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COUNTY OF ABERDEEN

REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON THE

*Health and Sanitary Conditions of the
County of Aberdeen*

FOR THE YEAR

1946





*With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health.*

County Public Health Office,
4, Albyn Place,
Aberdeen.

With the Captains

of the

United States Army



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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

(FOR THE LANDWARD AREA AND ALL THE BURGHS)

	1946	1945
1. Acreage	1,244,631	1,244,631
2. Population (Estimated Civilian)	139,937	135,058
3. Persons married per 1,000 population	7.6	7.4
4. Number of Live Births (Corrected)	3,298 ^v	2,625
5. Birth-rate per 1,000 population	22.9	18
6. Illegitimate Birth-rate per 100 Births	9.7	13.3
7. Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	45	42
8. Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still Births	1.2	1.5
9. Number of Deaths from all Forms of Tuberculosis	59	57
10. Number of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	44	40
11. Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	31	30
12. Number of Deaths from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	15	17
13. Death-rate from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	11	12
14. Number of Deaths (Corrected) All Causes	1,715	1,626
15. Death-rate—All Causes	12.3	12.0

PREFACE

I beg herewith to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the County of Aberdeen for the year 1946. Reports by the Regional Bacteriologist and the County Sanitary Inspector are also incorporated.

The population of the landward area and of the Burghs, as estimated by the Registrar-General to the middle of 1946, was 139,937, as compared with 135,058 in 1945. The increased population in 1946 was due chiefly to the demobilisation of the armed forces. The last census was taken in 1931 when the populations of the landward area and of the Burghs were 107,423 and 38,178 respectively—a total of 145,601.

Outstanding amongst the statistical data was the sharp rise in the birth-rate which, in 1946, was 22.9. In 1945, it was 18. In 1946, there were 3,298 live births as compared with 2,625 in 1945.

In 1946, the death-rate was 12.3 per 1,000 of population as against 12 in 1945. For the quinquennium 1940-1944, the death-rate was 12.4. The death-rates for all Scotland were 13.1 in 1946 and 13.2 in 1945.

In 1946, the incidence of infectious diseases continued to be remarkably low. The number of cases of scarlet fever notified was 209 and there was 1 death. The notifications of diphtheria were 15, with 1 death. The value of the diphtheria immunisation campaign is explained in the body of this Report.

Owing to the decline in the number of cases of infectious diseases requiring institutional treatment, the bed accommodation of the County Hospitals at Inverurie, Peterhead and Aboyne was not strained. In the case of the County Hospital, Inverurie, a large number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis was treated there. At Aboyne Hospital, cases suffering from ordinary medical conditions were treated in the cubicle isolation ward. It was very seldom that Peterhead Hospital had more than a dozen patients. When the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947, comes into operation, all these Hospitals will be transferred from the Local Authority to the Regional Hospital Board and will be used for purposes other than the reception of ordinary infectious cases.

Pulmonary tuberculosis presents little administrative difficulty in this area. The bed accommodation in the County Hospitals at Inverurie and Strichen and at Newhills Sanatorium (a voluntary institution) is adequate, and, by a reciprocal arrangement with Aberdeen Town Council, patients requiring surgical treatment or more detailed investigation than is possible in the County Hospitals are admitted either to Woodend Hospital or to the City Hospital, Aberdeen, whilst suitable City patients receive treatment in the County Hospitals for a period of convalescence. There is practically no waiting list for admission to hospital. Lack of domestic and nursing staffs has presented a problem which is meantime difficult to solve. In the case of Newhills Sanatorium especially, difficulty in providing adequate nursing staff was encountered from time to time during the year.

The position with regard to non-pulmonary tuberculosis is not as satisfactory as it might be. Although the death-rate from this form of the disease is very much less than the rate for pulmonary tuberculosis, non-pulmonary tuberculosis causes much prolonged illness and often results in permanent deformity. In 1946, the City of Aberdeen, where a very large percentage of the milk is heat-treated, had no fewer than 180 proved cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 19 proved cases of non-pulmonary disease as against the County's record of 47 proved cases of pulmonary and 67 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The continued efforts of the Milk Special Sub-Committee to provide a clean and tubercle-free milk to the community will undoubtedly be followed by a reduction in the incidence of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Examination of contacts of tuberculosis—a fruitful method of detecting new cases—is not being pursued as fully as it should be. This is due mainly to geographical difficulties and to lack of staff. To have an X-ray examination entails a "contact" travelling to Aberdeen. For the majority of patients this means a whole day off work with, in many cases, loss of wages. Travelling is uncomfortable, and, when coupled with the natural desire to avoid trouble, it is often difficult to persuade persons who are not actually ailing to come to Aberdeen for examination. The difficulty might in some degree be overcome by the employment of a whole-time tuberculosis nurse who could visit the homes of patients and persuade "contacts" to present themselves in Aberdeen for X-ray and other examination. In addition, her services would be invaluable in carrying out and interpreting tuberculin tests in children and undertaking the various "almoner" type of duties required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in connection with the operation of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944.

Population

Birth-rate

Death-rate

**Infectious
Diseases**

Tuberculosis

**County
Hospital,
Inverurie**

The financial aid given to patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis through the Tuberculosis Allowances Scheme has had a remarkable effect in curtailing the period of treatment. The absence of financial worry whilst the patients are undergoing either institutional or domiciliary treatment has a marked psychological effect which undoubtedly assists them to co-operate to the fullest extent with their medical and nursing attendants.

The number of beds available in the County Hospital, Inverurie, is 80. During the year, 325 cases were admitted, of whom 44 suffered from tuberculosis, 95 from pneumonia and 186 from other infections. The total number of in-patient days was 20,365. This hospital, which has been approved by the General Nursing Council as a training school for nurses, continues to perform a most useful function.

**School
Medical
Services**

The medical inspection and treatment of school children was carried out as in previous years. The greatest defect in this branch of public health work relates to the inadequacy of dental care owing to the inability meantime to increase the number of dental surgeons. The Local Authority have used every endeavour to engage additional dental staff but with little success. During the year, the number of school dental surgeons employed was 4 or 1 dental surgeon for 5,821 children.

**Maternity
and Child
Welfare
Services**

The scope of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services is gradually developing. All the practitioners in the County, with three exceptions, participate in the Scheme under the Maternity Services (Scotland) Act, 1937, whereby every expectant mother who makes application to the Local Authority may have the services both of a doctor and of a midwife. This Act is much superior to its English equivalent which provides the services of midwives only.

There are nine Child Welfare Clinics—7 in burghs, one in Bucksburn and another in Culter. Much valuable preventive work is conducted at these Clinics and it is hoped that, in the near future Clinics will also be established in the three remaining burghs, namely, Kintore, Oldmeldrum and Rosehearty.

The infantile mortality rate was 45 as compared with 42 in 1945. The maternal mortality rate, namely, 1.2 was one of the lowest rates yet recorded.

**Nursing
Services**

As regards nursing in the County Hospitals, some difficulty was experienced in obtaining an adequate number of nurses.

The midwifery, home nursing and health visiting was carried out by the District Nurses most of whom are Queen's Nurses. The inauguration of new District Nursing Associations presented considerable difficulty, with the result that the County has not yet been covered by a network of nurses.

**Bacteriol-
ogical
Services**

The bacteriological work was carried out most efficiently by Dr. Smith, Regional Bacteriologist. The number of samples sent by practitioners has increased year by year. In 1946, 13,579 examinations were made.

**Sanitary
Services**

Abbreviated reports by the County Sanitary Inspector and by the Burgh Sanitary Inspectors are given in Section X.

**Acknow-
ledge-
ments**

I again wish to put on record an acknowledgement of the support given by the members of the Public Health Committee and the Council. I have also to express appreciation for the assistance given by the County Clerk and his staff and for the excellent work performed by my professional and clerical colleagues.

HARRY J. RAE,

Medical Officer of Health

COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

4 ALBYN PLACE, ABERDEEN,

27th February, 1948.



SECTION I.

General Public Health of the Districts and Burghs.

1. VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population of the County, both Districts and Burghs, as estimated by the Registrar-General to the middle of 1946, was 139,937.

In 1946, the natural increase in the population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 1,583, as compared with 999 in 1945.

Marriages

The population figure employed in estimating birth and marriage rates includes an allowance made by the Registrar-General for persons in the Armed Forces.

In 1946, 1,091 marriages were registered as compared with 1,083 in 1945. The marriage-rate, which term means the number of marriages per 1,000 of population, was 7.6 as compared with 7.4 in 1945.

Births

In 1946, the total number of live births, corrected for inward and outward transfers, was 3,298; of these 1,746 were males and 1,552 females.

Of the total births in 1946, 321 were illegitimate and the illegitimate birth-rate for that year was 9.7. The following table shows the births and birth-rates in the County and in Scotland from 1940 to 1946:—

TABLE I

YEAR	ABERDEEN COUNTY				SCOTLAND	
	Births		Birth-rate		Birth-rate	
	Total	Illegitimate	Total	Illegitimate	Total	Illegitimate
1940	2,582	275	17.6	10.7	17.1	5.9
1941	2,604	323	17.8	12.4	17.9	6.6
1942	2,828	358	19.3	12.7	17.6	7.1
1943	2,797	323	19.0	11.5	18.4	7.6
1944	2,767	329	18.7	11.9	19.2	7.9
1945	2,625	348	18.0	13.3	18.0	8.6
1946	3,298	321	22.9	9.7	20.3	6.6

The number of still births registered in 1946 was 75, as compared with 84 in 1945.

Deaths and Death-rate

After corrections were made for transfers, it was found that the net number of deaths was 1,715, which is equivalent to a death-rate of 12.3 per 1,000 of population. The death-rate in 1945 was 12.0.

The total number of deaths registered in Scotland was 64,605, equivalent to a death-rate of 13.1.

Causes of Death

The principal causes of death, together with the number of deaths attributable to the various well-defined diseases, appear in Table II.

TABLE II

CAUSES OF DEATH	COUNTY, including Burghs.
	1946.
Diseases of the Heart and other Circulatory Diseases	537
Cerebral Haemorrhage and other Diseases of Nervous System	255
Respiratory Diseases—	
Bronchitis	71
Pneumonia	66
Other	19
Cancer	222
Tuberculosis—	
Pulmonary	44
Non-pulmonary	15
Kidney, etc., Diseases	70
Chief Epidemic Diseases—	
Diphtheria	1
Whooping Cough	11
Measles	—
Scarlet Fever	1
Enteric Fever	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3
Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	12
Diseases of the Digestive System, including Diarrhoea and Enteritis	70
Influenza	16
Puerperal Conditions	4
Diseases of Early Infancy	85
Violence	75

2. MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Small-pox

No case of small-pox was notified during 1946.

Scarlet Fever

The numbers of cases of scarlet fever notified from the Districts and Burghs since 1931, were as follows:—

1931	...	...	223	1939	...	...	321
1932	...	...	317	1940	...	...	177
1933	...	...	660	1941	...	...	115
1934	...	...	1,491	1942	...	...	107
1935	...	...	1,408	1943	...	...	204
1936	...	...	1,278	1944	...	...	134
1937	...	...	569	1945	...	...	186
1938	...	...	676	1946	...	...	209

The age incidence of cases and the percentage in age groups of cases dealt with either in Hospital or at home, are shown in Table III.

TABLE III

Year	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and Over	Removed to Hospital	Treated at Home
1946	209	1	56	119	22	7	4	—	190	19
Percentage	100	.5	26.8	56.9	10.5	3.4	1.9	—	90.9	9.1

Of the 209 notified cases, 190 or 90.9 per cent. were treated in Infectious Diseases Hospitals. Details regarding the cases treated institutionally are given in Table IV. The number of admissions to Hospitals is not equivalent to the number of cases treated in Hospitals, as one case may have been treated in more than one Hospital. For example, all cases with severe complications, such as, mastoiditis, are transferred from County Hospitals to the City Hospital, Aberdeen.

TABLE IV
Scarlet Fever—Landward Area and Burghs

Hospital.	Number of admissions to Hospital.	Total Period of institutional treatment in days.	Number discharged during year.	Number of days in Hospital per completed case.	Number of deaths.
Inverurie	75	1,539	78	19	1
Aboyne	40	806	39	20	—
Peterhead	62	1,320	60	22	—
City Hospital, Aberdeen	12	150	12	12	—
	190	3,815	190	20	1

Case Mortality

The number of deaths was 1, representing a case mortality of .5.

Diphtheria and Diphtheria Immunisation

Incidence

The total number of diphtheria notifications received in 1946 and confirmed bacteriologically, was 15. It will be seen from Table VI that the number of admissions to hospital was 34. Nineteen of these, however, were subsequently found not to be cases of diphtheria, but to be suffering from other acute throat infections.

The age incidence of these notified cases is seen in Table V.

TABLE V.
AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA

Year	1 and under 5		5 and under 15		15 and under 25		25 and under 35		35 and under 45		45 and under 65		65 and upwards	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1946	4	1	3	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	1	—

TABLE VI.
DIPHTHERIA
HOSPITAL TREATMENT (Landward Area and Burghs)

Hospital.	Number of admissions to Hospital.	Total Period of Institutional treatment in days.	Number discharged during year.	Number of days in Hospital per completed case.	Number of deaths.
Inverurie	12	433	13	33	—
Aboyne	1	95	1	95	—
Peterhead	18	498	25	19.8	—
City Hospital, Aberdeen	3	122	2	41	1
Totals	34	1,148	41	28	1

Mortality

One death occurred in 1946, equivalent to a case mortality of 6.6.

REPORT ON DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME FOR THE YEAR 1946

Diphtheria immunisation work was continued at the County schools and at the Child Welfare Clinics on the lines set forth in the Scheme adopted in 1941. A temporary Assistant Medical Officer was appointed in September, 1946, to take over the routine work previously carried out by Dr. Walker, now Regional School Medical Officer.

The additional facilities provided in 1945 for the immunisation of pre-school children by the County medical practitioners at the children's homes or at the doctors' surgeries were taken advantage of by many parents. The only change to be noted in this Scheme was that the fee payable to medical practitioners for treating children at their homes was increased from 4/6 to 6/- per inoculation as from 1st January, 1946. For this service, fees amounting to £142 17/6 were paid to medical practitioners.

During the year, 159 schools in the Aberdeen, Ellon, Peterhead, Turriff, Deeside and Alford areas were visited. The following Table gives the record of the work carried out at these schools as well as that performed at the County Clinics and privately by medical practitioners, together with relative statistical data of the incidence of and mortality from diphtheria in (a) immunised and (b) non-immunised children. It should be noted that the initial course of immunisation is not regarded as completed till at least 12 weeks have elapsed after the second inoculation. Thus, the figures in the column "number of completed immunisations" only refer to children who received their second inoculation between 8th October, 1945, and 8th October, 1946, both dates inclusive.

TABLE VII.

NUMBER OF COMPLETED IMMUNISATIONS, MAINTENANCE INOCULATIONS, CONFIRMED CASES AND DEATHS AMONGST THE IMMUNISED AND NON-IMMUNISED DURING THE YEAR 1946
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE YEAR OF BIRTH.

Year of Birth	Number of Completed Immunisations	Number of Maintenance Inoculations	Immunised Children		Non-Immunised Children	
			Confirmed cases of diphtheria	Diphtheria deaths	Confirmed cases of diphtheria	Diphtheria deaths
1946	51	—	—	—	—	—
1945	583	1	—	—	—	—
1944	379	8	—	—	2	1
1943	229	35	—	—	1	—
1942	189	59	—	—	1	—
1941	169	464	—	—	—	—
1940	215	496	—	—	1	—
1939	229	607	—	—	—	—
1938	117	590	—	—	—	—
1937	67	495	—	—	—	—
1936	60	510	1	—	—	—
1935	40	338	—	—	—	—
1934	30	271	—	—	—	—
1933	14	213	—	—	1	—
1932	18	149	—	—	—	—
1931	—	27	—	—	—	—
1930	—	8	—	—	—	—
1929 or earlier	—	—	—	—	8	—
Totals	2,390	4,271	1	—	14	1

Active Immunisation.

Table VII shows that 2,390 new children—90% of whom were from one to nine years of age—had a complete course of treatment. Of this number, 1,431 children were immunised at the County Schools, 353 at the County Clinics and 606 were immunised privately by medical practitioners. The total number of persons of all ages immunised since the year 1935 is 47,644.

Re-immunisation.

As in previous years, there was a great demand from parents for re-immunisation of their children. During the year, 4,271 children of all ages received maintenance inoculations. This is the highest number of re-immunisations ever completed in any one year since the Scheme began in 1935. Of these inoculations, 4,237 or 99% were carried out at the County schools. The previous highest number of re-immunisations was in 1942, when 3,903 children were re-immunised. This brings the total number of children re-immunised since 1935 to 22,517.

Diphtheria Incidence.

Once again it is pleasing to record that another low record in diphtheria incidence was reached in 1946. The corrected number of diphtheria notifications for the year was 15, which is a reduction of 24 cases as compared with the previous lowest incidence of 39 cases recorded in 1945, and is equal to an incidence rate of 0.1 per 1,000 population.

The age incidence of the notified cases was as follows:—

- 4 cases were born between the years 1942 to 1946, i.e. pre-school age group.
- 3 " " " " " " " 1932 to 1941, " school age group.
- 8 " " " " " " " 1930 or earlier.

One of the notified cases was a child who had been previously immunised. She was ten years of age and contracted the disease four and a half years after immunisation.

Diphtheria Mortality.

Only one death was recorded during 1946 the same as in the previous two years 1944 and 1945, and this gives a mortality rate of 0.007 per 1,000 population. This death occurred in a two-year-old non-immunised child belonging to the County, who contracted the disease in the City of Aberdeen and died there, the death being subsequently transferred to the County for record purposes.

The case mortality rate, or the number of deaths per 100 cases, was 6.6, compared with 2.5 in 1945 and 1.9 in 1944, the increase in 1946 being due to the smaller number of confirmed cases in that year.

Summary.

The morbidity and mortality from diphtheria still continue to decline in a very satisfactory manner. The incidence rate for the year, namely, 0.1 per 1,000 population, was the lowest yet recorded in the County. The continuous immunisation work of the past twelve years is now bearing fruit. No effort must be spared to encourage the immunising and re-immunising of still more children, particularly those of pre-school age, if the highly satisfactory result already achieved is to be maintained and advanced.

Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers

In 1946, 2 notifications of these diseases were received, one suffering from typhoid fever and the other from para-typhoid B. Both were treated in the City Hospital, Aberdeen.

Acute Anterior Polio-myelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

In 1946, there were 6 cases of this disease. All were treated in hospital.

Encephalitis Lethargica (Sleepy Sickness)

No notifications were received in 1946.

Cerebro-spinal Fever

In 1946, 12 cases of cerebro-spinal fever were notified and all were removed to hospital. There were 3 deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

One case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified and was treated at home. There was no impairment of vision.

Erysipelas

In 1946, 97 cases were notified. Twenty five were treated in hospital.

Undulant Fever (and Continued Fevers)

There were notified 6 cases of undulant fever, of whom 3 were removed to hospital.

Pneumonia

Pneumonia, if acute and primary, is a notifiable disease. In 1946, 377 cases were notified and 189 received institutional treatment. The cases were as follows:—

Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	233
„ Influenzal „	...	...	...	29
Type not specified	...	...	...	115
				<hr/> 377 <hr/>

In 1945, 380 cases were notified.

Malaria

Twenty-two cases of malaria, contracted abroad, were notified in 1946. Six cases received institutional treatment.

Dysentery

Ninety-three cases of dysentery were notified in 1946, and, of these, 32 were treated in institutions.

(b) Non-notifiable Diseases

The four chief non-notifiable diseases are measles, whooping-cough, mumps and chickenpox. Chickenpox ceased to be a compulsorily notifiable disease as from 31st December, 1932. The fact that these diseases are not compulsorily notifiable results in an absence of knowledge as to the exact measure of their actual incidence. Information as to their incidence amongst school children is obtained chiefly from Head Teachers, Attendance Officers and District Nurses. These diseases are usually not in themselves dangerous, but when severe complications ensue—and these usually involve the lungs—arrangements are made for the transference of the sufferers to appropriate institutions.

3. Disinfections

The number of official disinfections performed by the District Sanitary Inspectors during 1946 appears in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII.

	SCARLET FEVER	DIPHTHERIA	TYPHOID FEVER	TUBERCU- LOSIS	OTHER	TOTAL
1946 ...	153	18	2	8	111	292

It must again be emphasised that a great deal of money and time is often fruitlessly spent on the official disinfection of rooms with gaseous disinfectants. With the exception of small-pox, typhus and "open" tuberculosis, when disinfection must be carried out in the most thorough manner, the most efficient room disinfection consists of fresh air, sunlight and the free use of soap and water. The education of the public as to the futility of official disinfection will be a very gradual process.

SECTION II.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services

The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme covers the whole County including the Burghs.

Births and Birth-rates

The population of the County, including the Burghs, as estimated by the Registrar General to the middle of 1946, was 139,937. The number of live births registered in the area was 3,298 and the birth-rate was 22.9. The birth-rate for the whole of Scotland was 20.3.

The number of births classified according to nature of attendance at confinement was:—

(i) Maternity Services Scheme cases	...	...	...	...	...	1,402
(ii) Other domiciliary cases	...	...	(a) with doctor	...	...	183
			(b) with midwife alone	...	...	65
			(c) without doctor or midwife	...	...	9
(iii) Institutional cases (including those in private maternity and nursing homes)	...	...	(a) Maternity Services Scheme cases	...	...	1,075
			(b) Non-Scheme cases	...	...	259

Infantile Mortality

The infantile mortality rate—the number of deaths of children under one year per 1,000 live registered births—was 45.

The causes of infantile deaths were as follows:—

Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	43
Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	11
Diseases of the Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	4
Congenital Debility	...	...	...	...	...	84
Violence	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	3
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	150

The number of children dying under 4 weeks was 80—giving a total neo-natal mortality rate of 24.3 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths of Children between 1 and 5 years

The number of children dying between the ages of 1 and 5 was 37.

The causes of deaths were as follows:—

Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	8
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	9
Diseases of the Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	2
Violence	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total	...	...	...	...	...	37

Still-Births

The number of still-births registered during the year was 75, representing a still-birth rate of 22 per 1,000 live and still-births.

Maternal Mortality

During 1946 there were 4 deaths of women from causes associated with pregnancy and child birth. The maternal death-rate per 1,000 live and still-births was 1.2. There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis.

The causes of deaths were as follows:—

Toxic Myocarditis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Eclampsia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Intestinal Obstruction following Caesarean Section	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Embolus	...	...	...	...	...	1

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia

Fifteen cases of Puerperal Fever and 16 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. Twenty-six cases were treated in the special Puerperal Wards of Aberdeen City Hospital, and all recovered.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year and was treated at home. There was no resulting impairment of vision.

Maternity Hospital Provision

Normal cases, for whom institutional confinement is required, are admitted to Ellon Maternity Hospital, Fraserburgh Maternity Hospital, the Maternity Unit of Huntly Jubilee Hospital and to the several Cottage Hospitals where maternity cases can be accommodated. The accompanying statement shows the nature and extent of the midwifery work carried out in these hospitals during the year:—

Number of Confinements in Hospitals

Ellon Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	302
Fraserburgh Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	258
Huntly Maternity Unit	...	...	...	...	...	192
Turriff Cottage Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	191
Kincardine O'Neil Hospital, Torphins	...	...	...	...	...	143
Nicoll Hospital, Rhynie	...	...	...	...	...	108
Fyvie Cottage Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	82
Insch War Memorial Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	72
1. Ante-natal cases in Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	51
2. Abortions	...	...	...	...	...	8
3. Normal confinements—						
(a) with medical assistance	...	...	...	...	...	397
(b) without medical assistance	...	...	...	...	...	746
4. Abnormal or complicated confinements—						
(a) instrumental deliveries	...	...	...	...	...	137
(b) other deliveries	...	...	...	...	...	68
(c) number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	—
5. Number of infants born—						
(a) alive	...	...	...	...	...	1,318
(b) still-born	...	...	...	...	...	19

Home Visitation

The District Nurses and Health Visitors paid the following home visits under the Child Welfare Scheme:—

	First Visits	Total Visits
Infants	2,391	18,505
Children 1 - 5 years	1,022	16,296
Expectant Mothers	2,626	10,295

Child Welfare Clinics

There are nine Child Welfare Clinics provided by the Local Authority. These are conducted at Ballater, Bucksburn, Culter, Ellon, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverurie, Peterhead and Turriff.

The attendances were as follows:—

No. of children attending during year:—					
(i) under 1 year of age ...	...	...	...	...	862
(ii) 1 year of age and over ...	...	...	...	...	283
No. of attendances during year:—					
(i) under 1 year of age ...	...	...	...	...	6,146
(ii) 1 year of age and over ...	...	...	...	...	2,600

Day Nurseries

In February 1946, at the request of the Department of Health, the future of the War-time Day Nurseries in the County was reviewed, and it was decided to maintain a Day Nursery at Peterhead, but the Nursery at Fraserburgh was transferred to the Education Committee for use as a Nursery School.

The facilities thus provided at Peterhead for the care of children have been utilised to the fullest extent and the retention of this Nursery for the care of children of working mothers has been fully justified.

SECTION III.

School Medical Services — 1946-47.

The school year ends on 31st July and consequently the report on School Medical Services does not cover the same period as the rest of this report.

General Statistics:—

Schools:—

(a) Primary (Under Education Authority)	221
(b) Secondary (Under Education Authority)	8
(c) (I) Special schools	—
(II) Special classes in ordinary schools	—
(d) In receipt of grant from Education Authority and under medical inspection	229

Number of children on the registers 23,285

Sanitary Conditions of Schools:—

Some improvements have been and are being carried out in the lighting, heating, ventilation and sanitary arrangements in a few of the County schools. During the course of the next school year, however, a complete survey of the existing sanitary conditions at all schools in the County is to be made in terms of Section 13 (3) of the Education (Scotland) Act, 1945, the results of which will appear in subsequent reports.

Organisation and Administration:—

In a circular letter (D.H.S. No. 147/1945 and S.E.D. No. 45/1945) issued jointly on 7th November, 1945, by the Department of Health for Scotland and the Scottish Education Department, the attention of Education Authorities was drawn to the provisions of the Education (Scotland) Act, 1945, bearing on the School Medical Service. These provisions have the general effect of bringing together and materially strengthening the powers and duties of these authorities. Under Section 38 of the 1945 Act, which replaces Section 4 of the 1908 Act and Section 3 of the 1913 Act, it has become the duty of Education Authorities to provide for the medical inspection and supervision of all children and young persons attending schools under their management and to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that all those found to be in need of treatment may be able to receive it, free of charge. Amongst other provisions made in the new Act are—(a) wider powers for dealing with the personal cleanliness of children and young persons attending schools and educational establishments, and, (b) the ascertainment of the nature and extent of any disability of mind or body from which a child may be suffering and which may indicate the need for special educational arrangements.

The School Medical Service will, in due course, form an integral part of the National Health Service which the Government intend to introduce as part of their reconstructive policy. Until that time has arrived, the Secretary of State for Scotland recommends that Education Authorities should review their existing arrangements generally in the light of the new statutory provisions and thereafter make an endeavour to bring their School Medical Service to a state of efficiency which will enable it readily to take its proper place in this new comprehensive health service. So far as the County of Aberdeen is concerned, suggested improvements in this direction are—(1) the extension of arrangements with (a) consultants and (b) institutions for the treatment of diseases of the ear, nose and throat and of defects in hearing and speech; (2) more and better educational facilities for dealing with educationally sub-normal, maladjusted and mentally defective children; and (3) an increase in the number of School Dental Officers.

The Findings of Medical Inspection:—

The number of children examined systematically was 7,325. In addition, 1,164 special cases were examined by the School Medical Officers while the number of children re-examined at schools was 1,268.

Weighing machines at each of the County schools were on the whole, in an indifferent state of repair during the war years owing to lack of regular servicing. A few machines were broken and out of commission, and, because of war-time restrictions, repairs could not be effected. A contract has, however, been made with the makers whereby necessary repairs will be carried out and the machines will be inspected and serviced once a year.

(a) *Average heights and weights.*

The following tabular statement shows the average heights and weights of boys and girls at various ages:—

Boys

No. of Children	Average Age in years	Average Height in inches	Average Weight in lbs.
45	4 8/12	40.0	39.8
592	5 5/12	42.2	44.5
413	6 4/12	44.8	46.9
200	7 5/12	46.6	49.6
133	8 7/12	48.9	52.1
987	9 5/12	51.0	56.5
167	10 4/12	52.4	62.1
31	11 6/12	54.0	66.8
47	12 5/12	56.4	70.9
976	13 6/12	57.8	83.7
94	14 2/12	62.1	93.7
2	15 1/12	65.4	122.1
60	16 6/12	67.5	129.8
11	17 1/12	68.2	138.6

Girls

No. of Children	Average Age in years	Average Height in inches	Average Weight in lbs.
30	4 7/12	39.5	39.8
666	5 6/12	41.3	42.2
362	6 4/12	44.4	44.3
183	7 7/12	45.9	50.0
136	8 3/12	50.2	51.8
849	9 4/12	51.8	59.7
176	10 3/12	55.1	67.9
29	11 6/12	56.2	74.1
40	12 7/12	57.9	78.1
914	13 5/12	59.8	89.3
114	14 1/12	61.7	101.1
3	15 3/12	62.5	118.3
66	16 7/12	64.2	122.7

(b) *The result of Medical Inspection.*

The following is a statement showing the number and percentage of children found at the routine medical inspection to be suffering from specific defects or diseases. The detailed results and sex distribution of children in each of the four routine age-groups suffering from particular defects are shown in Table II at the end of this section.

Defect	Number Examined	Number Defective	Percentage Defective
Clothing unsatisfactory	7325	33	0.4
Footgear unsatisfactory	"	11	0.1
Uncleanliness—			
(a) Head	"	235	3.2
(b) Body	"	—	—
Skin—			
(a) Head: Ringworm	"	1	0.01
Impetigo	"	26	0.3
Other Diseases	"	16	0.2
(b) Body: Ringworm	"	—	—
Impetigo	"	3	0.04
Scabies	"	65	0.9
Other Diseases	"	55	0.7
Nutritional State—			
(a) Slightly Defective	"	120	1.3
(b) Bad	"	16	0.2
Mouth and Teeth unhealthy	"	135	1.8
Naso-pharynx—			
(a) Nose:			
(1) Obstruction requiring observation	"	78	1.06
(2) Obstruction requiring treatment	"	15	0.2
(3) Other Conditions	"	6	0.08
(b) Throat:			
(1) Tonsils requiring observation ...	"	692	9.4
(2) Tonsils requiring treatment ...	"	341	4.3
(c) Glands:			
(1) Requiring observation	"	551	7.4
(2) Requiring treatment	"	7	0.09
Eyes—			
(a) External Diseases—			
Blepharitis	"	72	0.9
Strabismus	"	78	1.06
Other Diseases	"	41	0.5
(b) Visual Acuity with/without glasses—			
(1) Fair vision	4834	220	4.5
(2) Bad vision	"	322	6.6
(c) Recommended for refraction	"	356	7.3
Ears—			
(a) Diseases—Otorrhoea	7325	27	0.2
Other	"	33	0.4
(b) Defective Hearing—Grade I.	"	—	—
Grade II.a	"	5	0.06
Grade II.b	"	—	—
Grade III.	"	—	—
Speech (a) Defective Articulation	"	22	0.3
(b) Stammering	"	3	0.4
Mental and Nervous Condition—			
(a) Backward	"	22	0.3
(b) Dull	"	10	0.09
(c) Mentally deficient (Educable)	"	2	0.02
(d) Mentally deficient (Ineducable)	"	9	0.1
(e) Highly nervous or unstable	"	17	0.2
(f) Difficult in Behaviour	"	5	0.06
Circulatory System—			
(a) Organic Heart Disease:			
(1) Congenital	"	10	0.1
(2) Acquired	"	19	0.2
(b) Functional Conditions	"	103	1.3
Lungs—(a) Chronic Bronchitis	"	28	0.3
(b) Suspected Tuberculosis	"	7	0.09
(c) Other Diseases	"	19	0.2
Deformities—			
(a) Congenital	"	16	0.2
(b) Acquired (Infantile Paralysis)	"	13	0.1
(c) " (Rickets)	"	26	0.3
(d) " (Other causes)	"	15	0.2
Infectious Disease	"	25	0.3
Other Diseases or Defects	"	46	0.6

Medical Treatment

Details as to medical treatment under arrangements made either by the Local Authority or privately are given below:—

	Under Local Authority Scheme	Treated Privately
<i>A. Minor Ailments</i>		
(1) Cuts, bruises, sprains and minor injuries, etc.	—	7
(2) Diseases of the Ear	1	7
(3) Diseases of the Eye, excluding defective vision	7	13
(4) Diseases of the Skin:		
Ringworm (scalp)	—	—
X-ray treatment	—	—
Other treatment	—	—
Ringworm (body)	—	—
Scabies	6	26
Impetigo	3	8
Other diseases	—	12

B. *Nose and Throat (operative treatment)*. Seventy two children were treated privately.

C. *Orthopaedic and postural defects (Specialist treatment)*. Six children were treated privately.

D. *Defective Vision and Squint*. The School Oculist has reported as follows:—

Number of children examined—		Total
1st Examination—Boys	292	678
Girls	386	
Re-examination—Boys	152	321
Girls	169	
Examined and no glasses required—Boys	100	206
Girls	106	
Number of children with refractive errors		472
Number of glasses prescribed		612
Analysis of refractive errors—		
Hypermetropia	129 Cases	27 per cent
Myopia	39 ..	8
Hypermetropic astigmatism	220 ..	48
Myopic astigmatism	32 ..	7
Mixed	52 ..	11

There were 93 children with squint examined for the first time—89 had convergent squint and 4 divergent. Other pathological conditions encountered were—Blepharitis, 7; Styes, 9; Conjunctivitis, 3; Corneal ulcer, 1; Ptosis, 4; Nebulae, 21; Optic atrophy, 1; Nystagmus, 2; Choroiditis, 2; Ocular Torticollis, 2; Opaque Nerve Fibres, 1; Artificial eye worn, 2.

Dental Inspection and Treatment

During the year, the Dental Officers inspected the children in 161 schools. Of the 15,038 children inspected at these schools, 7,795 were found to require treatment and of these 5,402 or 69.1% intimated acceptances of treatment by Dental Officers. Children treated privately numbered 8 while refusals to treatment were 2,385 in number. Full details of the work carried out will be found in Table V.

Special Schools and Classes

As mentioned in previous reports, there are provided for the County no Special Schools or Classes for children handicapped by physical and mental defects. Arrangements, however, have now been made with the Superintendent of Speech Training for the City of Aberdeen, whereby County children suffering from speech defects can be treated at the Speech Clinic, Royal Aberdeen Hospital for Sick Children, on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health. The necessary travelling and subsistence expenses in respect of children so referred and of their escorts are refunded.

At a Regional Conference held in Aberdeen on 2nd May, 1946, representatives from the City of Aberdeen, the Counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Kincardine, Moray and Nairn Local Authorities and from the Scottish Education Department met to consider the provision of Residential Schools for deaf children. After a lengthy discussion, provisional approval was given to the suggestion that Polmuir Road Special School, Aberdeen, should be extended to meet the needs of the northern Counties and it was remitted to the Directors of Education concerned to supply all the necessary information to the City of Aberdeen Education Committee, so that they might consider the matter in detail and thereafter indicate the contribution that each participating authority would require to make towards the capital expenditure involved. Reference was also made at this Conference to provide, on a regional basis, a Certified Institution for Mental Defectives. The existing provision at Baldovan Institution, Dundee, is taxed to capacity with the result that there are long waiting lists for admission. It was finally agreed that the Directors of Education should co-operate in reviewing the question of educational provision for children suffering from a disability of the mind.

Other activities in relation to the health of the school children

(a) Courses in First Aid and Home Nursing

Intensive courses of instruction in First Aid and Home Nursing were held at the eight Secondary schools, in the interval between the completion of the Leaving Certificate Examination and the summer holidays. One hundred and fifteen senior boys and girls attended the Course in First Aid and 67 girls took the Home Nursing Course.

(b) School Meals Service

The number of schools at which two-course meals are at present served is 53. Of this number 14 have canteen kitchens (9 all-electric and 5 solid fuel), while the remaining 39 have kitchens within the school buildings; of these 25 are rooms which have been converted into permanent kitchens and 14 are rooms used temporarily till they are replaced by canteen kitchens. Further proposals for 5 central kitchens and 11 dining halls have been approved by the Scottish Education Department and the work in the erection of these buildings is proceeding.

The number of two-course meals served daily is approximately 3600, representing 16% of the school population. This shows an increase of over 2000 in the number of meals served as compared with the corresponding period last year. Besides this, soup meals were served during the winter months in 66 other schools to approximately 2708 pupils, and cocoa or cocoa and sandwiches in a further 72 schools to 2000 pupils. Throughout the County, meals of one kind or another were served in 191 schools. No meals were served in 38 schools.

(c) Milk in Schools Scheme

Milk was supplied to 110 schools. The number of pupils receiving milk in school was 8,061—7,946 on payment and 115 free of charge.

TABLE I

Total Number of Children examined at:—				Other	
(A) Systematic Examinations				Systematic Examinations	Systematic Examinations
Ordinary Schools	Entrants	...	...	2491	—
	Second Age-Group	...	...	2507	—
	Third Age-Group	...	...	1287	—
	Fourth Age-Group	...	...	5	—
Secondary Schools	Third Age-Group	...	...	898	—
	Fourth Age-Group	...	...	137	—
Total				7325	—
(B) Other Examinations					
Special Cases				1164	
Re-Inspections by Medical Officers				1268	
Total				2432	

The numbers inspected at systematic examinations whose parents were notified that treatment was required (excluding uncleanness and dental caries) are given below:—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	334
Second Age-group	...	...	...	...	402
Third	..	..	...	...	263
Fourth	..	..	...	...	—
Secondary Age-group	...	...	...	...	9
					1,008

TABLE II

SYSTEMATIC EXAMINATIONS

Number and percentage of children in each Group suffering from particular defects

Nature of Defect	Entrants				Second Age-group				Third Age-group				Fourth Age-group				All Ages			
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
	1250	%	1241	%	1918	%	1189	%	1117	%	1063	%	73	%	69	%	3758	%	3567	%
1. Clothing unsatisfactory ...	6	0.4	7	0.5	8	0.6	6	0.5	1	0.08	5	0.4	—	—	—	—	15	0.4	18	0.5
2. Footgear unsatisfactory ...	2	0.1	3	0.2	3	0.2	2	0.1	—	—	1	0.09	—	—	—	—	5	0.1	6	0.1
3. Uncleanliness—(a) Head	18	1.4	83	6.4	22	1.8	63	5.4	7	0.6	40	3.6	—	—	—	—	47	1.2	188	5.0
(b) Body	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Skin—(a) Head: Ringworm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.08	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.02	—	—
Impetigo	5	0.4	5	0.4	7	0.5	8	0.6	—	—	1	0.09	—	—	—	—	12	0.3	14	0.3
Other Diseases	7	0.5	2	0.1	2	0.1	2	0.1	2	0.1	1	0.09	—	—	—	—	11	0.3	5	0.1
(b) Body: Ringworm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Impetigo	2	0.1	—	—	1	0.07	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	0.08	—	—
Scabies	9	0.7	14	1.1	17	1.2	14	1.1	7	0.6	4	0.4	—	—	—	—	33	0.9	32	0.8
Other Diseases	10	0.8	17	1.3	12	0.9	4	0.3	6	0.5	6	0.5	—	—	—	—	28	0.7	27	0.7
5. Nutritional State—(a) Slightly defective	25	2.0	15	1.2	22	1.6	28	2.3	17	1.4	12	1.1	—	—	—	—	64	1.7	56	1.5
(b) Bad	6	0.4	5	0.4	3	0.2	1	0.08	1	0.08	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	0.2	6	0.1
6. Mouth and teeth unhealthy	31	2.4	31	2.5	25	1.8	28	2.3	11	0.9	9	0.8	—	—	—	—	67	1.8	68	1.9
7. Naso-pharynx—																				
(a) Nose:																				
(1) Obstruction requiring observation	41	3.2	29	2.3	15	1.1	19	1.5	4	0.3	6	0.5	1	1.3	—	—	24	0.6	54	1.5
(2) Obstruction requiring treatment	—	—	3	0.2	1	0.07	4	0.3	3	0.2	1	0.09	—	—	—	—	7	0.2	8	0.2
(3) Other conditions	2	0.1	—	—	3	0.2	1	0.08	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	0.1	1	0.02
(b) Throat:																				
(1) Tonsils requiring observation	170	13.6	168	13.5	109	8.2	107	9.0	66	5.9	68	6.3	—	—	4	5.8	345	9.1	347	9.7
(2) Tonsils requiring treatment	109	8.7	70	5.6	53	4.0	67	5.6	23	2.1	19	1.7	—	—	—	—	185	4.9	156	4.3
(c) Glands:																				
(1) Requiring observation	165	13.2	129	10.4	116	8.8	72	6.0	36	3.2	32	3.0	1	1.3	—	—	318	8.4	233	6.5
(2) Requiring treatment	1	0.08	—	—	3	0.2	—	—	1	0.08	2	0.1	—	—	—	—	5	0.1	2	0.05
8. Eyes—																				
(a) External diseases—																				
Blepharitis	2	0.1	14	1.1	18	1.3	12	1.0	6	0.5	17	1.5	2	2.7	1	1.4	28	0.8	44	1.2
Strabismus	23	1.9	23	1.8	16	1.2	8	0.6	4	0.3	4	0.3	—	—	—	—	43	1.1	35	0.9
Other Diseases	5	0.4	7	0.5	—	—	8	0.6	7	0.6	14	1.3	—	—	—	—	12	0.3	29	0.8
(b) Visual Acuity—																				
(1) Fair Vision	—	—	—	—	60	4.5	54	4.5	39	3.4	62	5.8	5	6.8	—	—	104	4.7	116	4.9
(2) Bad Vision	—	—	—	—	123	9.3	57	4.8	58	5.1	78	7.3	6	8.2	—	—	187	7.5	135	5.8
(c) Recommended for refraction	20	1.5	22	1.7	99	7.5	75	6.3	54	4.8	79	7.3	6	8.7	1	1.4	179	4.0	177	4.9

TABLE II. (continued).

Nature of Defects	Entrants				Second Age-group				Third Age-group				Fourth Age-group				All Ages				
	Boys 1250	%	Girls 1241	%	Boys 1318	%	Girls 1189	%	Boys 1117	%	Girls 1088	%	Boys 73	%	Girls 69	%	Boys 3758	%	Girls 3567	%	
9. Ears—(a) Diseases : Otorrhoea Others (b) Defective Hearing : Grade I. Grade IIa. Grade IIb. Grade III.	4 9 — — — — —	0.3 0.7 — — — — —	1 — 2 — — — —	0.08 — 0.1 — — — —	3 8 — — — — —	0.2 0.6 — — — — —	7 4 2 — — — —	0.6 0.3 0.1 — — — —	7 8 — — — — —	0.6 0.7 — — — — —	4 4 1 — — — —	0.3 0.3 0.09 — — — —	1 — — — — — —	— — — — — — —	— — — — — — —	— — — — — — —	14 25 — — — — —	0.3 0.6 — — — — —	13 8 5 — — — —	0.3 0.2 0.1 — — — —	
10. Speech—(a) Defective Articulation (b) Stammering	7 —	0.5 —	3 —	0.2 —	5 —	0.3 —	5 —	0.4 —	3 —	0.2 —	2 —	0.1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	12 3	0.3 0.08	10 —	0.2 —
11. Mental and Nervous Condition— (a) Backward (b) Dull (c) Mentally deficient (Educable) (d) Mentally deficient (Ineducable) (e) Highly nervous or unstable (f) Difficult behaviour	2 — — 1 8 —	0.1 — — 0.08 0.6 —	4 2 1 1 4 2	0.2 0.1 0.08 0.08 0.1 0.1	6 6 — 2 3 1	0.4 0.4 — 0.1 0.2 0.07	4 2 2 2 — —	0.3 0.1 0.1 0.1 — —	6 2 1 2 2 2	0.5 0.1 0.08 0.1 0.1 0.1	2 — — 1 — —	0.1 — — 0.09 — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	— — — — — —	10 8 1 5 13 3	0.2 0.2 0.02 0.1 0.3 0.08	10 4 1 4 4 2	0.2 0.1 0.02 0.1 0.3 0.08	
12. Circulatory System : (a) Organic heart—(1) Congenital (2) Acquired (b) Functional	3 — 25	0.2 — 2.0	— 2 11	— 0.1 0.9	1 3 21	0.07 0.2 1.5	3 — 6	0.2 — 0.5	1 9 20	0.08 0.9 1.7	2 4 17	0.1 0.3 1.5	— 1 1	— 1.3 1.3	— 2 2	— — 2.9	5 13 67	0.1 0.3 1.7	5 6 36	0.1 0.1 1.0	
13. Lungs— (a) Chronic Bronchitis (b) Suspected Tuberculosis (c) Other Diseases	15 1 2	1.2 0.08 0.1	7 — 6	0.5 — 0.4	3 4 2	0.2 0.3 0.1	2 1 2	0.1 0.08 0.1	— — 6	— — 0.5	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	12 5 10	0.4 0.1 0.2	10 2 9	0.2 0.05 0.2	
14. Deformities— (a) Congenital (b) Acquired (Infantile Paralysis) (c) Acquired (Probable Rickets) (d) Acquired (other)	6 2 12 5	0.4 0.1 0.9 0.4	1 — 6 2	0.08 — 0.4 0.1	5 8 4 6	0.3 0.6 0.3 0.4	3 2 4 2	0.2 0.1 0.3 0.4	1 — 4 3	0.08 — 0.3 0.2	1 — — —	0.09 — 0.09 —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	11 11 16 11	0.2 0.2 0.4 0.2	5 2 10 4	0.1 0.05 0.2 0.1	
15. Infectious Diseases	5	0.4	2	0.1	8	0.6	2	0.1	4	0.3	4	0.3	—	—	—	—	17	0.4	8	0.2	
16. Other Diseases or Defects	10	0.8	2	0.1	7	0.5	11	0.9	2	0.1	9	0.8	3	4.1	4	5.8	22	0.5	26	0.7	

TABLE III

SYSTEMATIC MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

CLASSIFICATION	ENTRANTS 2491		SECOND AGE-GROUP 2307		THIRD AGE-GROUP 2185		FOURTH AGE-GROUP 142		TOTAL ALL AGES 7325	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
I. Children free from defects	1,500	60.2	1,731	69	1,620	74.1	97	68.3	4,948	67.5
II. Children (otherwise free from defects) who suffer from—										
(a) Defective vision not worse than 6/12 in the better eye with or without glasses	—	—	107	4.3	105	4.9	8	5.7	220	3.0
(b) Condition of the mouth and teeth requiring treatment	21	.9	14	0.5	20	0.9	—	—	55	0.8
(c) Both (a) and (b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	21	.9	121	4.8	125	5.8	8	5.7	275	3.8
III. Children suffering from ailments (other than those mentioned in II) from which complete recovery is anticipated within a few weeks	848	34.1	507	20.2	328	15.0	21	14.8	1704	23.2
IV. Children with defect less remediable than defects in II or III—										
(a) Where complete cure is considered possible	84	3.3	74	3.0	53	2.4	—	—	211	2.9
(b) Where improvement only is considered possible	38	1.5	74	3.0	59	2.7	16	11.2	187	2.6
TOTAL	122	4.8	148	6.0	112	5.1	16	11.2	398	5.5
Total number of children examined ...	2,491	100.0	2,507	100.0	2,185	100.0	142	100.0	7,325	100.0

TABLE IV
RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE IN THE AREA

DISABILITY	At ordinary Schools	At Special Schools or Classes	At no School or Institution	TOTAL
1. Blind	—	9	1	10
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 an ordinary school	—	—	—	—
3. Deaf—Grade I.	—	—	—	—
,, IIa.	2	—	3	5
,, IIb.	—	—	—	—
,, III.	—	10	—	10
4. Defective speech—				
(a) Defects of articulation requiring special educational measures	5	10	—	15
(b) Stammering requiring special educational measures	2	3	—	5
5. Mentally defective (Children between 5 and 16 years)—				
(a) Educable—(I.Q. approx. 50-70) ...	12	22	9	43
(b) Ineducable (I.Q. generally less than 50)	—	—	6	6
6. Epilepsy—				
(a) Mild and occasional	—	—	—	—
(b) Severe (suitable for care in a residential school)	—	1	—	1
7. Physical Defective—(Children between 5 and 16 years)—				
(a) Non-pulmonary tuberculosis (excluding glands)	7	—	—	7
(b) General orthopaedic conditions	3	1	2	6
(c) Organic heart disease	29	—	1	30
(d) Other causes of illhealth	1	2	—	3
8. Multiple Defects—				
(a) Blind and mentally defective	—	—	1	1
(b) Hydrocephalus and mentally defective	1	—	—	1

TABLE V
DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Number inspected by the Dental Officers—

AGE (in years)	Systematic Examinations	Special and Emergency Cases	TOTAL
5	1073	—	1073
6	1890	—	1890
7	1726	—	1726
8	1689	—	1689
9	1675	—	1675
10	1666	—	1666
11	1636	—	1636
12	1462	—	1462
13	1296	—	1296
14	511	—	511
15 and over	414	—	414
Total	15038	—	15038
(2) Number found to require treatment ...	7795	—	7795
(3) Number actually treated by the School Dental Surgeons	5402	—	5402
(4) Number of attendances made by children for treatment	5422	—	5422
(5) Fillings:—			
(a) Permanent	2235	—	2235
(b) Temporary	228	—	228
(6) Extractions:—			
(a) Permanent	1191	—	1191
(b) Temporary	5306	—	5306
(7) Number of administrations of a general anaesthetic for extractions	—	—	—
(8) Other operations:—			
(a) Permanent	543	—	543
(b) Temporary	64	—	64
(9) Half days devoted to inspection	195	—	195
Half days devoted to treatment	585	—	585
(10) Number of children treated under private arrangements	8	—	8

SECTION IV.

Tuberculosis Services

Notifications

During 1946, 131 new civilian cases and 26 service cases were notified as suffering from tuberculosis. In addition to these numbers, 15 cases were notified by Medical Officers of Health of the areas in which they previously resided and were classified as "transfers." There were 9 re-notifications of cases who had been previously notified in the County or had been notified by more than one practitioner.

Of the 131 cases notified, 54 were notified as due to pulmonary tuberculosis, of whom 47 were bacteriologically proved to be suffering from the disease, and 77 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis of whom 67 were proved.

The number of cases of proved pulmonary tuberculosis notified, namely, 47, is above the average for the quinquennium 1940-1944 and 19 more than were notified in 1945. This increase in notifications is made more obvious by the unusually low number notified in 1945 and is increased to some extent by the inclusion of many ex-service men and women who, although civilians at the time of diagnosis, developed the disease as a result of the hardships and rigours of war.

Table I gives the age distribution of males and females in the pulmonary and non-pulmonary types of disease. It will be seen that, whilst pulmonary tuberculosis is rare under fifteen years of age, over one half of the cases of non-pulmonary disease are under fifteen years. Indeed, almost one quarter of the non-pulmonary cases are under five years of age.

TABLE I
NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED AS SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN 1946

		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 upwards	Total
Pulmonary ...	Males ...	1	—	—	8	11	10	5	—	35
	Females ...	—	—	1	10	6	1	—	1	19
Non-pulmonary	Males ...	12	7	8	5	2	1	2	—	37
	Females ...	7	8	2	4	7	6	4	2	40
	Totals ...	20	15	11	27	26	18	11	3	131

The frequency with which the various parts of the body, other than the lungs, was affected is given in Table II. Comparison with the figures of 1945 shows a reduction in the number of cases of glandular tuberculosis—which are almost without exception infections of neck glands—and an increase in the number of abdominal infections. Under the heading "other sites (including lupus)" are included primary intrathoracic tuberculous infections in children.

TABLE II
LOCALISATION OF DISEASE—1946
Non-pulmonary

	Proved cases
1. Glands ...	36
2. Bones and Joints ...	14
3. Brain membranes ...	6
4. Abdomen ...	12
5. Other sites (including lupus) ...	9
Totals ...	77
	67

The sources of notification are given in Table III.

TABLE III
SOURCES OF NOTIFICATION

The sources of notified cases were as follows :—

1. Notified by General Practitioners	...	...	...	...	75
2. Notified by Medical Officers of Medical or Surgical Hospitals	...	...	...	...	34
3. Notified by County Medical Officers of Health	...	...	...	...	22
4. Notified by Medical Officers of Health of other areas (transfers)	...	...	...	...	15
5. Re-notifications	...	...	...	...	9
6. "Service" cases	...	...	...	...	26
Total	...	...	...	...	181

Occupational Incidence

The occupational incidence is shown in Table IV.

TABLE IV
OCCUPATIONAL INCIDENCE

Occupation	Total	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
Children under 5	25	1	24
Housewives	23	10	13
Schoolboys	19	1	18
Schoolgirls	10	—	10
Farm servants	7	6	1
Fishermen	5	4	1
Clerkesses	4	2	2
Shop-assistants	4	4	—
At home	3	1	2
Domestic Servants	2	1	1
Nurses	2	2	—
Apprentice	1	1	—
Baker	1	1	—
Cook	1	—	1
Crofter	1	1	—
Dairy Worker	1	1	—
Engineer	1	1	—
Factory Worker	1	1	—
Farmer	1	1	—
Fireman	1	1	—
Fishworker	1	1	—
Grocer	1	1	—
Insurance Agent	1	—	1
Labourer	1	1	—
Munition Worker	1	—	1
Prisoner	1	1	—
Railway Worker	1	1	—
Scrap Merchant	1	1	—
Stonecutter	1	1	—
Toolworker	1	—	1
Tractorman	1	—	1
Undertaker	1	1	—
Waitress	1	1	—
Woodcutter	1	1	—
No occupation	4	4	—
Totals	131	54	77

Mortality

The number of cases notified in 1946 and dying before the end of the year was 21. The percentage of deaths to notifications within the year was 16.

During the year, there were 59 deaths of which 44 were due to pulmonary and 15 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The total number of deaths from tuberculosis in Aberdeenshire, namely, 59, represents a death-rate of 0.42 per 1,000 of the population—the same rate as the previous year. The 44 deaths attributable to pulmonary tuberculosis represents a death-rate of 0.31 per 1,000 as compared with 0.30 per 1,000 in 1945. The number of deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, namely, 15, represents a death-rate of 0.11.

In Scotland, in 1946, there were 3,983 deaths from tuberculosis. Lung tuberculosis accounted for 3,226 deaths and tuberculosis in other parts of the body for 757. The death-rate from all forms of tuberculosis for the whole of Scotland was 0.79 per 1,000 of the population. The death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis in Scotland in 1946 was 0.64 per 1,000 and the death-rate from non-pulmonary tuberculosis was 0.15 per 1,000.

Table V gives the ages at death of the 44 cases of pulmonary disease.

TABLE V
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS—AGE AT DEATH

Age Groups	Number of deaths
Under 15 years	1
15 - 25 years	7
25 - 45	20
45 - 65	16
Over 65	—
Total	44

Treatment

Institutional. Table VI shows the disposition of patients in institutions and otherwise:—

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
A. Admitted to approved institutions	58	43
B. Not admitted to approved institutions because—		
(1) Refused to go to institutions	2	—
(2) Inmates of and Admissions to Voluntary Hospitals	6	13
(3) Unsuitable for Institutional treatment or such treatment not required	15	11
(4) Attending Lupus Clinic	—	6
(5) Privately	1	2
Totals	82	75

Most of the pulmonary cases were admitted to the County Hospitals at Inverurie and Strichen and to Newhills Sanatorium. The number of admissions to Newhills Sanatorium was limited from time to time owing to staffing difficulties. Collapse therapy by artificial pneumothorax and pneumoperitoneum was initiated and maintained at all three institutions. Phrenic interruption was carried out in Woodend Hospital as an out-patient operation. Adhesion section and thoracoplasty were carried out in Woodend Hospital. Certain cases, who required special treatment, were treated in the City Hospital and in Woodend Hospital.

Cases under treatment in County Hospitals and in Newhills Sanatorium were taken to and from Woodend Hospital by ambulance for X-ray examination, the portable X-ray apparatus being used in emergency conditions.

Out-patients under treatment by artificial pneumothorax and pneumoperitoneum attended the hospitals at Inverurie and Strichen each week for refills. Non-pulmonary cases were treated chiefly in Woodend Hospital. Cases of neck gland disease were treated at the Royal Aberdeen Hospital for Sick Children, at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and privately at Inch Hospital. A few convalescent cases of orthopaedic tuberculosis were accommodated at the County Hospital, Inverurie, where they were examined regularly by an Orthopaedic Surgeon.

The number of children admitted during the year to Linn Moor Convalescent Home, near Culter, was 54.

Dental treatment was carried out by the School Dental Surgeons at the County Hospitals at Inverurie and Strichen, at Newhills Sanatorium, Bucksburn, and at Linn Moor Convalescent Home, Culter. Details of this treatment are given in Table VII.

TABLE VII
DENTAL TREATMENT CARRIED OUT AT INSTITUTIONS.

Name of Institution	Treatment carried out			Total number of Treatments	Total number of patients treated
	Extraction	Filling	Scaling		
Newhills Sanatorium, Bucksburn ...	13	2	7	22	12
County Hospital, Inverurie ...	19	7	12	43	23
County Hospital, Strichen ...	17	9	9	37	19
Linn Moor Convalescent Home, Culter ...	2	2	9	24	11
Totals ...	51	20	37	126	65

Dispensary. Table VIII shows the number of patients who attended the four dispensaries during the year.

TABLE VIII
NUMBER OF PATIENTS ATTENDING TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS

Dispensary	Number of Patients		Total Number of Attendances	
1. Central, 4 Albyn Place, Aberdeen ...	350	...	554	...
2. Huntly ...	44	...	131	...
3. Peterhead ...	106	...	192	...
4. Fraserburgh ...	113	...	206	...
Totals ...	613	...	1083	...

Clinic sessions were held weekly, at the Central Clinic, 4 Albyn Place, Aberdeen, those in Peterhead and Fraserburgh every two weeks and those in Huntly every four weeks. Refills to patients under treatment by artificial pneumothorax and pneumoperitoneum were carried out at the Central Clinics. Patients attending all County Clinics attended the City Hospital, Aberdeen, for periodic X-ray examination. Travelling expenses were refunded to necessitous cases.

Domiciliary. Domiciliary treatment of tuberculosis consists of visits to patients by the Tuberculosis Medical Officer and by the District Nurses who, in addition to giving advice on health matters carry out ordinary nursing duties. Drugs and food (including milk), sleeping shelters, and, in special cases, beds and bedding are supplied to necessitous cases.

During the year, 94 patients were seen at their homes by the Tuberculosis Medical Officer. The District Nurses made no fewer than 1,992 visits to patients. One thousand three hundred and ten prescriptions were issued to patients mostly by their own doctors.

Twenty six shelters were in use during the year.

Forty two tuberculosis "contacts" were examined during the year.

X-ray examination is essential in the conduct of an up-to-date tuberculosis service and the extent to which this aid to diagnosis was used is shown in the following Table.

TABLE IX
X-RAY EXAMINATIONS

Chest skiagrams ...	1184
Tomograms ...	12
Other ...	238

Tuberculosis Allowances Scheme. During the year 1946, 67 patients received financial aid under this Scheme.

SECTION V.

Venereal Diseases Services

Dr. F. J. T. Bowie, Regional Medical Officer, has submitted the following report on the incidence and treatment of venereal diseases in the County during 1946.

The General Trend of the Incidence of Infection.

In the previous report covering the years 1940 to 1945, inclusive, it was mentioned that the highest incidence of venereal infections in the County of Aberdeen during these war years occurred in 1943. There was a fall in 1944, but a slight rise in 1945. This rise, associated with factors relating to demobilisation of the Forces, was first noticeable in the latter half of 1945, and continued throughout the major part of 1946, in which year the total number of new cases dealt with for actual or suspected venereal infections among civilians reached the peak figure of 295 patients. Towards the end of 1946, there was again a fall, and it may be confidently hoped that this decline will continue.

It is worthy of note that the incidence of infection in the County had been steadily increasing up to the outbreak of the recent war. In 1928, there were 108 new cases; in 1938 there were 210. This rise was actually maintained when venereal disease in the City of Aberdeen was on the decline. Venereal diseases are essentially infections of urban rather than of rural areas. Among factors responsible for the increase in the County is undoubtedly the greater facilities provided by modern conditions for contact between the rural population and the main urban aggregation in the area, where the risks of infection are definitely higher. Active anti-venereal measures in general should, in the future, reduce the incidence of infection in county and town alike.

Number of New Cases, Attendances and Laboratory Examinations.

The following two tables give the main data relative to the numbers of new cases and the work associated with them over the past five years. The attendances refer to visits by County patients to the Out-patient Departments of the Treatment Centres at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and at the City Hospital, Aberdeen.

TABLE I
INCIDENCE OF VENEREAL DISEASES—CIVILIAN CASES ONLY

YEAR	INCIDENCE					TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES	TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTEND- ANCES	TOTAL LABORA- TORY EXAMINA- TIONS
	Syphilis	Gonorrhoea	Soft Sore	Non-specific Venereal Infections	Non-Venereal Conditions			
1942 ...	52	39	—	41	24	156	3,194	1,974
1943 ...	48	43	—	47	57	195	4,098	2,722
1944 ...	30	32	1	41	61	165	2,728	2,337
1945 ...	30	43	—	38	68	179	2,652	2,295
1946 ...	57	94	1	68	75	295	5,031	4,059

TABLE II
INCIDENCE OF VENEREAL DISEASES—CIVILIANS AND FORCES CASES

YEAR	INCIDENCE					TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES	TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES
	Syphilis	Gonorrhoea	Soft Sore	Non-specific Venereal Infections	Non-Venereal Conditions		
1942	78	96	2	79	41	296	3,777
1943	77	79	1	86	79	322	4,630
1944	59	56	1	64	73	253	3,015
1945	33	56	—	54	83	226	2,884
1946	61	101	1	78	79	320	5,149

The laboratory examinations, with the exception of a small proportion carried out at the Treatment Centre at the Royal Infirmary, are performed at the laboratory at the City Hospital.

Number of New Cases Admitted for Institutional Treatment.

During 1946, 73 patients from Aberdeenshire were admitted to the special wards of Woodend Hospital and of the City Hospital, Aberdeen. They consisted of 34 male civilians, 15 males from the Forces, 23 civilian females and 1 female case from the Forces.

The total number of in-patients days was 1,424, of which 1,319 were accounted for by civilians and 105 by Forces cases.

Supply of Special Drugs for the Treatment of Syphilis.

Seventeen private practitioners were supplied during the year with 730 doses of anti-syphilitic drugs, and two institutions with 166 doses.

Mention is due of the help given by medical practitioners in the County of Aberdeen in the treatment of certain cases. These cases are those who, for various reasons, find it difficult to attend the Treatment Centres in Aberdeen with the requisite frequency and regularity, and who, therefore, arrange to have their treatment given by their own doctors. Such patients are first seen in Aberdeen, where a plan of treatment suitable for each case is mapped out. Details of this, with the necessary drugs, are sent to the doctor concerned and he carries out the medication in collaboration with the Treatment Centre. In this respect, the medical practitioners in the County render reliable assistance in the general control and prevention of infection.

The Outlook in Relation to Venereal Diseases.

The educational value of the national publicity campaign is being reflected in the greater readiness with which the public seeks advice regarding the possibility of infection and also in the improvement with which patients, in whom infection has been proved, attend for the requisite treatment and subsequent observation. There is no doubt that there is an awakening to the importance of the physical and social effects of venereal disease. In 1946 nearly one-third of the new patients who attended for investigation could be assured that they were free from infection.

The question of legislation to give powers to enforce compulsory examination and treatment is fraught with difficulties. Regulation 33B was a move towards compulsion within the provision of certain conditions. Its direct effect has been negligible, but indirectly it has proved of value from a publicity aspect and also in the results of discreetly unofficial approaches to named sources of infection. Whether or not greater powers to deal with venereal disease are forthcoming, the essential background to any anti-venereal campaign is a greater knowledge of the facts and a tolerant attitude by the public. In the meantime, the present national propaganda drive must not be permitted to flag; it should be amplified by Local Authorities through their Public Health Services.

SECTION VI.

Bacteriological Services

No fewer than 13,579 tests and examinations were conducted at the City Hospital Laboratory, Aberdeen, by Dr. Smith, Regional Bacteriologist. The nature and extent of the work is shown below :—

	Positive	Negative	Total	Grand Total
<i>Bacillary Dysentery—</i>				
Faeces	39	181	220	220
<i>Weil's Disease—</i>				
Blood agglutinations			18	18
<i>Undulant Fever—</i>				
Blood agglutinations			52	
Blood cultures			21	73
<i>Glandular Fever—</i>				
Paul Bunnell Test			8	8
<i>Biochemical Examinations—</i>				
Bloods			143	
Urines			27	
Faeces			78	
Gastric contents			2	
Miscellaneous			1	251
<i>Haematological—</i>				
Blood counts			218	
Differential cell counts			220	438
<i>Amoebic Dysentery—</i>				
Faeces			24	24
<i>Waters—</i>				
Bacteriological examination of waters			134	
Chemical examination of waters			5	139
<i>Tuberculosis—</i>				
Sputum, etc.	312	686	998	998
<i>Venereal Diseases—</i>				
Blood, smears, etc.	598	3345	3943	3943
<i>Diphtheria—</i>				
Throat, nose and ear swabs	35	978	1013	1013
<i>Puerperal Fever—</i>				
Pus			5	5
<i>Enteric and Food Poisoning—</i>				
Widals, blood, cultures, etc.			178	178
<i>Milk—</i>				
Bacteriological examination of milks			1987	
Milks for phosphatase test			28	
" " fat estimation			1071	
" " methylene blue test			713	
" " organisms			8	
" " tubercle bacilli			4	
<i>General Examinations—</i>				3811
<i>Animal Inoculations—</i>				1772
Human specimens inoculated into Guinea Pigs for tubercle bacilli			101	
Milk specimens inoculated into Guinea Pigs for tubercle bacilli			553	
Cultures of <i>C. Diphtheriae</i> inoculated into Guinea Pigs for virulence test			1	
Urines inoculated into rabbits for pregnancy tests			28	
Urines inoculated into toads for pregnancy tests			5	688

SECTION VII.

THE NURSING SERVICES.

During 1946, a new District Nursing Association was formed at Rosehearty and Inverallochy. In that year, there were 42 District Nursing Associations, employing 44 nurses. All these District Nursing Associations were affiliated to the County Nursing Association. The extent of the financial assistance given to each District Nursing Association was detailed in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the years 1940 to 1945.

Health visitor/midwives were appointed to undertake duty in that portion of the north-east of the County so far uncovered by District Nursing Associations. Unfortunately, these health visitor/midwives performed only statutory work and could not overtake the nursing of general cases in their areas.

The District Nurses perform combined duties. Home nursing and midwifery occupy a great portion of their time. The health visiting aspect of their work embraces the following:—

1. Maternity and Child Welfare—

- (a) *Home Visitation* of all infants from birth until the age of five years. Advice on infant management and child rearing with, where necessary, practical demonstration. The mother is invited to bring the child to the Child Welfare Clinic.
- (b) *Attendance at Child Welfare Clinics.* The nurse attends the Child Welfare Clinic held in her area. She is responsible for the general management of the Clinic and assists the Medical Officer.
- (c) *Immunisation.* The nurse takes an active part in propaganda connected with the immunisation of pre-school children against diphtheria. She will also give valuable assistance when it is found desirable to adopt vaccination against whooping cough as a routine measure.

2. School Medical Services—

Her duties under this head are—

- (a) Attendance with the School Medical Officers at routine medical inspections.
- (b) Periodic inspection of school children as to head and body cleanliness.
- (c) Follow-up visits to handicapped children both at school and at home.
- (d) Assisting the Medical Officers when immunisation against diphtheria is being carried out.

3. Tuberculosis—

- (a) Visitation of and advice to tuberculous cases in their homes.
- (b) Supervision of "contacts" of tuberculous cases.

4. Records—

Keeping of prescribed records in connection with 1, 2 and 3, mentioned above.

In a rural area, there is a distinct advantage in having each nurse carrying out all the home nursing, midwifery and health visiting in her area rather than having one nurse for sick nursing, another for midwifery and a third for health visiting.

During the year, eight nurses resigned and considerable difficulty was experienced in filling the vacancies. The shortage of nurses is acute, recruitment is very difficult and the time seems to be opportune for the establishment in Aberdeen of a training centre for Queen's Nurses.

The District Nursing Associations received various gifts from the British Red Cross Society, the W.V.S. and the Scottish Needlework Guild.

SECTION VIII.

Mental Health Services

The number of mental patients chargeable to the County Council as at 15th May, 1946, was as follows:—

1. *Lunacy:*

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Hospitals	279	270	549
In Private Dwellings	7	14	21
	<u>286</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>570</u>

2. *Mental Deficiency:*

The distribution of certified ineducable mental defectives is given below:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In Institutions	47	41	88
Under guardianship in private dwellings	53	76	129
	<u>100</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>217</u>

Throughout Scotland, there is a great shortage of beds for juvenile and for adult mental defectives. As regards juvenile mental defectives, the greatest need is for additional accommodation for the ineducable class. Prior to 1939, endeavours were made to establish a Colony for adult mental defectives for the North-Eastern region of Scotland and this matter was then fully considered, but the War intervened. The problem is not local: it is really national, and the provision of adequate accommodation for this class of mental defectives will ultimately devolve on the government.

3. *Psycho-pathological Services:*

In 1938, the Councils of the Counties of Aberdeen and Kincardine and of the City of Aberdeen decided to avail themselves of the services of the Psycho-pathology Department of Aberdeen University. The total numbers of County of Aberdeen cases dealt with since that date were:—

1938	...	45	1942	...	68	1946	...	156
1939	...	69	1943	...	103			
1940	...	57	1944	...	100			
1941	...	56	1945	...	118			

In 1938, the psychiatric social worker made 105 visits to the homes of patients in Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire and in the City of Aberdeen, but in each of the subsequent years her visits exceeded 1,000 in number.

In 1944, a Child Guidance Clinic was established at the Royal Aberdeen Hospital for Sick Children and sessions are held here thrice weekly. The Courts and Probation Officers are making full use of these services which are of considerable value in dealing with juvenile delinquents.

Arrangements have also been made with the Psychologist, Aberdeen University, whereby cases may be referred to the Child Guidance Clinic which is under his control.

SECTION IX.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

DIABETES.

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Health (Scotland) Amendment Act, 1925, the County Council approved, on 11th July, 1930, of a scheme for the supply of medicines and equipment to persons suffering from diabetes. Under this scheme, insulin, which is supplied through the agency of the City Hospital Laboratory, Aberdeen, was made available for diabetic patients. In non-insured and in necessitous cases, equipment such as hypodermic outfits are supplied free to patients. As many of the cases were unable to meet the expense of special dietary, it was agreed in December, 1937, that payment be made by the Local Authority towards the cost of special foods.

During 1946, the number of patients who received insulin was 58. The number in receipt of an allowance in respect of special foodstuffs was 14, and the cost of these was £171 19/1.

MALIGNANT DISEASE.

As the period for submission of complete arrangements under the Cancer Act, 1939, has been extended, the Local Authority has decided in the interim period to pay for the cost of the maintenance and treatment of cases suffering from malignant disease in Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen, and to defray the cost of travelling expenses of the patients when attending the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, as out-patients.

The number of cases treated in Woodend Hospital during the year under review was 7, and the cost of this treatment was £161 5/3. The number whose expenses were defrayed by the Local Authority in attending the Out-Patient Department, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, was 6 and the cost involved was £10 13/10.

The total number of deaths from malignant disease during the year was 222.

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

Under the Nursing Homes Registration (Scotland) Act, 1938, there are nine homes registered and of these one is conducted on private lines. The remaining eight are Cottage Hospitals, and in six of these beds are reserved by the County Council by arrangement with the Boards of Management. Maternity cases are admitted to these six Hospitals at the request of the Council.

Inspection of the Homes under the Act is carried out by a Medical Officer of the Local Authority, who visits at least once per annum, indicates and reports on any defects and scrutinises the registers. Records are kept in connection with all the Homes and on these are entered the inspecting officer's comments.

The following is a list of the Homes registered, showing in each case the number of beds. Where the Local Authority reserves beds, this is indicated by an asterisk:—

Name	Address	Number of beds	Number of cots	Remarks
Dee Valley Nursing Home	Ballater	6 general 3 maternity	—	
*Fyvie Cottage Hospital	Fyvie	7	3	In addition, there are 2 huts with three beds.
*Huntly Jubilee Hospital	Huntly	45	—	The Local Authority have a cubicle block capable of accommodating 8 maternity cases.
*Insch and District War Memorial Hospital	Insch	9 general 5 maternity	7	
*Kincardine O'Neil War Memorial Hospital	Torphins	8	—	
*Nicol Hospital	Rhynie	6	4	
Peterhead Cottage Hospital	Peterhead	24	2	Used for general purposes: No maternity cases.
*Turrieff Cottage Hospital	Turrieff	8 general 6 maternity	—	
Thomas Walker Hospital	Fraserburgh	30	1	Used for general purposes: No maternity cases.

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOSPITALS.

The following Table shows the Hospitals which are under the control of the County Council and gives the number of beds available in each, the types of cases admitted, the number of cases admitted and the number of in-patient days in 1946.

Name of Hospital	Number of beds available	Types of cases admitted	Number of cases admitted	Number of in-patient days
Aboyne	36	Infectious and ordinary medical cases	86	3,313
Inverurie ...	75	Infectious cases, including cases of pulmonary tuberculosis	325	20,365
Peterhead ...	42	Infectious cases	105	2,027
Strichen ...	35	Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis	33	10,625
Ellon	15	Maternity	300	3,919
Fraserburgh	12	Maternity	262	2,724

A maternity unit of eight beds is attached to Huntly Jubilee Cottage Hospital, the Hospital Committee of which manage the unit on behalf of the County Council. As already shown, the County Council have also maternity beds reserved in the Cottage Hospitals at Fyvie, Inch, Torphins, Rhynie and Turriff.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Ambulances for the removal of patients suffering from infectious diseases are stationed at Inverurie (2 ambulances), Aboyne, Peterhead and Strichen. In addition, at Huntly, there is an ambulance used largely for the transport of maternity cases in that district. All the ambulances in the County can be required to remove cases to the Maternity Hospitals. The ambulances are also available for the removal of general cases to Hospitals in Aberdeen as the necessity arises. There is also at Strichen an ambulance on loan from the St. Andrew's and Red Cross Scottish Ambulance Services.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

The campaign for greater physical and mental fitness has been publicised by the Scottish Council for Health Education. This Council have issued a very wide range of attractive leaflets dealing with many aspects of healthy living. The County Council give an annual grant to the Scottish Council for Health Education and in return receive a generous supply of leaflets which deal not only with the prevention of infectious diseases but also with the means whereby positive health may be attained. These leaflets have been widely distributed at the Child Welfare Clinics in the County. The Scottish Council also arranges "Health Weeks" and provide medical lecturers free of charge. It was not found possible to promote a Health Week in Aberdeenshire in 1946.

The teachers in the County have performed splendid work in encouraging the immunisation against Diphtheria of children of school age. The District Nurses and the family doctors have also done much to increase the number of pre-school children immunised against this dread disease.

SECTION X.

Synopsis of Sanitary Inspectors' Reports.

A.—COUNTY SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Milk:

During 1946, there were 547 registered dairy premises in the County. Of that number, 245 premises held designated milk licences as follows:—

Certified	...	...	...	...	14
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	95
Standard	...	...	...	...	129
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	4
Heat-treated	...	...	...	...	3

The following Table shows the number of samples of milk taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological analysis:—

	No. of Samples taken	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory
Designated	1127	791	336
Ordinary	463	346	117
Totals	1590	1137	453

Three consecutive unsatisfactory samples were drawn on 61 different occasions and the premises concerned were consequently reported to the Milk Special Sub-Committee for consideration. No licences were withdrawn.

Two hundred and forty seven samples were submitted for biological analysis, 24 of which showed the presence of tubercle bacilli.

Inspection of Meat, etc.:

In the County, 72,350 carcasses were examined and the weight of meat condemned was 95 tons, 15 cwt. 2 qrs. 8 lbs. The number of animals inspected and the number condemned are shown hereunder:—

Animal	Number Inspected	Number Condemned	
		Wholly	Partially
Bovines	11,491	209	296
Sheep	23,861	53	98
Pigs	36,998	49	223
Totals	72,350	311	617

1 ton, 10 cwt., 2 qrs., 1 lb., 6½ ozs. canned foods were condemned during the year and 2 tons, 2 cwt., 2 qrs., 2½ lbs. of other foods, including considerable quantities of fat, raisins, butter and bread.

Water Supplies:

Thirty new water supplies were provided and 62 supplies improved. One hundred and eighty six samples were sent for analysis, 83 of which showed unsatisfactory results.

Drainage:

Approximately 10 miles of new drains were laid throughout the County; 372 drains were laid or altered and 844 inspections were carried out. In each instance the drains were subjected to the appropriate test.

Cleansing Services:

At the present time difficulty is being experienced in getting contractors to undertake the collection of domestic refuse in rural areas. The question of providing an efficient scavenging service for the whole of the County is an ideal which might be achieved by an extension of the present cleansing services which are successfully operating in the Deer District of the County.

Salvage of Waste:

Waste paper was collected from rural schools with the co-operation of school teachers and the children. An organised collection was carried out in the Deer District in conjunction with the scavenging scheme.

Factories:

Three hundred and forty seven factories were inspected and a total of 768 inspections carried out. At 40 of these premises improvements were effected.

Burials under Section 69 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897:

Three burials were carried out under the above Act. In one instance the cost of the funeral was recovered.

Housing:

The number of routine inspections carried out during the year was 2712. Seven houses were represented to the Public Health Committee for closure. Undertakings were signed in respect of 8 properties in the County.

Seventy five premises were reconstructed or in the course of reconstruction under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act. A total of 508 inspections were made during the course of the work.

Nineteen applications were received for grants to construct houses under the Housing (Agricultural Population) Act. Fifty four inspections were carried out and 16 new houses were provided.

The Naval Air Station at Crimond was handed over to the local authority in August and work was commenced on the conversion of the huts into temporary accommodation. It is estimated that approximately 200 three and four-apartment dwellings will be made available to alleviate the present serious housing shortage.

Complaints and Nuisances:

The complaints investigated numbered 2,671 and most of them referred to minor housing defects.

Rats and Mice:

On the request of the Town Council of Fraserburgh, a survey of rat-infested properties within the Burgh was carried out. 287 inspections of properties were made when it was found that 50 premises had major and 29 premises minor infestations. Department of Agriculture rat-catchers were employed with the following results:—

Houses, Stores, Shops, Premises, Land, etc.:

Poison baits laid	...	...	...	...	...	3,651
Rat traps laid	...	...	...	...	...	69
No. of rats poisoned	...	...	...	...	...	1,348
No. of rats trapped	...	...	...	...	...	39
Total rats destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	1,387

Manholes and Sewers:

No. of manholes in which trays were placed	...	...	267
Number of manholes laid with poison bait	...	...	1,347
Estimated number of rats destroyed	...	...	1,185

A serious case of rat infestation at Stirling Village was dealt with and improvements to the sanitary arrangements in the affected area were carried out to ensure the prevention of further infestation.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

During the year 1946 the number of formal samples analysed from the whole County was 119. The number of informal samples taken during the same period was 8. Police Officers acted as sampling officers under this Act. There were no convictions during the year.

The materials sampled were as follows:—

Butter.	Milks (dried).
Cocoa.	Milk Custards.
Coffee.	Mixed Spices.
Dried Food Stuffs.	Mince.
Drugs.	Mustard.
Fats.	Raising Agents.
Flour.	Sausages.
Gelatine.	Tea.
Jams and Jellies.	Tinned Food Stuffs.
Margarine.	Whisky.
Milk (liquid).	

B.—BURGH SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORTS.

Water Supplies:

Water supplies were well maintained throughout the year in all the Burghs, with the following exceptions:—

Peterhead

The amount of water accumulated during the winter months diminished rapidly and steps had to be taken to augment the water supply. A small supply of approximately 90,000 gallons per day from the R.A.F. Station, Longside, was made available to the Burgh. The matter of improving the amount of supply to the Burgh is being pursued.

Inverurie

Improvements are urgently required to augment the existing water supply, especially in view of the large number of new houses being erected.

Drainage:

Drainage systems in all the Burghs continued to function satisfactorily.

Huntly

170 yds. of 9" sewers were laid in connection with a new housing scheme.

Peterhead

Extensive work had to be carried out at certain sections of the town to deal with the disposal of flood water.

Inverurie

The question of the renewal of the whole drainage system for the Burgh will require to be given serious consideration.

Turriff

650 yds. of new sewer were laid for a housing scheme.

Scavenging:

The undernoted Table shows the method of refuse disposal :—

Burgh	Method of Disposal
Ballater	Direct Labour
Ellon	Direct Labour
Huntly	Direct Labour
Inverurie	Direct Labour
Kintore	Contract
Oldmeldrum	Contract
Roschearty	Contract
Turriff	Direct Labour
Peterhead	Contract
Fraserburgh	Direct Labour

Salvage:

Salvage of waste schemes are in operation in all Burghs.

Meat and Food Inspection:

The following Table gives the number of animals inspected and the weight of meat condemned during the year.

Burgh	No. of Animals Inspected					Weight of Meat Condemned		
	Cattle	Lambs	Sheep	Calves	Pigs	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
Peterhead	1663	—	6252	—	8	25	18	—
Turriff	870	—	3079	80	40	13	14	—
Inverurie	9793	10804	9901	705	26	33	15	23
Fraserburgh	1906	—	7319	12	30	—	1	8
Totals	14232	10804	26,551	797	104	71	48	31

Eight tons, 4 cwts. assorted foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Offensive Trades:

The following offensive trades are well conducted :—

Burgh	Type of Trade
Peterhead	Gut and tripe cleaning
Inverurie	Gut and tripe cleaning

Slaughter-houses:

The undernoted slaughter-houses were well conducted :—

Peterhead.

Fraserburgh.

Inverurie.

Turriff.



