[Report 1950] / Medical Officer of Health, Sutherland County Council.

Contributors

Sutherland (Scotland). County Council.

Publication/Creation

1950.

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COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH, VITAL STATISTICS, and SANITARY CONDITIONS of the COUNTY
(including the Burgh of Dornoch)

For the Year Ended 31st DECEMBER, 1950

and on

SCHOOL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
For the Year Ended 31st JULY, 1950

By K. A. MACRAE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

Golspie: The Northern Times Limited

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LIST OF STAFF

Medical Officer of Health—

K. A. MACRAE, J.P., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

County Dental Officer—

C. C. FORSYTH, L.R.C.S., L.D.S.

Oculist to Education Authority (Part-Time)—

ELIZABETH LINDSAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Superintending Nursing Officer—

Miss B. T. GILMOUR

District Nursing Sisters—

Name—	District—
Mrs KENNEDY	LOCHINVER
Mrs MACLEOD	STOER
Miss MACKAY	KINLOCHBERVIE
Mrs CAMPBELL	DURNESS
Miss COWIE	TONGUE
Miss POLLOCK	BETTYHILL
Miss ROSS	MELVICH
Mrs MACLEOD	HELMSDALE
Miss GILCHRIST	BRORA
Miss MUNRO	GOLSPIE
Miss MACRAE	ROGART
Miss NICOLSON	LAIRG
Miss GRAHAM	DORNOCH
Miss VASS	BONAR-BRIDGE
Miss MACKENZIE	Relief Duty

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

County Sanitary Inspector—

E. W. BRANNEN, L.R.I.B.A., M.R.San.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—

H. STEELE, M.R.S.A.S.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Chief Officer—

D. J. MACKAY, Bonar-Bridge

District Officers—

H. W. MACKAY, Lochinver
A. C. MACKAY, Strathy
C. B. MACKAY, Scourie
A. MACLEOD, Rogart
O. ARMSTRONG, Helmsdale

Children's Officer—

ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND, Brora

VITAL STATISTICS

COUNTY DISTRICT

(Including Burgh of Dornoch)

TABLE I.

POPULATION

As estimated by General Registrar

1941	14,100
1942	13,800
1943	13,458
1944	13,350
1945	13,352
1946	14,035
1947	14,443
1948	14,393
1949	14,420
1950	13,951

BIRTHS

During the year the births of 235 children were credited to the County (180 being registered in the district, 1 transferred out, and 56 transferred in).

The following table shows the Birth Rates for the past 10 years:—

TABLE II.

BIRTH RATES

1941	18.0
1942	16.0
1943	17.6
1944	16.2
1945	12.5
1946	17.8
1947	17.7
1948	14.9
1949	15.8
1950	16.8
Scotland 1950	17.9

Of the 235 births, 19 were illegitimate—8.1 per cent. of total.

TABLE III.

MARRIAGES

	Number.	Rate per 1000.
County	63	4.5
Scotland	—	7.8

DEATHS

During 1950, 181 persons died in the County. Five deaths were transferred to other districts, and 25 deaths which occurred outside the County were transferred in, making a total of 201. The resulting Death Rate was 14.4 of the estimated population.

TABLE IV.

DEATH RATES

1941	19.1
1942	17.6
1943	19.1
1944	16.9
1945	17.5
1946	15.4
1947	17.0
1948	14.3
1949	16.9
1950	14.4
Scotland 1950	12.4

Owing to the small population of the County the Death Rate as calculated fluctuates greatly from year to year, as is evident from the above table.

The Death Rate for the County is considerably greater than that for Scotland, but when adjusted for age and sex distribution it falls to 9.2 which is less than that for Scotland as a whole.

TABLE V.

DEATHS IN EACH AGE GROUP

Age	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 & over
Number ..	13	3	—	—	2	1	3	12	16	37	70	44
Per Cent...	6.5	1.5	—	—	1.0	0.5	1.5	6.0	7.9	18.4	34.8	21.9

TABLE VI.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Typhoid Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—
Measles	—
Scarlet Fever	—
Whooping Cough	—
Diphtheria	—
Influenza	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—
Other Epidemic Diseases	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	—
Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	19
Diabetes Mellitis	5
Other General Diseases: Chronic Poisonings	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	16
Other Diseases of Nervous System and Sense Organs	5
Heart Disease	71
Other Circulatory Disease	13
Bronchitis	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	1
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer	5
Diarrhoea, etc., all ages	1
Appendicitis	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	1
Other Digestive Diseases	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2
Other Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	4
Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal causes	—
Diseases of Skin and Locomotor System	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.,	11
Old Age	14
Suicide	1
Other Violence	5
Causes ill-defined or unknown	6
	201

INFANTILE MORTALITY

During 1950, 13 children under 1 year of age died in the County—an Infantile Mortality Rate of 5.5 per 1000 births.

The Infantile Mortality Rates for the past ten years are shown in the table overleaf.

TABLE VII.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

1941	79.0
1942	30.0
1943	55.0
1944	51.0
1945	11.0
1946	20.0
1947	43.0
1948	51.0
1949	4.0
1950	55.0
Scotland 1950	39.0

In Sutherland the Infantile Mortality Rate has usually been low, and in 1949 it was the lowest ever recorded for the County, and about one-tenth of the Infantile Mortality Rate for Scotland as a whole. This year, however, due chiefly to the occurrence of several premature births, it is considerably above the average for the County.

Infantile death was due to the following causes :—

Premature Birth and Congenital Debility	8
Congenital Deformity	2
Pneumonia	2
Jaundice	1

TUBERCULOSIS

One Male and one Female died from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year, giving a Phthisis Death Rate of 0.14 per 1000.

The Death Rate for this Disease for the last ten years is shown in Table VIII.

PHTHISIS DEATH RATE

1941	0.78
1942	0.65
1943	0.74
1944	0.22
1945	0.30
1946	0.70
1947	0.55
1948	0.14
1949	0.49
1950	0.14
Scotland 1950	0.47

The Phthisis death-rate for 1950 is, fortunately, low, but, as will be noted from the above table, there is considerable fluctuation in this death-rate on account of the small population from which the calculation is made. However, as will be seen in the section of the report dealing with tuberculosis, the average for the decade, at 0.47, is less than half of what the average was in the decade endng 1928.

TABLE IX.

NON-PULMONARY T.B. DEATH RATE

1941	0.43
1942	0.07
1943	0.08
1944	0.08
1945	0.07
1946	0.29
1947	0.07
1948	0.07
1949	0.06
1950	0.00
Scotland 1950	0.07

DEATHS FROM EPIDEMIC DISEASES

Three deaths from Epidemic Diseases occurred in the County during the year giving a rate per thousand of population of 0.22.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1947
LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS

1—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

The main work done under this section was carried out by the Superintending Nursing Officer and District Nursing Sisters, and the following table shows in detail the visits paid.

Home Visitation of Mothers and Young Children

	Number of Infants under 1 year visited	Number of visits paid to Infants under 1 year	Number of Infants 1 to 5 years visited	Number of visits paid to Infants 1 to 5 years	Number of Expectant Mothers visited	Number of visits to Expectant Mothers
Lochinver ..	8	84	7	254	7	53
Stoer	1	47	2	100	1	5
Eddrachilles ..	16	272	23	346	21	120
Lairg	14	132	16	169	16	73
Melvich ..	12	103	9	223	13	54
Golspie	39	406	24	319	40	241
Bettyhill ..	8	133	15	182	10	63
Helmsdale ..	20	268	27	316	21	132
Brora	22	280	23	389	32	165
Rogart	13	121	9	118	13	53
Tongue	13	140	15	224	18	90
Dornoch & Embo	34	379	22	244	32	181
Creich	20	241	28	273	17	209
Durness ..	6	67	8	114	11	70
Headquarters ..	—	146	—	190	—	42
Total ..	226	2919	226	3461	252	1650

Additional welfare foods for expectant and nursing mothers and children in needful circumstances, along with clothing in some cases was provided through the British Red Cross Society.

Every endeavour has been made to place a priority dental service at the disposal of mothers and young children, but the response has not been satisfactory. District Nursing Sisters have been instructed, however, to encourage all persons booking them for confinement to seek the advice of the Council's Dental Officer, and the same applies so far as children under five on the health visiting lists are concerned. There has been full co-operation between the Council's Dental Officer and visiting Dentists undertaking service under the National Health Service Act.

2—MIDWIFERY

The staffing of the various districts throughout the County has been well maintained during the year chiefly due to the energetic efforts of our Superintending Nursing Officer, Miss Gilmour, who has on all occasions kept in very close touch with Headquarters of the Queen's Institute in Edinburgh through which source most of our Nursing Sisters are obtained.

The training of midwives in gas and air analgesia has proceeded throughout the year whenever vacancies for training could be secured and it was found practicable to release a midwife to attend the course. At the end of 1950 there were twelve midwives on the staff of the Local Health Authority trained, leaving only three to receive training.

Maternity outfits were issued through the Public Health Office and the Superintending Nursing Officer to Doctors and midwives on request. No applications were received for the provision of beds or bedding.

3—HEALTH VISITING

Health visiting by the Superintending Nursing Officer and District Nursing Sisters has continued throughout the year as described in my Report of 1948. Details of the work done are shown under individual sections of this Report.

4—HOME NURSING

The work under this section has continued as previously, being closely co-ordinated with the other health service arrangements of the Local Health Authority.

Home Nursing from 1-1-50 to 31-12-50

District.	General Cases.	General Nursing Visits.
Bettyhill	98	988
Clyne	96	1887
Creich	43	697
Dornoch	88	1697
Durness	28	600
Eddrachilles	87	1091
Golspie	102	2330
Kildonan and Loth	83	2044
Lairg	131	2041
Lochinver	116	1856
Melvich	64	1543
Rogart	55	964
Tongue	64	1064
Stoer	109	2888
Headquarters	—	78
	1,164	21,768

5—DOMESTIC HELP

In putting the Scheme of Domestic Help into practice it was found, when assessing charges due by householders for the service, that the lower wage earning groups came off very well, but when the householder's weekly wage reached £6 10s to £7 the "standard charge," which is the full cost of the service to the Local Authority, was reached, and this became no greater in the case of still larger wage earners or householders who gave no return of income.

This was reported by me to the Local Health Authority with a view to amending the method of assessment of charges to meet more favourably the financial circumstances of households in the middle income groups.

The maximum charge has to be reached somewhere but the matter for consideration was as to the wage level at which this should happen. The Local Health Authority gave very careful consideration to the scale of charges and agreed that this should be amended as follows :—

Assuming the method of assessing net income to be the same as previously it was decided that if the net income amounted to 10s per week or less there should be no charge, and if the net income amounted to over 10s weekly the charge would be two-thirds of the net income in excess of 10s up to a maximum of the full standard charge.

This means that the maximum charge is not now reached in the average family of, say, man, wife, and two children till the weekly wage earned reaches nearly £9, and the lower wage earners also benefit. The following table illustrates examples under both systems for a family such as I have mentioned. The actual figures quoted will of course vary somewhat in individual cases as deductions for rent and rates have not been taken into account for this table.

Family of Man, Wife, and two Children receiving 48-hour week domestic help.

Weekly Income.	Children's Allowance.	Weekly Charge to Householder. Under existing arrangement.	Under new proposal.
£2	5/-	Nil	Nil
£2 10/-	"	Nil	Nil
£3	"	Nil	Nil
£3 10/-	"	5/-	3/4
£4	"	15/-	10/-
£4 10/-	"	25/-	16/8
£5	"	35/-	23/4
£5 10/-	"	45/-	30/-
£6	"	55/-	36/8
£6 10/-	"	65/-	43/4
£7	"	75/-	50/-
£7 10/-	"	75/-	56/8
£8	"	75/-	63/4
£8 10/-	"	75/-	70/-
£9	"	75/-	76/8

Table V. of General Statistics shows the work done under the scheme during 1950.

6—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The facilities for vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria have continued to be provided by general practitioners throughout the County and I am very pleased to report that a very happy solution to the disagreement over the payment of fees for reports was found, and as will be seen by the following table (and the table on Page 10) the work has really been going on in a very satisfactory manner.

Diphtheria Immunisation—1-1-50 to 31-12-50.

Pre-School Children	161
School Children	46
Total	207

Special attention is now being given to the provision of "boosting" doses of diphtheria prophylactic particularly to children entering school for the first time, and all parents are circularised recommending this procedure when their children are receiving final visits under the health visiting scheme. It is intended to extend this recommendation of "boosting" doses to all school children who have not already been treated on entering school.

Parents, on the recommendation of their Doctor, have the opportunity of receiving whooping cough immunisation combined with diphtheria immunisation for their children who have not had whooping cough in earlier childhood.

7—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS—CARE AND AFTERCARE

Tuberculosis

The Council's arrangements continue as described in my Report of 1948.

Medical supervision is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health, who is also District Tuberculosis Officer of the Regional Hospital Board, by patients' family Doctors, and by District Nursing Sisters.

The table on Page 11 shows the work done by District Nursing Sisters acting as Health Visitors during the year.

VACCINATION, 1950

Year of birth of persons.	Number of persons primarily vaccinated during period				Number of persons re-vaccinated during period				Number of persons specially reported during period because of actual or alleged complication of vaccination.
	Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day.	Accelerated (vaccinoid) Reaction 5th-7th day.	Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day.	No local reaction.	Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day.	Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction 5th-7th day.	Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day.	No. local reaction.	
1950	46			2					
1949	36			3	1			1	
1948	16				1				
1947	2								
1946	3			1					
1945	—				1				
1944	1								
1943	3								
1942	1				1	1			
1941	2				2				
1940	2				1				
1939	8				1	1			
1938	3								
1937	2						2	1	
1936	6				4				
1935 or earlier	36	2		2	64	14	24	13	
TOTALS	167	2		8	76	16	26	15	

Tuberculosis Visiting and Nursing for Year 1950

District.	No. of Cases.	Advisory Visits.	Nursing Visits.	Total.
Lochinver	5	88	31	119
Eddrachilles	7	126	12	138
Stoer	5	37	—	37
Lairg	8	83	35	118
Melvich	9	134	33	167
Golspie	9	127	—	127
Bettyhill	5	72	—	72
Helmsdale	7	80	—	80
Brora	13	210	2	212
Rogart	5	40	—	40
Skerray and Tongue	14	161	—	161
Dornoch and Embo ..	7	97	18	115
Creich	4	53	13	66
Durness	3	47	—	47
Headquarters	—	384	—	384
Total	101	1739	144	1883

No applications were received during the year for the provision of beds and bedding, but articles of clothing for needy patients have been supplied through the British Red Cross Medical Loan Depot, as have also certain nursing requisites. Extra nourishment in the form of milk and Cod Liver Oil preparations have been issued to patients on home treatment.

Housing and proper isolation of open cases of tuberculosis under treatment at home often presents great difficulties, and as mentioned in previous reports the use of garden shelters in many parts of the County is quite impracticable on account of the exposed nature of the sites and the lack of domestic assistance. The fact, however, that children living in an infected household can be boarded out has been taken advantage of in two instances. One child has gone to the Seaforth Home, Maryburgh, and another to relatives in the South.

8—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The following is a list of the Authorised Officers appointed under the Local Authority's arrangements for the care of mental defectives and persons of unsound mind.

District—	Authorised Officer—
Assynt	H. W. Mackay, Lochinver.
Eddrachilles and Durness ..	G. B. Mackay, Scourie.
Tongue and Farr	A. C. Mackay, Strathy.
Kildonan, Loth, and Clyne ..	Ormston Armstrong, Helmsdale.
Golspie, Rogart, and Lairg ..	A. Macleod, Rogart.
Dornoch and Creich	D. J. Mackay, Bonar-Bridge.

There is no change in the arrangements since my Report of 1948, and lunacy cases requiring hospital care have ready access to Craig Dunain Mental Hospital, Inverness. There is, however, a great and pressing need for institutional accommodation for mental defectives in the whole of the northern region and this problem in my opinion can only be overcome by the joint efforts of the Northern Counties. There are at present young persons on the waiting list of special institutions in the South for upwards of six years without there appearing to be any hope of securing their early admission. Many of these have simply had to wait at home doing nothing, as they have shown themselves unsuitable for attendance at an ordinary public school.

GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

I. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN (Section 22)

(1) Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Service

	No. of clinics provided at end of year whether held at Child Welfare Clinics or other premises.
Local Health Authority Clinics:	
Ante-natal Clinics	NIL
Post-natal Clinics	NIL
Clinics provided by Voluntary Organisations:	
Ante-natal Clinics	NIL
Post-natal Clinics	NIL

(2) Child Welfare Clinics

	No. of clinics provided at end of year.
Local Health Authority Clinics	NIL
Clinics provided by Voluntary Organisations ...	NIL

(3) Dental Care

(1)	No. Inspected by Dental Officers during the year. (2)	No. found to require treatment during the year. (3)	No. accepting treatment during the year. (4)	No. actually treated by Dental Officers during the year. (5)
Expectant Mothers	2	2	2	2
Nursing Mothers	....	....	....	....
Pre-School Children	19	19	19	19

(4) Mother and Baby Homes—None provided

(5) Day Nurseries (including 24-hour Nurseries) as at end of year—None provided

(6) Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes provided as part of the Authority's arrangements under Section 22 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947—None provided

II. MIDWIFERY (Section 23)

(1) Total number of Births occurring in the area during year—that is before correction for mother's residence: Live Births, 183; Still Births, 3; Total 186

(2) Total number of births in (1) occurring in institutions (including private maternity homes) 66

(3) Total number of births in (1) occurring at home .. 120

(4) Number of births in (3) classified to show nature of attendance at birth:—

	Cases dealt with under Section 23(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1947.			Other domiciliary cases.			Total.
(1)	Doctor engaged and present at confinement. (2)	Doctor engaged and not present at confinement. (3)	Midwife alone—no doctor engaged. (4)	Doctor engaged (5)	Midwife alone—no doctor engaged. (6)	Without doctor or midwife. (7)	(8)
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority (including those engaged on a fee-per-case basis)	77	43	....	....	....	....	120
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Boards of Management	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(d) Private practising midwives	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(e) Totals	77	43	....	....	....	....	120

(5) Medical Aid under Section 22(1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915

Number of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 22(1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915, by a Midwife:—

(a) For Domiciliary Cases:—

(1) Where the medical practitioner had arranged to provide maternity medical services under the National Health Service .. .. NIL

(2) Others .. .. NIL

(b) For Cases in Institutions .. .. NIL

(6) Administration of Analgesics

(a) Number of midwives in practice in the area qualified to administer Analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland:—

(1) Domiciliary 12

(2) In Institutions .. .. NIL

(b) Number of domiciliary midwives who received their training during the year 3

(c) Number of sets of Apparatus for the administration of Analgesics in use at 31st December, 1949, by Domiciliary Midwives employed by the Authority, or employed by voluntary organisations in the Authority's area 8

(d) Number on order at 31st December, 1949 .. .. —

(e) Number of cases in which Analgesics were administered by Midwives in Domiciliary Practice during the year 58

(f) Number of cars in use by Midwives at 31st December, 1949 16

III. HEALTH VISITING (Section 24)

	No. of Visits paid by Health Visitors during Year												
	Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children between the ages of 1 and 5		Tuberculosis Cases		Other Cases		Total Visits Paid
	First Visits (2)	Total Visits (3)	First Visits (4)	Total Visits (5)	First Visits (6)	Total Visits (7)	First Visits (8)	Total Visits (9)	First Visits (10)	Total Visits (11)	(12)
(1)											
Health Visitors employed by the Authority	112	794	226	2919	226	3461	12	1883	41	164	9221
Health Visitors employed by Voluntary Organisations	NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL		NIL

IV. HOME NURSING (Section 25)

(1)	No. of Cases attended by Home Nurses under arrangements made under this Section. (2)	No. of Visits paid by Nurses to these Cases. (3)
Home Nurses employed directly by the Authority	1,164	21,768
Home Nurses employed by Voluntary Organisations	NIL	NIL

V. DOMESTIC HELP (Section 28)

(1) Number of Domestic Helps employed during the year:
- (a) Whole-time .. .. —
- (b) Part-time (have enrolled for service and are employed when required) 11
- (c) Retaining fee basis .. .. —

(2) Number of cases for which Helps were provided during year 17

(3) Average period of assistance—Days 64

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows cases of infectious disease notified during the year 1950:—

Chicken Pox	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—
Diphtheria	—
Dysentry	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—
Enteric Fever	—
Erysipelas	—
Infective Jaundice	—
Malaria	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	5
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	4
Puerperal Fever	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	60
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8
	96

Of the total number of cases notified, eighteen were treated in hospital, arrangements being made for the isolation and treatment of the other seventy-eight cases at home.

Apart from cases of Whooping Cough, which was made notifiable for the first time in 1950, the year has again been good from the point of view of the occurrence of notifiable diseases in the County. Apart from cases of Tuberculosis and Whooping Cough, only twenty cases of infectious disease were notified altogether, five of which were Scarlet Fever, six Pneumonia, and four Poliomyelitis.

Diphtheria

I am very pleased again to be able to report that not a single case of Diphtheria was notified in the County during 1950. Immunisation against this disease has continued as in previous years, and the work done is described under an earlier section of this Report.

Scarlet Fever

Five cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, three from Brora in March, one in October, and one in November. All cases were a mild type and only one required to be removed to hospital.

Acute Influenzal Pneumonia and Acute Primary Pneumonia

Five of the former and five of the latter were reported and three required removal to hospital for treatment.

Poliomyelitis

Four cases were reported during the latter half of the year in widely scattered single outbreaks. The first, a girl of fifteen and a half, occurred towards the end of July in the Clashmore area. The severity of her illness was moderate and she was removed to hospital where she made a complete recovery with no residual paralysis. The second case occurred in a school boy at Lairg early in October. He was isolated and treated at home, was a case of moderate severity showing definite indication of slight paralysis of the limbs on one side which, I am glad to say, completely recovered. The next case occurred in an adult in the Fload area towards the end of November. The symptoms in this case were rather severe. He was treated in hospital where he made a complete recovery and was able to return to his normal employment. The last case occurred in a school girl at Melness early in December. This was a very severe case and gave us great anxiety in connection with her removal to hospital as she took ill during the period of a severe snowstorm. It was impossible to get access to her from Cambusavie Hospital as the roads were blocked, but Dr McCoubrey, Medical Officer of Health for Caithness, came to the rescue and arranged for a Caithness ambulance to bring her by the coast road to the Town and County Hospital, Wick, where she remained under treatment until fit for removal to the Orthopaedic Department of Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. The paralysis in this case was very severe and, although she has got successfully over the acute stage of her illness it will take a long time for her to overcome her disability.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia notified was found to be due to a sub-acute attack of appendicitis.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No cases reported.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease

Outbreaks of Measles and Mumps were prevalent throughout the County during the latter part of 1950, particularly at Helmsdale where school closure of the Primary Department had to be advised in order to try and prevent the spread of the illness.

Venereal Disease

No cases reported.

TUBERCULOSIS

Eight notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and eight of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were received during the year and the following table shows the distribution of the cases in the different districts of the County :—

Parish.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Assynt	1	1
Clyne	1	2
Creich	—	—
Dornoch	—	1
Durnesst	—	—
Eddrachilles	—	—
Farr	2	—
Golspie	—	1
Kildonan	1	1
Lairg	2	2
Loth	—	—
Rogart	—	—
Tongue	1	—
	—	—
Total	8	8

Of the cases notified the following received Institutional treatment :—

Pulmonary	7
Non-Pulmonary	3

No deaths occurred during the year 1950 from Pulmonary or Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In the County at 31st December, 1950, there were known to the Public Health Authority 119 cases of Tuberculosis (all forms) and the following table shows the type, age, and sex distribution of the cases:

Age in Years.	-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	65	Total
Pulmonary—									
Males ..	—	1	—	8	11	8	8	1	37
Females ..	—	2	—	10	9	5	7	—	33
Total	—	3	—	18	20	13	15	1	70
Non-Pulmonary—									
Males ..	—	6	6	3	4	2	2	1	24
Females ..	2	3	4	6	1	5	4	—	25
Total —	2	9	10	9	5	7	6	1	49
Combined Ttl. —	2	12	10	27	25	20	21	2	119

TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR YEARS 1930-1950

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATH RATES

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Pulmonary											
Notifications ..	28	28	24	21	18	15	13	14	13	11	14
Death Rate ..	1.39	0.88	1.01	0.57	0.56	1.14	0.63	0.58	0.33	0.46	0.77
Non-Pulmonary											
Notifications ..	14	19	14	17	22	8	8	24	13	12	12
Death Rate ..	0.31	0.31	0.13	0.32	0.25	0.13	0.38	0.19	0.14	0.00	0.07

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Pulmonary										
Notifications ..	22	25	27	21	12	15	16	17	10	8
Death Rate ..	0.78	0.65	0.74	0.22	0.30	0.70	0.55	0.14	0.49	0.14
Non-Pulmonary										
Notifications ..	15	16	22	9	5	9	10	12	10	8
Death Rate ..	0.41	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.07	0.29	0.07	0.06	0.00

Treatment

The following table shows the number of cases who received treatment in Sanatoria and Hospitals during the year:—

	In Hospital 1-1-49.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	In Hospital 31-12-49.
Pulmonary:—					
Males ..	6	12	10	1	7
Females ..	5	7	2	—	10
Non-Pulmonary:—					
Males ..	1	4	5	—	—
Females ..	—	5	4	—	1
Total ..	12	28	21	1	18

Surgical Treatment—

During the year, Tuberculosis patients continued to benefit by the facilities provided by the Surgical Consultant Service.

Death Rate from Phthisis over three Decades

The number of deaths registered as due to Phthisis during the year 1950 was 2, showing a death rate of 0.14. The death rate from this disease over the past three decades is shown in the following table:

1921	1.23	1931	0.88	1941	0.78
1922	1.75	1932	1.01	1942	0.65
1923	1.04	1933	0.57	1943	0.74
1924	1.4	1934	0.56	1944	0.22
1925	1.52	1935	1.14	1945	0.30
1926	0.64	1936	0.63	1946	0.70
1927	1.39	1937	0.58	1947	0.55
1928	0.74	1938	0.33	1948	0.14
1929	0.81	1939	0.46	1949	0.49
1930	1.39	1940	0.77	1950	0.14
Average for Decade..	1.18	Average for Decade..	0.69	Average for Decade..	0.47

The Phthisis death rate for 1950 is much less than the death rate from Phthisis in Scotland as a whole. The average for the decade ended 1949 is considerably less than the average for the decade ended 1939 and less than one half of the average death rate in the decade ended 1929.

SCHOOL HEALTH

Annual Report on School Health Administration for year ended 31/7/50.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population of the area, 14,420 (est.).

Number of Schools:—	
(a) Primary (under Education Authority)	24
(b) Secondary (under Education Authority) ..	2 (Sen.) 9 (Jun.)
(c) (1) Special Schools	—
(2) Special Classes in ordinary Schools	—
(d) In receipt of grant from Education Authority and under medical inspection	—
Number of children on the Registers (i.e. for whole area—not individual schools)	2,101
Number of children in average attendance (i.e. for whole area—not individual schools)	2,000

TABLE I.

Total number of children examined at—

Ordinary Schools.	(a) Systematic Examinations (Age Groups).	(b) Other Systematic Examinations at Schools with roll under 30 where all children are fully examined.
Entrants	228	
Second Age Group	185	
Third Age Group	132	
Fourth Age Group	26	
Total	571	256

(c) Other Examinations—

Special Cases	90
Vision and Hearing (born 1942)	167
Re-inspection by Medical Officer	158
Total	415

Number of individual children inspected at Systematic Examinations, who were notified to parents as requiring treatment (excluding uncleanliness and dental caries) :—

Entrants	51
Second Age Group	28
Third Age Group	15
Fourth Age Group	1
Other Systematic Examinations	25
Total	120
Notices to Special Cases	25

In addition to the above, children requiring special treatment were notified to the School Oculist and were as follows :—

Entrants	1
Second Age Group	12
Third Age Group	12
Fourth Age Group	5
Other Systematic Examinations—	
"Specials," Etc.	45
Total	75

Average Heights and Weights of Children in Systematic Age Groups Weighed and Measured during year 1949-50

Boys.				Girls.			
No. Exd.	Average Age	Height in Ins.	Weight in Lbs.	No. Exd.	Average Age	Height in Ins.	Weight in Lbs.
89	5 7/12	43.93	44.01	90	5 5/12	42.82	42.13
76	9 1/2	51.05	65.51	88	9 5/12	51.09	62.12
69	13 1/2	58.55	89.40	42	13 7/12	59.11	92.73

NOTE.—The "numbers examined" in above table do not correspond with the figures given in the main statistical tables of the Annual Report on School Medical Inspection as it was not feasible to have all children in the age groups weighed and measured.

TABLE II.

	Systematic Examination of Age Groups,												Other Systematic Examinations.	
	Number Examined—571.												No. Examined.	
	Number Found with Defects.												Number found with Defects.	
	Entrants.		2nd Age Group.		3rd Age Group.		4th Age Group.		Total in Age Group.		All Other Ages.			
	113	115	87	98	79	53	15	11	294	277	146	110		
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.		
	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %		
1. Clothing Unsatisfactory	1 .88		1 1.1						2 .68		2 1.3			
2. Footgear Unsatisfactory	1 .88		1 1.1						2 .68		2 1.3		1 .90	
3. Uncleanliness—														
(a) Head				2 2.0		1 1.9				3 1.1			1 .90	
(b) Body											1 .68			
4. Skin—														
(a) Head—														
Ringworm ..			1 1.1						1 .34					
Impetigo	2 1.8	1 .86							2 .68	1 .36			1 .90	
Other Diseases .				1 1.0	2 2.5				1 .34	2 .72				
(b) Body—														
Ringworm ..														
Impetigo														
Scabies	2 1.8								2 .68				1 .90	
Other Diseases ..	2 1.8	3 2.6		1 1.0					2 .68	4 1.4				
5. Nutritional State—														
Slightly Defective ..	1 .88		1 1.1	1 1.0	1 1.2	1 1.8			3 1.0	2 .72			2 1.8	
Bad														
6. Mouth and Teeth Unhealthy	1 .88	4 3.4	2 2.3						3 1.0	4 1.4			1 .90	
7. Naso-Pharynx—														
(a) Nose—														
Obstruction requiring Observation..	4 3.5		1 1.1	1 1.0	2 2.5	2 3.7	1 6.6		8 2.7	3 1.1	1 .68		1 .90	
Obstruction requiring Operative Treat.	10 8.8	2 1.7	3 3.4	2 2.0	3 3.7	2 3.7			16 5.4	6 2.1	2 1.3			
Other conditions ..	1 .88								1 .34		2 1.3		1 .90	

7. Naso-Pharynx—Contd.—																						
(b) Throat—																						
Tonsils requiring Observation ..	6	5.3	3	2.6	2	2.3	6	6.1	5	6.3	1	1.8	1	6.6			14	4.7	10	3.6	6	4.1	4	3.6
Tonsils requiring Operative Treat.	10	8.8	12	10.3	4	4.6	7	7.1	5	6.3	3	5.6					19	6.4	21	7.5	4	2.7	5	4.5
(c) Glands—																						
Requiring Observation	3	2.6	2	1.7	5	5.6			1	1.2							8	2.7	2	.72	5	3.4	2	1.8
Requiring Operative Treatment ..	1	.88					1	1.0									1	.34	1	.36				
8. Eyes—																						
(a) External Disease—																						
Blepharitis	1	.88	1	.86			1	1.0									2	.68	1	.36				
Conjunctivitis ..							1	1.0											1	.36				
Corneal Opacities..									1	1.2							1	.34					1	.90
Strabismus	1	.88	2	1.7	1	1.1	2	2.0									2	.68	3	1.1				
Other Diseases ..																					2	1.3		
(b) Visual Acuity—																								
Fair			1	1.86	2	2.3	1	1.0	1	1.3	5	9.4	1	6.7	1	9.1	3	1.0	6	2.1	2	1.3	4	3.6
Bad	1	.88			5	5.6	10	10.2	6	7.5	7	13.2	2	13.3	2	18.1	15	5.1	20	7.2	8	5.4	11	10.0
Recommended for Refraction ..	1	.88			5	5.6	7	7.1	4	5.1	8	15.1	2	13.3	3	27.2	12	4.1	18	6.4	5	3.4	9	8.1
9. Ears—																						
(a) Diseases—																						
Otorrhœa	1	.88															1	.34			1	.68		
Other Diseases ..					1	1.1	1	1.0	1	1.3							2	.68	1	.36				
(b) Defective Hearing—																								
Grade I.					1	1.1	1	1.0	1	1.3							2	.68	1	.36				
Grade II. (a) ..																								
Grade II. (b) ..																								
Grade III.																								
10. Speech—																						
Defective Articulation	2	1.8			1	1.1	1	1.0									3	1.0	1	.36	1	.68	1	.90
Stammering					1	1.1			2	2.5							3	1.0						
11. Mental and Nervous Condition—																						
(a) Backward (due to extrinsic cause) ..	2	1.8	1	.86	2	2.3											4	1.4	1	.36				
(b) Dull Intrinsically ..	3	2.6	2	1.7					1	1.3	1	1.9					4	1.4	3	1.1	2	1.3	1	.90
(c) Mentally Defective (educable)	2	1.8			1	1.1	1	1.0	2	2.5							5	1.7	1	.36	2	1.3	1	.90
(d) Mentally Defective (uneducable) ..																								
(e) Highly Nervous or Unstable			1	.86															1	.36				
(f) Difficult in Behaviour																							1	.90

TABLE II. (Cont.)

	Systematic Examination of Age Groups.												Other Systematic Examinations.			
	Number Examined—571.												No. Examined.			
	Number Found with Defects.												Number found with Defects.			
	Entrants.				2nd Age Group.				3rd Age Group.		4th Age Group.		Total in Age Groups.		All Other Ages.	
	113		115		87		98		79		53		15		11		294		277		146		110	
	Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
	No.	%	No.	%	No	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
12. Circulation System—																								
(a) Organic Heart Disease —Congenital ..							1	1.0											1	.36	1	.68		
Acquired									1	1.3							1	1.34			1	.68		
(b) Functional Conditions																							2	1.8
13. Lungs—																								
Chronic Bronchitis ..									1	1.3							1	.34						
Suspected Tuberculosis									1	1.3							1	.34						
Other Diseases	2	1.8	4	3.4	1	1.1	2	2.0									3	1.0	6	2.1			1	.90
14. Deformities—																								
(a) Congenital	2	1.8															2	.68			3	3.0		
(b) Acquired Infantile Paralysis							1	1.0			1	1.9							2	.72				
(c) Acquired Probably Rickets																								
(d) Acquired other causes					1	1.1			1	1.3							2	.68						
15. Infectious Disease ..			1	.86							1	1.9							2	.72				
16. Other Diseases or Defects	1	1.8			2	2.3	1	1.0	2	2.5							5	1.7	1	.36			3	2.7

TABLE II. (a)

CONDITION	Examination—Vision and Hearing (Children Born 1942)		Examination of Special Cases		
	Number Examined—167		Number Examined—90		
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
	74	93	40	50	90
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
No Defect Found	66	80	13	7	20
Uncleanliness			—	1	1
Mouth and Teeth Unhealthy			2	—	2
Impetigo			—	—	—
Scabies			—	—	—
Slightly Defective Nutrition			1	1	2
Adenoids			3	2	5
Enlarged Tonsils (Observation)			3	3	6
Enlarged Tonsils (Operation)			2	8	10
Glands (requiring observation)			—	1	1
Eyes—					
Strabismus	1	1	—	—	—
Blepharitis	—	—	1	—	1
Defective Vision—Fair	1	7	1	5	6
Bad	7	6	3	5	8
Recommended for Refraction	5	13	2	8	10
Defective Hearing	—	—	1	1	2
Otorrhoea	—	—	—	—	—
Defective Speech			—	—	—
Cardiac Defect			1	1	2
Mentally Defective			1	—	1
Lungs (other diseases)			4	2	6
Abdominal Tuberculosis			1	—	1
Deformities			—	1	1
Infectious Diseases			—	—	—
Other Diseases or Defects			1	4	5

TABLE III.

Group Classification	Systematic Examination of Age Groups										Other Systematic Exams. at schools where all children are examined	
	Entrants		2nd Age Group		3rd Age Group		4th Age Group		Total in Age Groups			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
I. No Defect	~~151~~ 139	~~66.2~~ 69·8	~~128~~ 144	~~69.2~~ 71·7	~~86~~ 119	~~65.2~~ 46·8	~~18~~ 19	~~69.2~~ 90·4	~~385~~ 421	~~67.1~~ 73·1	~~186~~ 108	~~72.7~~ 78·8
II. (a) 6/12+(Better Eye) with or without glasses	~~24~~ 24	~~2.0~~ 2·0	~~13~~ 4	~~3.5~~ 3·5	~~14~~ 6	~~3.9~~ 3·9	~~1~~ 4	~~4.8~~ 4·8	~~33~~ 18	~~3.1~~ 3·1	~~18~~ 10	~~7.0~~ 4·3
(b) Mouth or teeth likely to cause ill-health....	~~5~~ 1	~~2.2~~ ·5	~~2~~ 2	~~1.1~~ 1·0	~~1~~ 1	~~·6~~	—	—	~~7~~ 4	~~1.2~~ ·7	~~1~~	~~1~~
(c) Both (a) and (b)	~~1~~	—	~~1~~ 1	~~·5~~	~~1~~ —	~~1~~ —	—	—	~~1~~ 1	~~·2~~	—	—
Total	75	~~3.1~~ 2·5	~~15~~ 10	~~8.1~~ 5·0	14 4	~~10.6~~ 4·5	~~4~~ 1	~~15.4~~ 4·8	40 23	~~7.0~~ 4·0	~~19~~ 10	~~7.4~~ 4·3
III. Temporary Illness only	~~22~~ 33	~~9.7~~ 16·6	~~16~~ 21	~~8.7~~ 10·4	~~12~~ 9	~~9.1~~ 5·8	~~2~~ —	~~7.7~~	~~52~~ 63	~~9.1~~ 18·9	~~22~~ 6	~~8.6~~ 4·4
IV. (a) Cure expected by treatment	~~45~~ 18	~~19.7~~ 9·1	~~20~~ 21	~~10.8~~ 10·4	~~16~~ 13	~~12.4~~ 8·4	~~1~~	~~3.85~~ —	~~82~~ 52	~~14.4~~ 9·0	~~21~~ 10	~~8.2~~ 4·3
(b) Improvement only by treatment	~~3~~ 4	~~1.3~~ 2·0	~~6~~ 5	~~3.2~~ 2·5	~~4~~ 4	~~3.0~~ 4·5	~~1~~ 1	~~3.85~~ 4·8	~~14~~ 14	2.4 3·0	~~8~~ 3	~~3.1~~ 2·2
Total	~~48~~ 22	~~21.0~~ 11·1	~~26~~ 26	~~14.0~~ 12·9	20 20	~~15.1~~ 12·9	2 1	~~7.7~~ 4·8	~~96~~ 69	~~16.8~~ 12·0	~~29~~ 13	11.3 9·5
Total number of children examined	199 ~~228~~	100 ~~100~~	201 ~~185~~	100 ~~100~~	155 ~~132~~	100 100	21 ~~26~~	100 ~~100~~	546 ~~571~~	100 100	134 ~~256~~	100 ~~100~~

TABLE IV.

Return of Exceptional Children of School Age in the Area

	At Ordinary Schools.	At Special Schools or Classes.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
1. Blind	—	—	—	—
2. Partially Sighted—				
(a) Refractive errors in which the curriculum of an ordinary school would adversely affect the eye condition	—	—	—	—
(b) Other conditions of the eye, e.g., cataract, ulceration, etc., which render the child unable to read ordinary school books or to see well enough to be taught in ordinary school	—	—	—	—
3. Deaf—				
Grade I.	~~3~~ 4	—	—	~~3~~ 4
Grade IIa.	~~1~~ 1	—	—	~~1~~ 1
Grade IIb.	— 1	—	—	~~1~~ 1
Grade III.	—	~~2~~ 3	~~1~~ 1	~~3~~ 4
4. Defective Speech—				
(a) Defects of articulation requiring special educational measures	~~8~~ 9	~~1~~ 4	~~2~~ 2	7 15
(b) Stammering, requiring special educational measures	~~3~~ 4	~~1~~ 4	—	~~3~~ 8
5. Mentally Defective—				
(Children beween 5 and 16 years)				
(a) Educable (I.Q. approx. 50-70) ..	~~12~~ 10	~~8~~ 9	~~2~~ 2	~~22~~ 21
(b) Ineducable (I.Q. generally less than 50)	~~2~~ 2	~~3~~ 4	~~3~~ 3	~~8~~ 9
6. Epilepsy—				
(a) Mild and occasional	~~1~~ 1	—	—	~~1~~ 1
(b) Severe (suitable for care in a residential school)	—	—	—	—
7. Physically Defective—				
(Children between 5 and 16 years)				
(a) Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis (excluding cervical glands)	4 ~~3~~ —	—	—	~~3~~ 4 ~~3~~
(b) General Orthopaedic condition ..	~~14~~ 11	~~3~~ 3	~~1~~ —	~~15~~ 14
(c) Organic Heart Disease	~~4~~ 5	~~1~~ 1	~~1~~ 1	6 7
(d) Other causes of ill-health	~~4~~ 4	~~1~~ —	~~1~~ —	~~5~~ 4
8. Multiple Defects—				
(a) 3 and 7(c)	—	~~1~~ 1	—	~~1~~ 1
3+4a (b) 4(a) and 5(a)	~~2~~ 2	—	~~5~~ 5	~~5~~ 7
(c) 4(a) and 5(b)	~~2~~ 2	—	~~2~~ 2	~~2~~ 4
(d) 5(a) and 7(b)	— —	~~2~~ 2	~~1~~ —	~~1~~ 2
(e) 5(a) and 7(c)	— —	—	~~1~~ 1	~~1~~ 1
(f) 5(a) and 7(d)	— —	~~1~~ 1	— —	~~1~~ 1

MEDICAL TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

a. Minor Ailments

These are attended to by the District Nurses under the supervision of the child's Family Doctor.

The following table shows the work done by the District Nurses in the various districts during the year. Column 1 and 2 show routine visits paid by Nurses to the schools for the purpose of School Medical Inspection. Column 3 shows visits paid to the homes of children for purpose of follow-up and treatment.

	Number of visits paid to Schools with S.M.O or Dentist	Number of visits paid to Schools by Nurses themselves	Number of visits paid to homes of School Children
Bettyhill	12	40	22
Clyne	11	29	93
Creich	22	59	43
Dornoch	46	27	87
Durness	5	15	13
Eddrachilles	11	60	48
Golspie	20	12	93
Kildonan and Loth ..	24	36	95
Lairg	12	20	31
Lochinver	5	27	40
Melvich	11	52	56
Rogart	11	36	36
Tongue	27	40	39
Stoer	7	24	28
Headquarters	6	44	56
	—	—	—
	230	521	780

b. Nose and Throat (Operative Treatment)

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
(a) Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids—			
Treated under the Education Committee's Scheme at the Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie	25	21	46
Treated otherwise (so far as known)	3	2	5
(b) Complicated Cases for whom consultation or in-patient treatment was arranged with the E.N.T. Surgeon, Inverness—			
Consultations	3	—	3
Admissions to Hospital	1	—	1
Re-admission to Hospital	1	—	1

c. Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

Cases are seen by the Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie, during routine visits, or as required at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, or, in special circumstances, at their homes.

The following school children received consultation or treatment during the year :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Admitted Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie ..	—	1	1
Admitted Raigmore Hospital, Inverness ..	1	—	1
Admitted Other Orthopaedic Hospitals	1	1	2
Consultations at Lawson Memorial Hospital and treated as out-patients	8	5	13

d. Defective Vision and Squint

Ophthalmologist's Report

During the year 1949-50 123 children were examined, and glasses were prescribed in 81 of these cases. The following table gives the analysis of the diseases of the eye and errors of refraction treated :—

Diseases of the Eye.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blepharitis	4	3	7
Internal Strabismus	3	—	3
External Strabismus	—	1	1
Choroditis	—	1	1
Corneal Opacity	—	1	1
Errors of Refraction.			
Hypermetropia	2	—	2
Hypermetropic Astigmatism	7	11	18
Compound Hypermetropic Astigmatism ..	1	1	2
Myopia	7	12	19
Myopic Astigmatism	15	22	37
Compound Myopic Astigmatism	—	8	8
Mixed Astigmatism	2	2	4
Glasses Prescribed	26	55	81
Insignificant Refractive Error or no Refractive Error	13	15	28

e. Special Schools and Classes

The great need of facilities for educating handicapped children has been referred to in a previous section of this report, particularly as regards mental defectives. Seven mentally defective children are at present on the waiting list for admission to special schools, one of them has been waiting fully six years.

One cripple child is at Trefoil School. Three deaf and dumb children are at present being educated at the Donaldson Hospital for the Deaf, Edinburgh, and there are two mentally defective children in Institutions.

f. Feeding of School Children

The great majority of schools have now been provided with school canteens or are served from neighbouring schools, but it is rather disappointing to find that at several schools in the North and West facilities in this connection have not yet been made available to the children. Schools still lacking the service are Durness and Laid, Scourie, Oldshore, and Elphin, and, as in my opinion there is no more excellent service provided to maintain the good health of school children than the school canteen, I would ask the Education Committee to give urgent consideration to establishing a school meals service for schools I have just mentioned. It appears that no more new buildings can be erected by the Ministry of Works for this purpose, so that the solution would appear to be the establishment of kitchens in disused classrooms where available, or the transfer to these schools of side school buildings suitable for the purpose.

Much credit is due to Miss Morrison, School Canteen Organiser, for maintaining at a high level the staffing and general standards of the service.

The milk in schools scheme has continued to operate as previously.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE—1949-50

(a) Total number of whole-time School Dental Officers employed under the Authority's School Health Services, showing separately unfilled vacancies at 31st July, 1950 ..	1
(b) Total number of part-time Dentists employed on School Dental Work at 31st July, 1950	—
(c) Approximate equivalent as whole-time School Dental Officers of the part-time appointments referred to in (b) above, if any	—
(d) Total number as at 31/12/50—	
1. Whole-time Dental Officers	1
2. Part-time Dental Officers	—
3. Unfilled Vacancies	—

Annual Report by School Dental Surgeon for 1949-50

Again this year all children have twice been inspected and treated, that is with the exception of those who refuse treatment.

During the first treatment 337 refused and during the second 363. These figures remain fairly constant and very disappointingly so.

The number treated by private dentists was 20, though many parents state they will have the treatment carried out privately.

The Doctors again gave valuable assistance during general anaesthetics and the aftercare of the children.

Without the willing and capable assistance of the District Nursing Sisters work would have been quite impossible.

(Sgd.) C. C. FORSYTH,
School Dental Surgeon.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT, 1949-50

Age	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Inspected	191	205	199	210	187	195	198	189	169	165	61	23	20	3	2015
With Decayed Teeth	98	93	97	114	105	79	80	76	64	79	33	10	10	2	940
Requiring Treatment	84	87	84	98	89	74	80	76	56	78	33	10	10	2	861
Accepting Treatment	59	52	64	65	66	56	48	35	23	34	12	5	4	1	524
Treated	54	48	53	65	66	48	42	35	23	34	10	5	4	1	488
Fillings, Permanent	....	11	12	79	64	75	68	66	51	63	24	3	12	....	528
Fillings, Temporary	20	26	26	15	8	10	2	2	1	....	....	....	....	....	110
Extractions, Permanent	....	....	....	6	14	26	12	3	18	5	....	1	2	....	87
Extractions, Temporary	156	89	80	78	74	23	12	17	1	1	....	....	....	...	531
General Anæsthetics	38	23	20	24	20	13	8	3	8	2	....	1	1	....	161
Sundries	....	2	2	1	5	5	11	18	5	22	4	1	6	1	83
Attendances	54	48	53	79	66	52	49	46	34	43	14	5	6	1	550
Extractions—Gen. Anæsthetics	147	85	61	71	81	41	20	16	18	5	....	1	1	....	547
Extractions—Local Anæsthetics....	7	6	19	14	8	6	4	4	1	1	....	....	1	....	71

DENTAL RE-INSPECTION AND TREATMENT, 1949-50

Age	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Inspected	160	191	191	199	177	200	192	186	170	170	63	33	15	16	1838
With Decayed Teeth	64	91	86	105	91	92	93	72	90	74	30	13	7	3	907
Requiring Treatment	60	81	74	94	79	85	93	70	90	73	30	13	7	3	852
Accepting Treatment	42	53	47	66	53	62	46	36	36	31	9	8	2	1	492
Treated	39	52	37	63	52	52	42	32	34	27	9	7	2	1	449
Fillings, Permanent	....	5	32	64	53	70	66	51	61	55	22	10	3	2	494
Fillings, Temporary	38	54	11	19	6	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	133
Extractions, Permanent	....	4	12	26	8	13	12	3	8	4	....	5	....	....	95
Extractions, Temporary	85	90	47	64	46	42	16	6	7	....	....	....	....	....	403
General Anæsthetics	25	21	18	24	15	13	8	4	6	1	....	1	....	....	136
Sundries	....	1	4	....	1	13	20	13	11	16	6	....	1	....	86
Attendances	39	52	42	64	52	61	51	38	40	37	13	7	5	2	503
Extractions—Gen. Anæsthetics	83	84	51	84	44	45	23	8	12	4	....	4	....	....	442
Extractions—Local Anæsthetics	2	10	8	6	10	10	5	1	3	....	....	1	....	....	56

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITARY SERVICES

Annual Report by E. W. Brannen, L.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.S., and M.R.San.I., County Architect and Sanitary Inspector

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my twenty-first Annual Report as County Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

GENERAL SANITATION

Water Supplies.—The existing public water supplies at Bonar-Bridge, Brora, Golspie, Helmsdale, Melvich, Portskerra, Strathy, Bettyhill, Scourie, Lochinver, and Lairg have been well maintained during the year. During the period I have been entrusted with this work I find, on looking over the records of improvements and new supplies, over 44 miles of new piping has been laid, together with all auxiliary works. As about 90 per cent. of these improvements were carried out from 1932 to 1939 the work, even in those days, was very considerable, although accepted as a matter of course, and no Progress Reports had then to be submitted.

The larger Schemes now in progress, being carried out by Messrs Babtie, Shaw and Morton, Consulting Engineers, Glasgow, are going on apace and I feel confident that one or more of these Schemes will be completed during 1951.

SCAVENGING

Special Districts are in operation at Helmsdale, Brora, Golspie, Bonar-Bridge, and Lairg. Embo and Scourie have also been formed into Special Districts and operations commenced in Embo at the end of the year. Work at Scourie should commence early in the new year.

This work continues to be administered by the District Councils, and throughout the year the removal service performed by private contractors, with the exception of Brora, gave every satisfaction. The method of refuse disposal in some instances leaves much to be desired and I would like to see the controlled tipping method receiving more "control." Unsightly piles of household refuse, tins, etc., are to be seen scattered over the dumps. This could just as easily be tipped systematically with much more beneficial results, and the selected sites could, when completely filled in, be utilised for some useful purpose.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no such trades practised in the County.

SPECIAL DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

The Consulting Engineers are in process of preparing new Schemes for the areas of Lairg, Bonar-Bridge, Portgower, and Pittentrail. The advent of the Hydro-Electric Board's Loch Shin Scheme makes the provision of a new drainage system and sewage disposal works a necessity for the Village of Lairg. The drainage Scheme for the Village of Embo was completed during the early part of the year.

SCHOOLS

Considerable improvement in the sanitary facilities at Schools has taken place during the last few years and it is now gratifying to be able to report that all Public Schools have been provided with water closets. The Schoolhouses at Halladale, Elphin, Laid, and Skibo were provided with bathrooms, and electric light introduced at Skibo and Loth Schoolhouses.

FACTORIES

At the end of the year there were 60 registered factories situated within the County and Royal Burgh of Dornoch. These were all visited at least once during the year, and the sanitary accommodation provided for the workers was maintained in good condition. Where defects were found a word with the occupier produced the desired result. One factory was issued with a Certificate under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, and another application under the same Section was being dealt with at the end of the year.

BURIAL GROUNDS

These continue to be administered by the District Councils. Extension was made to Strathy Burial Ground and preliminary arrangements made for extension to Melness, Loth and Kildonan Burial Grounds.

FOOD SUPPLY

Milk.—The number of registered producers at the end of the year was 24, with, in addition, 3 retailers. The general standard of cleanliness was well maintained, although a few borderline cases had to be kept under close supervision. The general trend towards the elimination of tuberculosis from dairy herds is shown by the fact that during the year 1940 only one producer held a "Tuberculin Tested" licence, while at the end of 1950 nine producers held "Tuberculin Tested" licences, with an additional four applications in course of being dealt with. An estimate of the present-day position is that there are in registered dairy herds approximately 362 cows which have passed the Tuberculin Test and some 118 cows which are not tested.

Since the coming into operation of the new Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme I am pleased to report that the County is "sitting up and taking action" as evinced by the fact that several crofter areas, notably Melness, Tongue, Durness, and Scourie, are now free from disease, while several other areas are in process of clearing up.

In the last quarterly statement issued by the Ministry of Agriculture the position under the Attested Herds Scheme of the Northern Counties is as follows:—

County.	Total Cattle. at 3/6/50.	No. of Attested Herds 31/3/51.	No. of Cattle in Attested Herds at 31/3/51.	Percentage Attested to total Cattle.
Sutherland ..	10,184	105	1,260	12.4
Caithness ..	27,446	158	4,160	15.2
Inverness ..	52,447	89	4,780	9.1
Ross-shire ..	40,213	180	4,150	10.3

The work of milk sampling has proceeded apace and a constant check is kept on all milk supplies in the County. The arrangements for analyses are that all Bacteriological samples are sent to the laboratory at Raigmore Hospital, whose co-operation I appreciate very much. This sampling is done under the Scottish Milk Testing Scheme. The samples for Chemical analyses are taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act and are sent to Mr John E. Ritchie, Aberdeen. It is unfortunate that samples have to travel such distances before reaching the laboratory, as on numerous occasions my work has been set at nought by delays in transit. To avoid delays as much as possible samples are generally taken at the farms in the early morning and sent off by the first post.

The following table shows the number of samples taken under the various categories:—

	Bacteriolgical		Chemical		Special	Biological	
	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Samples	Samples	Total
Designated Milk ..	39	8	39	3	—	—	89
Non-Designated ..	77	20	67	19	18	6	183
School Milks	82	5	73	3	—	—	163

All Schools receiving liquid milk are supplied from "Tuberculin Tested" herds.

In all cases where samples failed to comply with the prescribed tests follow-up action was taken and in practically all instances improvement resulted. With regard to Chemical sample failures, in nearly every case there was a deficiency in non-fatty solids, and it is of interest to note that the majority of failures occurred in samples taken during the months of January, February, March, and April. During the corresponding period of the previous year similar failures were observed.

The results of the Biological samples were all negative. The special samples referred to in the table were taken at the request of producers and were mainly to ensure that mastitis had completely cleared after the animals had received treatment.

The new Dairy Premises erected in Dornoch by Mr William Wright during the year are a credit to his enterprise. It is equipped with the most modern machinery for handling, cooling, and bottling milk. There is also ice cream plant of the latest pattern. The premises are light and airy, and every electrical device has been installed to maintain the highest standard of cleanliness.

ICE CREAM

All the ice cream vendors were visited several times throughout the year and all were maintained in a very clean condition. Nearly all the registered premises maintain a seasonal sale. Only four vendors carry out manufacturing on their own premises, two are supplied with loose ice cream in bulk and the remaining five receive pre-packed ice cream. Those latter five vendors were originally registered under the Regulations, but since changing over to pre-packed ice cream they no longer come within the scope of the Regulations, although sampling can be and is carried out under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act. There is only one vehicle registered under the Regulations and this is maintained in excellent condition. Here again it is used for seasonal sales only. One registration was cancelled during the year owing to the fact that the premises were vacated and have not since been re-let.

MEAT

The one Slaughterhouse, which is situated within the Royal Burgh of Dornoch, continues to maintain a high standard of cleanliness.

MEAT TRANSPORT

It is rather disheartening to note that there is still no improvement in the method of transport of meat from the Slaughterhouse to the retailer. This is by open lorry with tarpaulin cover. It seems farcical that great care has to be, and is exercised, in the handling and inspection of the meat and edible offals in the Slaughterhouse, then exposure to contamination allowed to take place both in the handling and transport between the Slaughterhouse and the Butcher's shop. Meat being so scarce and therefore expensive every effort should be made to protect it and avoid unnecessary wastage. In previous reports I suggested modern covered transport for collection of refuse in the Special Scavenging Districts, it is a thousand times more essential to have modern vehicles for transport of meat. When visiting the larger cities I observe with envy the magnificently equipped sliding covered dust waggons and also note the decrepit meat lorries with flapping loose covers and feel we have lost all sense of relative values.

The following table gives the number of animals slaughtered and carcases, etc., condemned at Dornoch Abattoir for the year 1950 :—

	No. of Animals			Weight (in lbs.) of Condemned	
Class.	Slaughtered	Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	Meat	Offals
Cattle ..	651	20	391	11,109	6,207
Sheep ..	3,402	11	731	417	2,081½
Calves ..	145	1	1	40	8
Pigs ..	9	—	—	—	—
Total ..	4,207	32	1,123	11,566	8,296½

FOOD HYGIENE

Premises where foodstuffs are prepared, stored, or exposed for sale continue to receive attention. When making inspections in terms of Section 43 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, opportunity is taken to inspect the premises generally, and the general impression gained was that while most Shopkeepers maintained a fair degree of cleanliness in the front premises the back shop and store very often left much room for improvement. The Department of Health have given Local Authorities a lead in the Clean Food Campaign, and it is hoped that good progress will be made in this direction within the next few years. Much spade work requires to be done and this will be tackled as opportunity permits.

Following upon examinations 39 certificates were issued in connection with foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption. All were voluntarily surrendered and condemned with the owner's consent. The undernoted summary shows the types and amounts of the foodstuffs condemned.

Tins		Lb.	Oz.	Tins		Lb.	Oz.
11	Peas	10	6½	1	Pears	2	8
2	Frozen Eggs ..	8	0	14	Tomatoes	16	0
8	Apricots	50	9	2	Beans	2	0
46	Evap. Milk ..	82	Pts.	1	Turtle Soup ..	0	10
		Lb.	Oz.	2	Chicken Soup ..	1	4
1	Raspberry and			1	Salmon	0	8
	Apple Jam ..	11	8	2	Minced Beef Loaf..	1	8
1	Apricot Jam ..	1	8	2	Cod Roe	3	10
81	Luncheon Meat ..	64	12½	77	Bristlings	18	0¾
31	Vegetable Soup ..	31	0				
23	Smedleys Plums ..	49	0		Sugar	216	0
2	Pilchards	2	0	21	Boxes Cheese ..	10	8
1	Jellied Veal ..	6	0		Butter	15	0
4	Apples	20	4	1	Case Oranges		
1	Rhubarb	7	0		Poultry—6 Hens ..	28	8
30	Luncheon Pork ..	22	8		7 Cockerels ..	46	4
10	Peaches	18	14		Mutton	217	4
5	Marmalade ..	10	0		Meat	54	0

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928

Sixty-two samples were procured and submitted to the Public Analyst and all proved to be genuine. The following table gives particulars of the various articles sampled:—

Articles.	Number of Samples Formal	Informal	Articles.	Number of Samples Formal	Informal
Lobster Paste ..	—	1	Castor Oil Ointment	—	1
Liver Paste ..	—	1	Castor Oil	—	1
Lemon Essence ..	—	1	Mustard	—	1
Kep Sauce	—	1	Pepper	—	3
Tomato Sauce ..	—	1	Veal and Ham Paste	—	3
Mixed Spice ..	—	2	Cod Roe	—	1
Millstone Ginger ..	—	1	Cascara Tablets ..	—	1
Seidlitz Powder ..	—	1	Aspirin Tablets ..	—	2
Powdered Borax ..	—	1	Vegetable Soup ..	—	1
Dr Gregory's Powder	—	1	Saccharins	—	2
Epsom Salts ..	—	2	Brawn	—	1
Zinc Ointment ..	—	2	Luncheon Meat ..	—	1
Custard Powder ..	—	3	Beef Paste	—	1
Soda Bicarbonate ..	—	2	Fish Paste	—	1
Petroleum Jelly ..	—	1	Daisy Powders ..	—	1
Baking Powder ..	—	1	Zo Zo Powders ..	—	1
Lemon Flavour ..	—	1	Uneeda Powders ..	—	1
Strawberry Flavour	—	1	Koray Tablets ..	—	1
Banana Flavour ..	—	1	Olive Oil	—	1
Gravy Salt	—	1	Noodle Soup ..	—	1
Yeast Tablets ..	—	1	Gelatine	—	1
Soda Mint Tablets..	—	1	Tomato Spread ..	—	1
Bisurated Magnesia	—	1	Liqueur Whisky ..	1	—
Coffee and Chicory	—	1	Link Sausages ..	1	—
Killgerm Ointment .	—	1			

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As in former years every possible assistance was given to the Medical Officer of Health in the control of infectious disease, and, acting on his instructions, a number of houses were disinfected.

HOUSING

Progress continues, but, unfortunately, not at sufficient speed to overtake requirements. Every effort is being made to accelerate the work, but, with only a limited labour force available, this is not an easy task.

The number of houses completed in the various districts during the year is as follows:—

Scourie ..	4	four-apt.	Cruden Houses.
Lochinver ..	6	"	do. do.
Helmsdale ..	12	"	Traditional Houses.
Embo ..	8	"	Swedish Houses.
Total ..	30		

The total number of post-war houses now completed is 150.

(Sgd.) E. W. BRANNEN,

County Sanitary Inspector.

Dornoch, 10th July, 1951.