cholera
52	Cholera
53	Cholera
54	Cholera
55	Cholera
56	Cholera
57	Cholera
58	Cholera
59	Cholera
60	Cholera
61	Cholera
62	Cholera
63	Cholera
64	Cholera
65	Cholera
66	Cholera
67	Cholera
68	Cholera
69	Cholera
70	Cholera
71	Cholera
72	Cholera
73	Cholera
74	Cholera
75	Cholera
76	Cholera
77	Cholera
78	Cholera
79	Cholera
80	Cholera
81	Cholera
82	Cholera
83	Cholera
84	Cholera
85	Cholera
86	Cholera
87	Cholera
88	Cholera
89	Cholera
90	Cholera
91	Cholera
92	Cholera
93	Cholera
94	Cholera
95	Cholera
96	Cholera
97	Cholera
98	Cholera
99	Cholera
100	Cholera

