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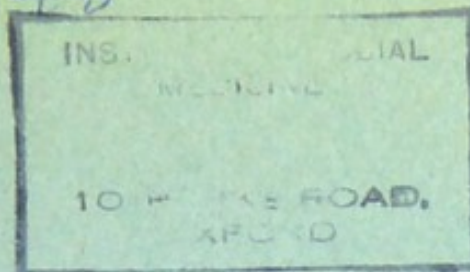


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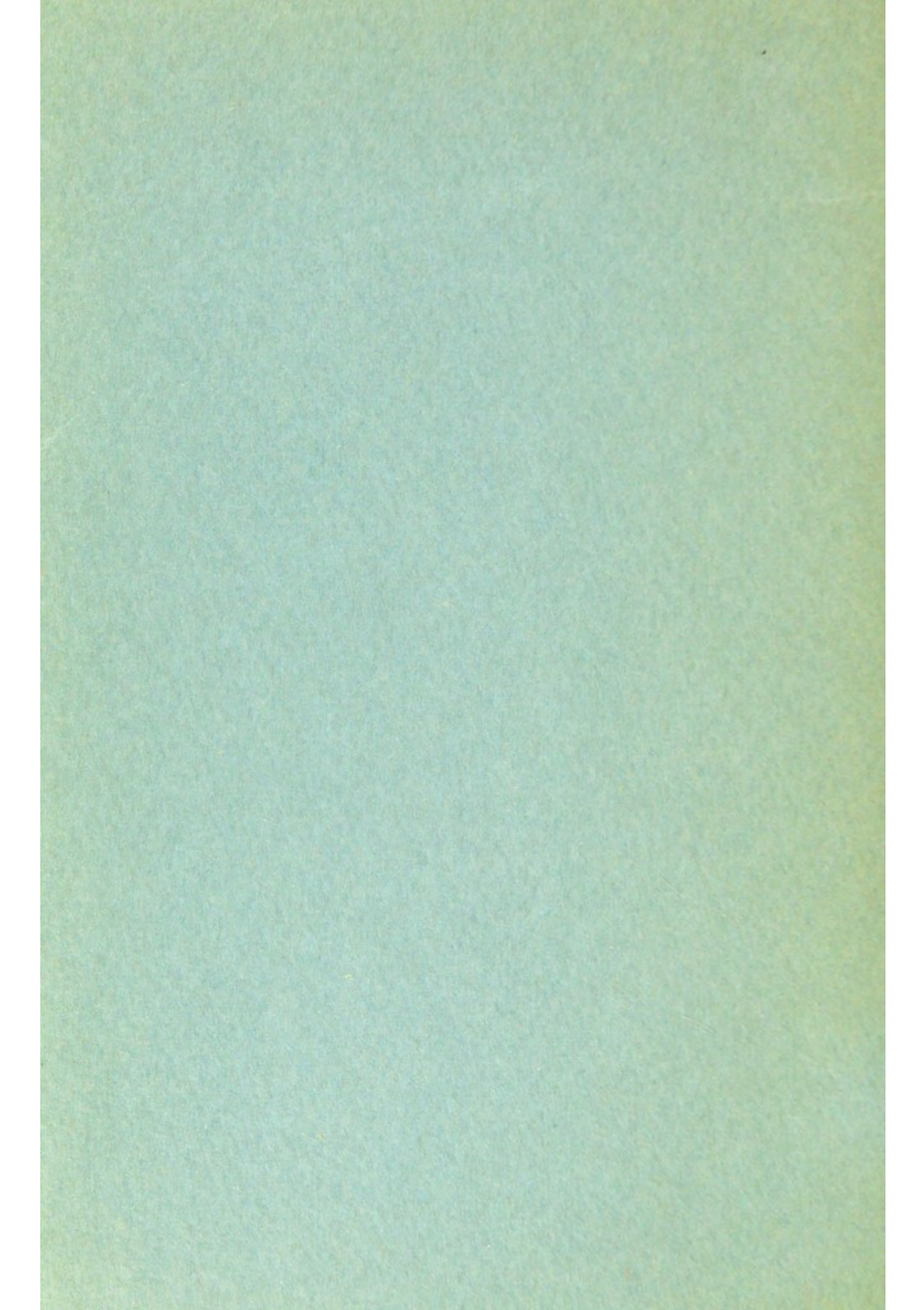
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COUNTY OF WEST LoTHIAN.

ANNUAL
REPORT

BY THE
COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR 1941



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ANNUAL

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FOR THE YEAR 1941

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

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PREFACE

In accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health for Scotland, I herewith submit the Annual Report, (in abbreviated form), on the Health Services of the County of West Lothian for the year 1941.

Despite the increased demands on the Public Health Staff arising out of war conditions, the attention to the wellbeing of the population has not been allowed to diminish, and 1941 saw very important administrative changes which should lead to greater efficiency of the service. These changes occurred principally in the services directly affecting the child population.

Prior to 1941 the Child Welfare work in the County was undertaken by District Nurses and 4 Health Visitors, while the School Health Services were carried out by 2 School Medical Officers, 3 full-time and 1 part-time School Nurses.

In order to obtain continuity of supervision of all children from infancy to the time of leaving school, it was agreed that School Nurses and Health Visitors should be combined into one service, and an additional Health Visitor was appointed, while at the same time the part-time Nurse was made full-time. With the same object in view, the Child Welfare work was withdrawn from the District Nurses and in place of this they undertook to attend at the School Treatment Clinics, which were previously done by the School Nurses. It was also agreed that the School Medical Officers should be available to undertake Child Welfare work, such as immunisation of pre-school children.

After the expected initial difficulties were overcome, the arrangements worked most satisfactorily.

With regard to the general health of the population, the year 1941 was satisfactory in most respects.

The incidence of Cerebro Spinal Fever continued at a higher level than normal, but the number of deaths dropped considerably.

Despite the severe winter, the number of deaths from respiratory troubles also fell and influenza deaths were reduced from 37 in 1940 to 9 in 1941.

The incidence of diphtheria was greatly reduced, notably in Bathgate and Bo'ness, and while it would be unwarranted to attribute this entirely to the immunisation campaign, the latter undoubtedly had a very great influence, as is shown in the body of the Report.

It was decided by the Public Health Committee that the campaign should be conducted by the School Medical Officers and this was done intensively during the year. The younger children are, of course, more difficult to reach, and here there is still much work to be overtaken. It must also be remembered that, as well as being immunised by means of two injections at the age of 1 year, or as soon thereafter as possible, all children should have a further single injection at the age of 5 years. This can most conveniently be done on entry to school, and immunisation is therefore now a permanent addition to the work of the Public Health Staff.

The Maternity Services Scheme commenced on 15th May. This provides any expectant mother with the services of a midwife and doctor, and if required, an anæsthetist, and consultant, at an inclusive charge based on the capacity of the individual to pay. Regular ante-natal supervision both by the doctor and the nurse is one of the essential services given. The Scheme should relieve many mothers of a great deal of financial anxiety which will also assist in lightening the burden of what is for them a trying time. Up till the end of the year 712 applications had been received. This is a very satisfactory position, and augurs well for the future.

The Infantile Death Rate happily showed a regression despite the increased figure for Scotland as a whole. This was very largely due to the reduction in the number of deaths from pneumonia.

It has been previously pointed out that the Infantile Mortality Rate depends to a great extent on the general physical welfare of the mother, and it has been indicated that increased ante-natal

supervision is a big factor. In this connection it is interesting to note that the average period of ante-natal supervision for mothers under the Maternity Services Scheme was 10 weeks, and that the Still Birth and Infantile Mortality Rates are strikingly lower for Scheme cases than for others. It is not to be expected, of course, that the Still Births should show an equally marked difference, as a bigger proportion is due to congenital defects of the child. The difference in the Mortality Rate of young infants born under or outwith the Maternity Services Scheme might certainly be described as extraordinary. With such evidence, the percentage of mothers taking advantage of the Scheme should increase still further.

The incidence of tuberculosis was reduced for both pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases in the landward area but the pulmonary notifications were increased in the burghal areas. This was particularly so in the Burghs of Bathgate and Bo'ness which together accounted for over 40% of the cases. The incidence took place principally in the age group 15-35 years, and it is undoubtedly correlated with entry into employment. The additional strain imposed on many of these persons, already not in first class health, although by no means invalids, proved too great and medical examination revealed tuberculous infection.

The Death Rate continued to rise, principally due to non-pulmonary deaths among females. In last year's Report I pointed out that a large proportion of cases were notified only at, or after death. In 1941 nine non-pulmonary cases out of 21 came into this category. Largely explaining this, is the fact that there has been of late an increase in the proportion of cases of acute tuberculous meningitis, which generally speaking leads to a rapidly fatal termination, and 10 of the 21 deaths were due to this cause. Seven of these cases were not notified at all or notified only after death.

As will be seen from the Report by Dr. Candlish, hospital accommodation for the sick poor is still a difficulty. This is being temporarily alleviated by admission of certain cases to Bo'ness I. D. Hospital.

JOHN RIDDELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

COUNTY OF WEST LOTHIAN. VITAL STATISTICS—YEAR 1941

	West Lothian	Armadaie	Bathgate	Bo'ness	Linlithgow	South Queensferry	Whitburn	Landward
Population, Census 1931,	81,426	4,854	10,097	10,095	3,666	1,798	2,440	48,476
Population, Estimated, 1941	Not available							
No. of Births (corrected)	1,618	100	189	157	59	50	98	965
Illegitimate (corrected)	74	5	7	4	1	2	4	51
Still Births (corrected)	68	4	6	8	3	1	2	44
Marriages Registered	689	70	99	117	31	21	30	321
No. of Deaths (corrected)	922	71	112	92	24	17	38	488
No. of Deaths of Children under 1 year	112	12	11	8	5	4	7	65

— CAUSES OF DEATH —

Typhoid Fever (including para-typhoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	8	1	—	2	—	—	—	5
Diphtheria	6	—	—	1	1	—	1	3
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	28	2	3	2	2	1	1	17
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	21	2	5	2	—	2	3	7
Syphilis	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Influenza	9	3	—	2	—	—	—	4
Measles	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases	10	—	2	—	—	—	—	8
Cancer, Malignant Tumours	116	10	18	9	6	7	4	62
Tumours, Non-Malignant or not defined	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Rheumatism	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Diabetes Mellitus	12	—	3	3	—	—	1	5
Other General Diseases	18	—	4	2	2	—	—	10
Meningitis, Diseases of Spinal Cord	9	—	1	2	—	—	—	6
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	115	11	11	14	9	—	5	65
Other Diseases of Nervous System	19	2	1	2	1	—	4	9
Heart Disease	193	13	24	17	9	1	14	115
Other Circulatory Diseases	13	2	3	1	—	1	1	5
Bronchitis	48	3	7	7	4	2	3	22
Pneumonia	28	3	4	1	3	2	—	15
Other Respiratory Diseases	14	2	1	2	2	1	2	4
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer	12	1	—	2	—	—	1	8
Diarrhœa (all ages)	19	1	1	2	—	—	2	13
Appendicitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other Diseases of Liver	5	—	1	1	—	1	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	14	1	5	1	—	—	—	7
Nephritis, acute or chronic	18	1	—	2	—	1	—	14
Other Disorders of Genito-Urinary System	16	3	2	2	1	1	—	7
Puerperal Sepsis	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Other Puerperal Causes	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Diseases of Skin and Organs of Movement	6	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Congen. Debil., Prem. Birth, Malfor., &c.	62	7	5	4	2	4	4	36
Old Age	23	1	2	1	—	—	3	16
Suicide	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Road Transport Accidents	8	—	—	—	1	—	1	6
Other Violence	32	1	7	1	—	1	1	22
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	5
	922	71	112	92	46	25	52	524

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR COUNTY (Landward and Burghal) PER 1,000 POPULATION.

	1940	1941	1941
			SCOTLAND
Birth rate (corrected)	18.5	19.3	17.9
Death Rate, all Causes (corrected)	10.2	11.7	14.5
Death Rate, Tuberculosis (corrected)	.53	.62	.83
Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1000 births	76	69	83

NUMBER OF DEATHS IN THE VARIOUS AGE GROUPS DURING 1941.

Ages at Death—

	West Lothian	Arma- dale	Bath- gate	Bo'ness	Linlith- gow	South Queens- ferry	Whit- burn	Land- ward
Under 1	112	12	11	8	5	4	7	65
1—4	31	3	2	4	1	1	5	15
5—9	8	—	1	—	—	1	1	5
10—14	13	—	1	2	1	—	2	7
15—24	28	1	3	2	1	3	1	17
25—34	48	1	7	6	3	—	4	27
35—44	34	5	7	2	—	—	1	19
45—54	82	8	13	8	—	1	1	51
55—64	156	11	16	20	5	2	6	96
65—74	232	23	28	24	18	8	12	119
75—84	150	7	18	12	10	4	11	88
85 and over	28	—	5	4	2	1	1	15
All ages	922	71	112	92	46	25	52	524

MEDICAL SERVICES

I.—MATERNITY and CHILD WELFARE

Births—

	West Lothian	Arma- dale	Bath- gate	Bo'ness	Linlith- gow	South Queens- ferry	Whit- burn	Land- ward
Number Registered	1333	90	155	119	42	23	92	812
Legitimate	1280	86	149	115	41	21	90	778
Illegitimate	53	4	6	4	1	2	2	34
Still	43	3	2	5	4	1	2	26
Number attended								
by Doctors	826	90	127	1	40	17	83	468
Number attended								
by Midwives	507	—	28	118	2	6	9	344
Number of emerg- gency cases att- ended by Doctors	144	—	8	28	1	6	1	100

Of the 144 emergency calls, 106 were made in the first half of the year prior to the introduction of the Maternity Services Scheme, 31 coming from the Bo'ness Area and 23 from the Fauldhouse Area. In the second half of the year the number of calls fell to 38, 18 of them being from the Bo'ness Area and 10 from the Fauldhouse Area.

~~Thirteen~~ ^{FOURTEEN} private midwives practised in the area during 1941.

Of the 43 Still Births registered in the area, 16 occurred in the practices of midwives.

Infantile Mortality—Year 1941—

Deaths classified according to Age Groups.

	Under 1 week	1 to 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	Total
Atelectasis . . .	3	—	—	—	—	3
Spina Bifida . . .	—	1	—	—	—	1
Measles . . .	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough . . .	—	1	2	—	2	5
Diphtheria . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Disease . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis . . .	—	—	1	1	1	3
Influenza . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions . . .	—	—	2	2	—	4
Pneumonia . . .	1	1	2	—	5	9
Bronchitis . . .	—	—	4	3	2	9
Diarrhoea & Enteritis . . .	—	4	1	5	1	11
Other Digestive Diseases . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation . . .	1	2	3	—	—	6
Congenital Heart . . .	4	3	1	—	—	8
Premature Birth . . .	24	6	1	—	—	31
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus . . .	3	—	—	—	—	3
Suffocation & Overlaying . . .	2	—	1	—	—	3
All other causes . . .	6	3	1	2	3	15
	44	22	19	13	14	112

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 BIRTHS*

	Still Births	Under 1 week	Under 1 month
Non-Scheme Cases . . .	44	32	48
Scheme Cases . . .	33	18	22

* The Still Birth Rate is calculated on all births; others on live births only.

As the Scheme was only in operation for six months in 1941, a comparison between death rates for older ages would not be strictly accurate.

Maternal Mortality—

(a) Deaths from Puerperal Fever	3
(b) Deaths from other Puerperal causes	5

Home Visitation—

	Number of New Cases Visited	Total Visits to all Cases
Infants	1418	10,308
Children, 1 to 5 years	1420	10,608
Expectant Mothers	679	2,267
Nursing Mothers	203	5,501

Clinics—

Armada-le Clinic meets every Thursday at 2.15 p.m.

Bathgate Clinic meets at Mid Street School every Thursday at 2 p.m.,

Blackburn Clinic meets at Miners' Welfare Institute every second Thursday at 2 p.m.

Bo'ness Clinic meets at Duchess Nina Home every Thursday at 3 p.m.

Fauldhouse Clinic meets at Miners' Welfare Institute every second Thursday at 2 p.m.

Linlithgow Clinic meets at Masonic Hall every alternate Wednesday at 3 p.m.

Attendances—

	Arma- dale	Bath- gate	Black- burn	Bo'- ness	Fauld- house	Linlith- gow
(a) <i>No. of children attending—</i>						
1. Under one year	129	122	52	102	80	45
2. Over one year	62	62	31	40	5	—
(b) <i>Total No. of attendances of children—</i>						
1. Under one year	850	990	195	266	336	242
2. Over one year	210	161	57	142	6	—
(c) <i>Expectant Mothers</i>						
Total attendances	15	7	2	—	—	—

MATERNITY SERVICES SCHEME.

This Scheme commenced on 15th May, 1941.

Bookings—

District Nurses	442
Private Midwives	270

Confinements—

Pseudo-Pregnancies	3
Abortions	3
B.B.A.	11

At Home—

(a) Doctor and Midwife	192
(b) Midwife only	212

In Hospital—

(a) Medical reasons	35
(b) Housing reasons	1

Percentage of confinements conducted by Midwife alone	53%
---	-----

Percentage of cases admitted to Hospital for medical reasons	8%
--	----

Consultants called in	1
---------------------------------	---

Anæsthetists called in	—
----------------------------------	---

The reasons for admission of cases to hospital were as follows —

Housing	1	Ante-Partum Hæmorrhage	7
Medical—		Delayed Labour	9
Pyelitis	2	Contracted Pelvis	2
Cardiac	2	Malpresentation	3
Pleurisy & Pneumonia	1	Post-Partum Hæmorrhage	2
Toxæmia of Pregnancy	6	Adherent Placenta	1

The percentage of Scheme births to total births in the area was 28, and the average number of weeks during which the patients were under supervision prior to confinement was 10.

Once the Scheme is properly established of course, the percentage of confinements thereunder will increase considerably and the period of ante-natal supervision will also be greater.

The only area in the County in which the Scheme was not adopted was Bo'ness Burgh.

In Fauldhouse the Scheme lapsed again in October owing to the withdrawal of the local doctor.

SUPPLY OF FOOD AND MILK UNDER MATERNITY
AND CHILD WELFARE SCHEME.

1. No. of persons supplied with milk and other Food preparations	Mothers	1
	Children	3
2. Milk—	Mothers	1 $\frac{2}{3}$
Total quantity supplied (galls.)	Children	41 $\frac{1}{4}$
3. Other Food Preparations—		
Eggs	Mothers	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ dz.
Glucose D.	Children	11 tins
4. Total cost to Local Authority (2)		£5 17 10
(3)		£1 8 5
		£7 6 3

Twenty-six Maternity Outfits were supplied during the course of the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—

(a) Number of cases notified—	
1. By Doctors	2
2. By Midwives	2
3. By Institutions	—
(b) Number of cases in which infection is gonococcal	—
(c) Number treated in residential institutions	—
(d) Number of cases in which there is an appreciable loss of vision	—

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia—

	Puerperal Fever	Puerpera ¹ Pyrexia
1. Notified by Doctors	8	4
2. Notified by Midwives	1	4
3. Admitted to Hospital	7	5
4. Number of Deaths	3	—

II.—SCHOOL CHILDREN

The report on the School Health Services is issued separately.

III.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The cases noted during the year are shown on the appended table.

	Landward	Armada	Bathgate	Bo'ness	Linlithgow	South Queensferry	Whitburn	Total 1941	Not admitted to Hospital	Total 1940
Cerebro Spinal Fever	20	—	6	1	—	—	3	30	3	30
Diphtheria	104	7	16	11	—	—	31	170	1	389
Dysentery	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	3	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas	38	9	8	6	—	2	6	69	46	56
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	4	4
Pneumonia Acute Influenzal	5	2	2	—	—	1	—	10	6	26
Pneumonia Acute Primary	34	4	7	12	—	6	14	77	58	102
Poliomyelitis Acute	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Puerperal Fever	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	2	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	3	7
Scarlet Fever	95	26	36	8	3	2	25	195	12	180
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	25	2	12	10	3	1	1	54	15	64
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmon.	22	1	6	3	—	1	8	41	23	55
Typhoid	4	1	2	—	—	1	—	8	4	4
	364	52	96	56	6	15	91	680	180	930

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is provided by the Local Authority free of charge to Medical Practitioners.

Diphtheria Immunisation—

Towards the end of 1940 the Department of Health inaugurated a Scheme for the immunisation of all children under the age of 15 years against diphtheria and undertook to supply Alum Precipitated Toxoid to Local Authorities for this purpose free of charge.

After considering the matter fully the County Council decided that the work should be carried out by the School Medical Officers. By the end of the year 2,782 children under the age of 5 years and 12,209 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years had been immunised.

In none of the fatal cases due to diphtheria had immunisation been carried out.

Of the cases, 121 occurred in the first half of the year and 49 in the second. A comparison of the age incidence in the two half years is interesting.

<i>Period—</i>	Under 5	5-14	15 and over
January to June . . .	28	75	18
July to December . . .	8	16	25

Of the 170 cases, 3 had had inoculation against diphtheria. That is to say, out of approximately 15,000 children who had had inoculation, 3 developed the disease, while out of approximately 6,000 who had not been inoculated, 167 were infected, and 6 died.

HOSPITALS

STATISTICS FOR YEAR TO 31st DECEMBER, 1941

<i>A. In-Patients—</i>	Tippethill		Bo'ness	
1. Total Number of Admissions	Army	2	Army	4
	Civilian	438	Civilian	158
		440		162
2. Total Number of Discharges . . .		450		153
3. Total Number of Deaths . . .		12		9
4. Average duration of stay of patients included in 2 & 3 (days) . . .		27		26
5. Number of Beds occupied—				
(a) Average during year . . .		36		14
(b) Highest . . .		59		39
		31-3-41		6-1-41
(c) Lowest . . .		11		5
		20-8-41		1-7-41
6. Number of Surgical Operations—				
(a) Under general or spinal anæsthesia . . .		—		—
(b) Other operations . . .		—		2

B. Nursing Staff—

Matron	1	1
Trained Nurses	4	3
Probationers	12	5
Assistant Nurses (Unregistered)	—	—

Average No. of Hours
of Duty per week—

Matron	56	52
Trained Nurses	48 & 49	52
Probationers	50 day 66 night	52

IV.—TUBERCULOSIS SCHEME

The following is a summary of the treatment provided :—

1. Admission to sanatorium if required.
2. Admission of advanced cases to Tippethill and Bo'ness Fever Hospitals when nursing conditions at home are unsuitable. Sixteen cases were admitted during the year to Tippethill and 11 to Bo'ness.
3. Provision of medical comforts, i.e., food as an addition to ordinary diet. Three patients were supplied during the year at a cost of £18, 19s. 3d.
4. Provision of drugs, (including Cod Liver Oil Emulsion or Malt, Dressings and Apparatus). Twenty-three patients were supplied with these in the course of the year at a cost of £15, 3s. 6d. for National Health Insurance prescriptions and £5, 1s. 4d. for non-insured patients.
5. Provision of travelling expenses in special cases for patients travelling to Edinburgh for "Light Treatment." No travelling expenses were given during the year.
6. Provision, in doubtful cases, for examination by X-ray. Eight cases were so examined during the year,

AREA	NOTIFIED IN 1941.		TOTAL CASES IN AREA	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Landward	25	22	96	123
Armadales	2	1	5	7
Bathgate	12	6	26	14
Bo'ness	10	3	19	27
Linlithgow	3	—	6	3
South Queensferry	1	1	6	3
Whitburn	1	8	3	16
	54	41	161	193

NUMBER OF PERSONS RESIDENT IN THE AREA AT 31ST
DECEMBER, 1941, WHO WERE KNOWN TO BE
SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

		Under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and Up- wards.	Total.
PULMONARY										
Notified 1941	M.	1	—	1	10	8	5	5	—	30
	F.	—	—	1	8	11	2	2	—	24
Total in Area	M.	—	2	2	31	17	11	13	—	76
(31/12/41)	F.	—	—	2	32	33	14	4	—	85
NON-PULMONARY										
Notified 1941	M.	6	2	2	4	2	—	—	—	16
	F.	7	7	1	8	2	—	—	—	25
Total in Area	M.	7	13	22	21	10	5	7	1	86
31/12/41	F.	9	23	20	28	19	4	3	1	107

SANATORIUM TREATMENT

	In Sanatoria on 1st Jan., 1941	Admitted during 1941.	Discharged or died during 1941.	In Sanatoria on 31st Dec., 1941.
Males	16	26	21	21
Females	12	41	30	23
Children	9	6	7	8
	37	73	58	52

Seventy-nine cases treated during 1941 suffered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and thirty-one from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In January, 1941 the full number of beds in East Fortune Sanatorium was restored to the Sanatorium Board, but in April the whole Sanatorium equipment, staff and patients, were transferred to 8 large wards at Bangour Hospital. Two of these were set aside for children and three for men and women, the total bed capacity being 220.

For a time staffing difficulties limited accommodation to 5 wards for adults and 1 for children, but by the Autumn all the wards were available. The result of these changes was that for the period January to July only 40 beds were available while from July to December the complete number of 57 beds was available for West Lothian cases.

The bed position latterly with the increased incidence among females has proved insufficient.

In East Fortune Sanatorium Unit we have 22 male beds, 18 female beds and 16 children's beds. The average number of female beds occupied during the last 4 months of the year was 22 and despite this we had an average number of 5 females in our Infectious Diseases Hospitals and an average of 1 at home awaiting admission. On the other hand the average number of children's beds occupied was 8.

After-care of Surgical Tuberculosis—

There is an arrangement whereby cases suffering from tuberculosis of bones and joints, after treatment in East Fortune Sanatorium, are examined periodically by the consulting surgeon of the Sanatorium. These cases are mostly discharged with the progress of the disease arrested, but where a controlling apparatus is still necessary.

The Tuberculosis Officer and the Surgeon together make examinations of these cases in Edinburgh and keep them under observation until the apparatus can be discarded.

NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO DIED FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE AREA DURING THE YEAR, WITH PARTICULARS AS TO PERIOD ELAPSING BETWEEN NOTIFICATION AND DEATH AND BETWEEN DISCHARGE FROM AN INSTITUTION AND DEATH.

	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Number of persons who died from Tuberculosis -	18	10	9	12
Of whom—				
Not notified or notified only at or after death	2	2	3	6
Notified less than 1 month before death	2	—	2	2
Notified from 1 to 3 months before death	5	1	2	1
Notified from 3 to 6 months before death	2	2	—	—
Notified from 6 to 12 months before death	1	—	—	—
Notified from 1 to 2 years before death	—	2	1	2
Notified over 2 years before death	6	3	1	1
Number who died within 28 days after discharge from an institution	—	1	—	—
Number who died more than 28 days after discharge from an institution .	6	2	—	1

V.—VENEREAL DISEASES

The Scheme for the treatment of persons suffering from venereal disease in the County remains as before.

Patients attend for consultation and treatment at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, where they may be admitted to special wards for in-treatment if necessary.

Examinations of specimens are carried out at the Infirmary Laboratory.

Medical practitioners in the County are supplied with the necessary outfits for taking specimens, which are sent to the Clinical Pathologist, Pathological Laboratory, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

CASES ATTENDING CENTRE

	S.		G.		S.S.		N.S.D.		NIL.		TOTAL		Grand Total	Attend- ances	Approx. no. still attending
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
1941	14	23	18	8	—	—	21	16	19	61	72	108	180	1,650	80
1940	9	15	22	17	1	—	14	12	26	36	72	80	152	1,621	80

ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL

	Males.	Females.	Total.	No. of Days.
1941	28	62	90	1,066
1940	20	41	61	932

Travelling expenses to and from Edinburgh for treatment were paid in 28 cases at a cost of £39, 17s. 10½d.

VI.—SUPPLY OF INSULIN

Eight persons were supplied with Insulin during the course of the year at a cost of £38, 13s. 8d.

VII.—NURSING OF SICK POOR

This is done by the District Nursing Associations who receive grants from the Local Authority. Cases can be admitted to St. Michael's Home.

Dr. Candlish, the Medical Officer of the Home reports as follows:—

Accommodation.—We have been very hard pressed for accommodation all through the year, particularly on the female side. An overflow has had to be arranged in the Home, and immediately a death has occurred in the Hospital, one of the patients has been transferred. As a result there has never been an empty bed, and there are still 13 occupants of 13 beds exactly as at the commencement of the year. The total number of "overflow" female patients in the House at the time of this Report is 9, and owing to difficulties and to some extent shortage of Nursing Staff, it has been a most difficult task to ensure these patients adequate attention. New admissions have necessarily had to be curtailed, and in some cases refused, and quite apart from the present "overflow" patients, there are a big number of female cases requiring Hospital treatment who will probably never be admitted.

On the male side, the position, while not quite so acute, has at times been extremely difficult, with the old procedure of having to transfer a patient from the Hospital back to the Home to make room for another who is more ill, or who has been too ill to be sent home to await a vacancy. The fact, however, that there are twice as many beds on the Male side as on the Female, has enabled us to exercise a little more latitude, but the position nevertheless remains acute and very difficult.

In my opinion, it is a matter of considerable importance and urgency that some means be taken to increase the total number of Female beds. It might be possible to fit up a Sick Ward in the Home for this purpose, which would mean some expense in providing the proper facilities for nursing the cases, as well as an increase in the Nursing Staff. Another point to be remembered is that the Home was condemned 9 years ago for the nursing of Sick Poor, and to return to this now could only be regarded as a purely temporary measure due to wartime conditions, and might not be sanctioned at all by the Department of Health.

Food.—War-time rationing appears to be adequate, but naturally there is less variety in the diets provided. There have been no complaints reported to me during the year, but it would be a great help if it were possible to have more eggs for the sick.

Ventilation.—The complete building up of some of the Sick Ward windows with brick baffles as an A.R.P. precaution has necessarily interfered with the ventilation of the Wards. Lighting too has been much reduced, but in the interests of safety, both these changes for the worse have been unavoidable.

A.R.P.—In addition to the erection of these brick baffles to the windows of some of the Wards, wire netting has been installed on the inside of the windows, and black-out frames fitted to all windows. These measures have greatly aided the black-out, but have further interfered with the ventilation of the buildings. ”

Staff.—The greatest credit is due to the Matron, Miss Wright, for having maintained the standard of nursing at the usual high level, in spite of the shortages of staff, both nursing and domestic. During the year, 6 of the Nursing Staff left, including the Sister and the Staff Nurse, but these vacancies have all been filled, and the work of the Hospital has never been allowed to suffer in any way, in spite of the various gaps in the staff. In view of the great amount of work involved in nursing the “overflow” patients in the Home, I am opinion that a small increase in the present staff will soon be indispensable, and that steps should be taken now to deal with this problem. ”

General.—There have been no cases of infectious diseases reported, and no event of major importance has taken place during the year. The work of the hospital as a whole has proceeded on exactly the same lines as before the war, a fact which reflects the greatest credit on the whole of the Nursing Staff. ”

Statistics (Hospital Wards)—

	Men	Women	Children	Total
Patients in Hospital at 31/12/40	27	12	1	40
Admitted during 1941	84	10	3	97
	111	22	4	137
Died during 1941	28	5	—	33
Discharged during 1941	21	—	1	22
Transferred to Home during 1941	28	3	—	31
Transferred to other Hospitals	7	1	1	9
Remaining in Hospital at 31/12/41	27	13	2	42
Average number in Hospital for 1941	25	13	1	39
Maximum number in Hospital for 1941	27	13	2	42
Minimum number in Hospital for 1941	20	12	1	33

Of the patients who died all were over 50 years of age, 14 of the 33 being between 70—80 years and 8 over this age.

Nursing Staff—

	No.	Average hours duty per week.
Matron	1	60
Trained Nurses	1	60
Probationers	—	—
Assisstant Nurses (Unregistered)	7	60

VIII.—AMBULANCE FACILITIES

These remain as stated in the Report for the year 1936.

IX.—WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES

Ninety-three inspections were made during the year. No written notices were required.

X.—FOOD SUPPLY

Eight samples of foodstuffs, apart from milk, were taken during the year. One was adulterated and successful Court proceedings were instituted.

Milk was sampled on 92 occasions, 9 being found defective. Court proceedings were instituted in 3 cases, two of which were successful and one not proven. In a fourth case, proceedings for a sample taken at the Farm were successful.

COUNTY ROOMS,

EDINBURGH, *18th June, 1942.*



