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ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1942

ON THE

HEALTH OF ASHFORD

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

J. MARSHALL,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical
Officer for Ashford Urban District.

ASHFORD
Geerings of Ashford, Ltd., 80, High Street.

1943

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
LOCAL AUTHORITY.**

Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer
MARSHALL, J., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HARLAND, H. J., CERT. R.S.I., Certificated Meat Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

HOSKEN, E., CERT. S.I.B., M.R.S.I., M.R.I.P.H.H., Certificated
Meat Inspector.

Health Visitors.

WILLMORE, S. (Miss), S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
ROGERS, H. (Miss), S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Matron of Isolation Hospital.

STREETER, M. A. (Miss), S.R.N.

ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1942.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Ashford Urban District.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1942.

As requested by the Ministry of Health for reasons of national security this Report must be curtailed in many respects and a full factual presentation of every aspect of the Public Health Service cannot, therefore, be given at this stage.

The trials and tribulations of three years of war have not affected the health of the population in any obvious deleterious direction. During these "down and up" years, the residents of this town have experienced in no small measure the effects of enemy bombing and had and still have hanging over their heads the sword of Damocles, but despite the increased nervous tension there are no signs that the spirit and physical well-being of the people are sagging.

There were no epidemics of major infectious diseases and no deaths due to infectious disease.

Analysis of the causes of death has not brought to light any apparent significant variant cause. Diseases of the Circulatory System, for example heart disease and intracranial vascular lesions exact as in previous years the highest toll. Cancer takes as usual a prominent second place. There were only 4 deaths from Tuberculosis of the Lungs. 22 new cases of Lung Tuberculosis were notified in comparison with 18 in 1940, and 14 in 1941. The specific cause of the "White Plague" has long been known but the contributory causes are of a complex social nature in which there is vast scope for improvement. The added stresses of war have increased the number of new cases nationally. There were 14 new cases, in sites other than the lungs. The weight of expert opinion is heavily in favour of the pasteurisation of milk which is the chief source of the latter cases.

It is again gratifying to record that there were no maternal deaths or cases of sepsis due to Childbirth during the year. This is a measure of the care taken by Practitioners and Midwives and by the ancillary services of Ante-natal Clinic, Hospitals, and Emergency and Private Nursing Homes.

There were 21 deaths of infants under one year of age which has raised the rate to 55 per 1,000 live births. 13 deaths, i.e., 62%, occurred during the first month and were due to developmental causes. Respiratory Diseases form the other principal cause. The majority of these deaths occurred amongst the poorer classes. It is widely recognised that the chief contributory causes are a social problem, for example conditions of poverty and social insecurity, bad housing, defective sanitation, overcrowding and maternal ignorance and neglect, apart from the question of genetics or eugenics.

“Its an ill wind that blows nobody good,” for the war has brought forth from its treasury many long-awaited improvements and plans for further important improvements in the health Services. For example, Diphtheria Immunisation has been promoted to a national basis, and it would seem that Immunisation against Whooping Cough should also be given the same place in the sun. The establishment of the Emergency Hospital Service has been a forward step towards the provision of an adequate Hospital Service.

The success of the Emergency Maternity Homes, with associated Residential Nurseries has proved the real need for these.

A comprehensive medical service is being considered by the Government. There can be no doubt that there is vast scope for improvement in Social Medicine.

In conclusion, I should like to thank you for your sympathetic support in furthering the services of the Public Health Department and my staff for their efficient and loyal service.

I am,

Yours obediently,

J. MARSHALL.

SECTION A

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF—

Resident Population, mid-1942—20,460.

	Total	M.	F.		Ashford Urban District.	England and Wales
1. Live Births	360	179	181	Birth rate per 1,000	17.59	15.8
(a) Legitimate	340	171	169	estimated resident population		
(b) Illegitimate	20	8	12			
2. Stillbirths				Rate per 1,000 total	19.08	
(a) Legitimate	7	5	2	(live and still) births		
(b) Illegitimate	—	—	—			
3. Deaths	306	170	136	Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.	14.95	11.6
4. Deaths from Puerperal Causes	—	—	—	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births	—	2.01
5. Death rate of Infants under one year of age						
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births					55.55	49.0
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					50	—
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					150	
6. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					48	
,, ,, Measles (all ages)					0	
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)					0	
,, ,, Diarrhæa (under 2 years)					0	

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The County Council Central Laboratory at Maidstone provides a complete and excellent service, fully adequate for the needs of this District.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) *Infectious Cases.*

One Ambulance, provided by the Urban Council and garaged at the Isolation Hospital, is used solely for the transport of Infectious Cases. This Service is adequate for all demands.

(b) *Non-Infectious Cases, Maternity Cases, and Accidents.*

Three modern Ambulances are provided by the Ashford Corps of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. These Ambulances are always speedily available and although the circumstances of the war have greatly increased the number of calls the Service has been equal to all its tasks and has maintained its tradition in this District for executive efficiency and dispatch. The Service has been of great value to the Council, in providing transport for Expectant Mothers to the Emergency Maternity Homes established by the Ministry of Health in other areas.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME.

This Service is administered by the Ashford and District Nursing Association, in affiliation with the Queen's Institute of District-Nursing and the Kent County Nursing Association. The staff is fully qualified and experienced in Midwifery and General Nursing. The Association is fully aware of the needs of the District, every effort being made to provide an adequate and efficient service, and the high reputation of the service in the past is well maintained by the Association and its present staff of nurses.

4. TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Ashford Urban District Council Clinics.

(a) *Infant Welfare Clinics.*

The Council has provided three Clinics in the Urban District. These are situated at :—

(1) *Station Road.* This is a modern "ad hoc" building and is the Central Clinic for the District. The sessions begin at 2.15 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday of each week.

(2) *St. Mary's Hall, Church Road, North Willesborough.* The sessions are at 2.15 p.m. on alternate Fridays.

(3) *The Adult School Hall, Gladstone Road, South Willesborough.* Sessions at 2.15 p.m. on Fridays, alternate to North Willesborough Clinic.

The Medical Officer of Health is Clinical Officer at the above clinics.

(b) *Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.*

These Clinics are held in the Station Road Centre, the Ante-Natal Clinic being held on each of the first four Mondays of every month at 2.15 p.m., and the Post-Natal Clinic on the fifth Monday, if any, at 2.15 p.m.

The Practitioner in attendance at these Clinics resigned in December, 1941, and the Council was fortunate to be able to engage a Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynæcology.

County Council Clinics.

(1) *School Medical Service.* The following four Clinics are held at 14, Canterbury Road, Ashford.

- (1) Dental Clinic.
- (2) Ophthalmic Clinic.
- (3) Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.
- (4) Minor Ailment Clinic.

(2) *Orthopaedic Clinic.* This is held at the Welfare Centre, Station Road. The Consultant attends on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays and out-patient treatment is given on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays and 5th Tuesdays, if any, of each month.

(3) *Tuberculosis Clinic.* At No. 1, Barrow Hill Place, weekly on Thursdays at 10 a.m.

(4) *Veneral Diseases Clinic.* At No. 1 Barrow Hill Place, weekly on Fridays at 1.30 to 2.30 p.m. for females and from 2.30 to 3.30 for males.

HOSPITALS.

- (1) ASHFORD GENERAL (VOLUNTARY AND E.M.S.). Accommodation (peace-time)—approximately 90 beds.
- (2) WILLESBOROUGH HOSPITAL (K.C.C. and E.M.S.). Accommodation 212 beds.
- (3) GROSVENOR SANATORIUM (PRIVATE). Accommodation 265 beds.
- (4) ISOLATION HOSPITAL (A.U.D.C.). Accommodation 51 beds

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The great importance of this branch of preventive medicine is now becoming nationally recognised in its proper perspective. The health of mother and child and the maintenance of the birth-rate at an adequate level must be given very serious consideration and although the Maternity and Child Welfare Service has, by evolutionary progress, already made great strides towards the

achievement of these aims there is still vast scope for improvement. In the first place, the agony of childbirth should be alleviated for every mother in labour. The fear of this suffering retained in the minds of many mothers is undoubtedly a deterrent factor. This factor has been recognised by the Ministry of Health and authority has been given to Local Supervising Authorities to issue anæsthetic apparatus to Midwives who have taken a training course prescribed by the Central Midwives Board. The County Council is considering this scheme. It is hoped that the Midwives in this District will be supplied with this apparatus as soon as this is practicable.

In the second place, Municipal Maternity Homes should be established wherever there is a need for them. There is a real need for one in Ashford. This could also serve the large rural population in the surrounding districts and would be well justified on a population basis. It would not be possible to establish one until after the war but this must be kept in the forefront of any proposed plans for the post-war service. In the meantime, the Government's Emergency Maternity Homes elsewhere in the County are stopping the gap and are providing, under the County Medical Officer's administration, an excellent service, but it is important to keep in mind that these Homes would be too far distant for post-war use by this Council when this District is liberated from the threat of enemy bombing.

In association with the Maternity Home, there would also be a real need for a Residential Nursery for the pre-school children of expectant mothers and those mothers who are ill at home or in hospital and are unable to make private arrangements for the care of their children. As with the Maternity Homes, the Ministry of Health and County Authorities, have provided such a service in the Region which has temporarily been able partially to cope with the needs of this District.

The establishment of Nursery Schools or Classes which would take custody of "the under fives" during school hours, would relieve the domestic burdens of many mothers to a great extent. It is to be hoped that these will be quickly established in this District after the war, by the Education Authorities.

These measures would not provide completely for the varying circumstances of the housewife and some home help scheme would still be necessary to alleviate the drudgery of mothers with a number of children. It has become increasingly difficult during the war for the Council to provide Home Helps, owing to the scarcity of prospective applicants who can easily find employment of a more attractive nature at a higher wage. It would seem that the only course for the Council to adopt would be to employ at least one full-time Home Help at an attractive salary. Many homes are dirty because the mother after attending to the requirements of her family has little time or energy left to keep

the premises reasonably clean. Many of these mothers are below par in health and spirits and easily become depressed and apathetic because of the unequal struggle against inadequate income and the needs of a large family.

The Ante-natal Clinic is providing a very valuable service. The attendances at the Clinic increased to such an extent that weekly sessions had to be held in place of the bi-monthly sessions. Against 94 in 1940 and 69 in 1941, 144 expectant mothers attended in 1942. The midwives work in close liaison with the Consultant. Complicated cases are referred to Ashford General or Pembury County Hospital.

Assistance by the Council towards the cost of dental treatment, in necessitous cases free, was given in 14 cases during the year.

The Dispensary at the Clinic provides various standard supplementary foods at full or part cost or free. Sterilised Maternity Outfits are also provided to expectant mothers.

The District Midwifery service is highly satisfactory and the Ashford and District Nursing Association and staff well deserve the sound reputation which they have gained with the public and medical practitioners, and all who have a knowledge of their work. On behalf of expectant mothers who do not book doctors for their confinements, the Ante-natal Clinic is of great value and the Midwives make full use of the expert opinion of the Consultant. During the year they attended, without medical aid, and without mishap, 117 confinements. 222 mothers were delivered by practitioners. There were no maternal deaths and no cases of puerperal sepsis. 21 mothers were delivered in the Emergency Maternity Homes.

Attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinics also appreciably increased. This is a very valuable service in that it gives all possible aid to the mothers who most need this help, towards the healthy upbringing of their babies and the results of this basic health service are very gratifying.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE FIGURES.

1. *Number of births notified, as adjusted by transferred notifications.*

(a) Live Births	..	..	..	..	343
(b) Still Births	..	..	..	..	4
(c) By Doctors	..	..	..	..	222
(d) By Midwives	..	..	..	..	117

(2) *Health Visiting—*

(a) Number of Health Visitors employed by the Council	..	..	..	..	2
(b) Number of visits paid during the year—					
To expectant mothers	First visits	..	..	..	217
	Total Visits	..	..	..	488

To children under 1 year of age—

First Visits	..	310
Total Visits	..	2887

To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years

Total Visits	..	3151
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3. *Infant Welfare Centres*—

(a) Number provided and maintained by the Council 3

(b) Total number of children who first attended during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were :—

Under one year	..	266
Over one year of age	..	69

(c) Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended during the year and who at the end of the year were :—

Under one year of age	..	222
Over one year of age	..	421

Total attendances at the three centres were :—

(1) Ashford Centre	..	3532
(2) North Willesborough	..	885
(3) South Willesborough	..	523

4. *Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Services.*

These clinics are combined for service to expectant mothers from the neighbouring rural areas in addition to those from the Urban District, by arrangement with the County Council.

	<i>Ante-natal</i>	<i>Post-natal</i>
(a) Number of clinics provided by the Council	1	1
(b) Total number of women who attended during the year.		
(1) Ashford Urban	144	6
(2) Rural District	50	—

Supply of Supplementary Foods.

Foods sold at cost price at Ante-natal and Infant Welfare Clinics :—

Dried Milks	..	3,189 lbs.
Other Foods	..	1,666 lbs.
Halibut Liver Oil	..	188 x 5 cc. bottles
Cod Liver Oil and Malt	..	146 lbs.

Foods provided free :—

Dried Milks	..	41lbs.
Other Foods	..	6 lbs.
Halibut Liver Oil	..	8 x 5 cc bottles

Child Life Protection (Public Health Act, 1936).

At the end of 1942, there were 16 foster-parents boarding 22 children. These were frequently inspected by the Health Visitors and reports in each case were satisfactory.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

The three Nursing Homes in the District were regularly inspected and each was found to maintain a satisfactory standard in accommodation, equipment, facilities and nursing. There are no un-registered Nursing Homes in this District.

	No. of Homes	No. of patients provided for		
		Maternity	Others	Total
Homes first registered during the year	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Homes on the register at the end of the year	3	8	5	13

School Medical Service.

In this Service, children are medically examined on entrance to school, and subsequently at 8 and 12 years of age. When necessary, re-examinations are made at more frequent intervals. Various Clinics, attended by Consultants, are held at 14, Canterbury Road. The Orthopædic Clinic is held in the Welfare Centre, Station Road, and the Tuberculosis Clinic and Venereal Diseases Clinic at No. 1 Barrow Hill Place.

The County Council had prepared plans before the war to combine all these Clinics in a central building. Such a Health Centre would be well justified in Ashford in view of its central position for transport for the large surrounding population it would serve, and would give these services considerable added prestige.

Since the war an excellent Ear, Nose and Throat Service has been provided by Willesborough Hospital, which has greatly facilitated the treatment of this type of case. The additional accommodation for other cases, especially for children has also been very useful, e.g., in skin diseases such as scabies and impetigo.

The Medical Officer of Health, on behalf of the Kent Education Committee, is responsible for the examination of all school children in this District, excepting the County School. Generally speaking the school child is well-nourished, well-clothed and healthy, but on the other hand there are still too many children who are grossly neglected by their parents. This presents a complex social problem. A large proportion of the "working class" houses have no baths. A basic social and health measure is the clearance of slum property and the provision of adequate housing. This would afford a fundamental incentive for cleanliness. The authorities should have at the same time stronger powers to deal with the chronic sluts who make no reasonable effort to keep their houses clean, and who grossly neglect their children. Eviction from the good house and removal of the children for the sake of their physical and mental well-being would be necessary measures in these cases where there was no hope of reform. There have been and are cases in this District in which parents ignore

the treatment recommended by the Medical Officer, even when the cost of such treatment is free or very small. These cases of persistent neglect could be dealt with under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, but no action seems ever to be taken by the appropriate authorities, apart from an occasional visit by the N.S.P.C.C. Officer.

The introduction of canteens to Schools is a very valuable measure towards the attainment of improved nutrition and it is to be hoped that these will be continued in peacetime as long as they are necessary. The Milk in School's Scheme is an assured success.

The sanitary arrangements at the Schools were all satisfactory. Cases of infectious disease in the schools were as follows :—

Whooping Cough	..	..	..	50
Measles	..	..	..	181
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	25
Chickenpox	..	..	..	63
German Measles	..	..	..	2
Mumps	..	..	..	20
Scabies	..	..	..	11
Ringworm	..	..	..	1
Impetigo	..	..	..	43
Lice Infestation	..	..	..	19

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The Council's undertaking provided as in previous years a wholesome and pure supply. Regular samples were all very satisfactory. As an additional measure of safety, the supply is now chlorinated at the sources. The Mid-Kent Water Company's supply to Kennington was also of excellent quality.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No important alterations were effected.

3. ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

During the year 21 Council and 37 other dwellings were found to be infested by bugs and fleas. These were all disinfested and re-inspections were made to ensure against re-infestation. The method of disinfestation, as described in the Report for 1940, was used.

4. SWIMMING BATHS.

As in 1941, the Public Bath was the only swimming bath in use. The efficacy of the chlorination was frequently checked to ensure a safe bathing water.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Sanitary Inspection of District.	No. in District.	No. of visits in 1942.	No. of faults and defects found.	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses	18	44	9	9
Dairies { Producers	11	64	15	15
{ Retailers	11	120	7	7
Slaughter-houses (Licenced)	3	635	6	6
Other food preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	58	70	6	6
Offensive Trades	2	5	—	—
Common Lodging Houses	1	4	—	—
Houses-let-in-lodgings	—	—	—	—
Factories	81	92	16	16
Workshops	51	61		
Workplaces (other than out-workers homes)	3	4		

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR (OTHER THAN THOSE ENUMERATED IN THE ABOVE TABULATION).

Overcrowding	5	Refuse receptacles	11
Keeping of animals	12	Tents, vans and sheds	0
Hop-pickers' camps	0	Smoke nuisances	0
Sanitary Accommodation :		Yard paving	14
(a) Insufficient	17	Dampness	27
(b) Defective	17	Roofs and rain-water pipes	39
Drainage :		Floors	18
(a) Re-constructed	12	Walls and Ceilings	62
(b) Repaired	14	Windows and Ventilation	41
(c) Cleansed	68	Baths, Lavatory basins and sinks	14
Cesspools :		Water supplies	40
(a) Abolished	2		
(b) Repaired	4	Total number of visits of all kinds paid by the inspectors during the year	3,515
Offensive Accumulations	15		
Miscellaneous	148		

SECTION D
HOUSING.

The effects of the war have necessarily severely restricted activity in this direction. Repair of houses with defects injurious to health has been very difficult to effect, and attention is chiefly directed to disrepair of a serious character. During the year 302 housing defects were remedied.

There are not many cases of overcrowding, but it is expected that this may be a serious factor after the war owing to the acute shortage of houses and the large number of war-time marriages. However, the urgency of the need for more houses is nationally recognised and should receive priority over everything else.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

At the end of the year there were 11 Cowsheds, with 11 registered Dairies attached and 11 other registered Dairies in the Urban District in the occupation of Retail Purveyors. Four of the above cowsheds produced Accredited Milk and the remainder Undesignated Milk.

The total milk supply of this District is supplied by 15 Producer Retailers and by 15 Retail Purveyors.

Cowsheds and Dairies are regularly inspected. 22 defects were found and remedied by informal action.

There is no Tuberculin Tested supply in this District but there is a large Pasteurised supply from the Holder Plant of the Co-operative Society. This plant was frequently inspected and all the samples taken conformed to the tests. Expert opinion has for long favoured the pasteurisation of all milk supplies and it is to be hoped that the ideal will eventually be reached in practice. Milk is a suitable medium for the propagation of various infectious diseases, but none was traced to this source in this District during the year.

The following samples were taken for bacteriological examination :—

			<i>Satisfactory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>
Accredited	..	..	12	5
Pasteurised	..	..	7	0
Undesignated	..	..	5	2

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI.

Cattle found to be tuberculous at the time of slaughter are traced back to the farms and those addresses are forwarded to the County Medical Officer who arranges for milk samples from the cowsheds in the appropriate districts to be taken and examined, and for the herds to be examined by the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture. Of seven such samples taken in this District, none contained Tubercle Bacilli. In addition seven further samples were taken from undesignated farms and none of these was positive.

However, during the year 12 new cases of tuberculous glands of the neck were notified, the majority of which were probably bovine in origin. Efficient pasteurisation of all supplies is imperative in addition to the above measures, if cases of bovine tuberculosis are to be prevented.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Unsound Food. (Food and Drugs Act, 1938).

During the year 1,642 tins of meat, milk and other canned foodstuffs, and small quantities of cheese and bacon were certified unfit for food. The total weight of these items was 7 tons 13 cwts. This figure reveals a considerable increase over that in 1941 and is probably due to many of these canned articles having been stored for many years. The whole of this unfit food was collected by a Glue Company for conversion into non-edible by-products.

No cases of food-poisoning came to the notice of this Department.

Adulteration. (Food and Drugs Act, 1938).

The County Council administers these investigations. The County Analyst was unable to provide figures for the number of samples taken and analysed.

Meat Inspection.

The three slaughter-houses, controlled by the Ministry of Food, were improved with regard to the hanging of carcasses and viscera and although far from ideal, inspection was facilitated. A Public Abattoir will be very necessary after the war.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle including cows and calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	2,273	10,593	758
Number Inspected	2,273	10,593	758
<i>Tuberculosis Only.</i>			
Whole carcasses condemned	60	—	5
Parts of carcasses condemned	302	—	54
Percentage affected by tuberculosis	11.07	—	7.7
<i>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis.</i>			
Whole carcasses condemned	4	138	2
Parts of carcasses condemned for other diseases	300	127	11
Percentage affected by diseases other than tuberculosis	13.3	2.5	1.7

Meat inspection requires considerable knowledge and experience on the part of the inspector and the above figures not only illustrate the fact that each carcase is inspected but also the importance of this work in safeguarding the Public from unsound meat. The status of the Meat Inspector should be raised in accordance with the skill and importance of his work, which is also arduous and unpleasant in character.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL (A.U.D.C.)

- Staff* :
1. Medical Officer of Health.
 2. Matron, Sister and Three Assistant Nurses.
 3. Temporary Nurses are engaged when necessary.

Accommodation :

1.	Cubicle Block	..	..	8 beds
2.	Diphtheria Block	..	..	13 „
3.	Scarlet Fever Block	..	..	24 „
4.	Auxiliary Block	..	..	6 „
				—
				51 „
				—

The shortage of Fever Nurses and of Domestic Staff during the year was rather serious and the permanent staff had not only to work overtime in nursing but also had to do a great part of the domestic work. Fortunately the strain was relieved later in the year when it was possible to obtain more nursing help. The loyal and ungrudging service of the staff during this period was highly commendable.

In comparison with 152 in 1940 and 143 in 1941, a total of 219 patients were admitted in 1942.

The following table describes the various cases of infectious diseases admitted during the year and the Districts from which they were received.

DIPHTHERIA.

As in 1941, the disease attacked one non-immunised child, who made a full recovery, in comparison with six in 1939 and eight in 1940. Since the war, conditions, especially increased aggregation have been very favourable for an outbreak, and it may be justifiably stated that the increasing numbers of children being immunised is placing an effective barrier against this possibility.

In the realization that immunisation is simple and safe more and more parents are having their children done and it is to be hoped that continued propaganda will in time have the effect that parents will regard immunisation as a routine health measure which must not be neglected. When this era is reached between two and three thousand valuable young lives will be saved to the Country every year.

	Ashford U.D.C.	East Ashford R.D.C.	West Ashford R.D.C.	Folkestone M.B.	Hythe M.B.	New Romney M.B.	Dover M.B.	Elham R.D.	Lydd M.B.	Military	
Scarlet Fever	35	28	17	18	6	1		1		2	109
Diphtheria	1	1		26	1	1		1		1	32
Para-typhoid Fever ..				1							1
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	1			2			1			1	5
Influenzal Meningitis ..		1									1
Measles	2		1			1				4	8
Mumps	4									35	39
Erysipelas	2									2	4
Chicken Pox	1									4	5
Puerperal Sepsis		1	1								2
Whooping Cough	1		1	1					1		4
Acute Tonsillitis			1		1	1					3
Broncho-Pneumonia ..			1								1
Influenza		1									1
Observation cases		4									4
										TOTAL	219

Sessions are arranged chiefly by appointment, and smaller numbers are immunised during the Infant Welfare Sessions.

Propaganda is continued in its various forms. Figures, enumerating the names and addresses of children under 15 years, are obtained from the Food Office and those who have not been immunised, are visited by the Health Visitors. It seems safe to state that few parents in this District do not know what immunisation against Diphtheria means and what facilities are provided by the Council.

The percentage of children immunised in 1942 showed a very satisfactory increase over the percentage of 1941, viz., 79—24% for the "under fives," and 66—03% for the "fives" to the "under

fifteens." As the death rate is highest amongst the "under fives" the former percentage is more gratifying.

SCARLET FEVER.

36 cases were notified during the year against 11 in 1941 and 16 in 1940. All these cases were removed to Hospital. There were no deaths or serious complications. 25 cases occurred amongst school-children most of whom were infected by acute cases. The disease, fortunately, is at the present time mild in character.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

In comparison with 6 and 5 notified cases in the years 1940 and 1941 respectively, one case occurred during 1942. The child made a complete recovery on Sulphapyridine Therapy.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case was notified and was removed to the Isolation Hospital. The patient made a full recovery.

Pneumonia. (Acute primary and Influenzal).

34 cases were notified. 7 patients were removed to General Hospitals. The total number of deaths was 13.

National figures suggest that cases of Pneumonia are being treated more effectively in Hospital than in the home, and these cases should be removed to Hospital whenever possible.

ERYSIPELAS.

5 cases were notified. 2 were removed to the Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths.

MEASLES.

The number of cases notified was 200, in comparison with 476 and 28 in 1940 and 1941 respectively. Two cases were removed to Hospital. There were no deaths. As in previous years, little use was made of the pool of serum available on the day of request from the County Laboratory, by Practitioners to prevent or attenuate an attack in exposed susceptible children

WHOOPIING COUGH.

44 cases were notified and one complicated case was removed to the Isolation Hospital. For prevention of an attack of this disease, it would seem that the efficacy of the vaccine has now been established and it is hoped that immunisation will soon be introduced on the same national basis as for Diphtheria. The national death-rate now approximates that of Diphtheria, and "it attacks approximately 70% of the child population, compared with the 5% of Diphtheria. The protracted nature of the infection and its age of attack are such as to cause much debility pre-disposing to secondary infection."

No other cases of notifiable infectious disease were notified in this District, as for example, Typhoid or Paratyphoid, Dysentery, Infantile Paralysis, etc.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

Scabies.

There were not so many cases of this contagion during the year as in 1941. 28 cases were discovered at Infant Welfare Centres and Schools and by Health Visitors and Practitioners. School-children are treated usually at the School Clinic and pre-school children and adults at their homes under the supervision of the Health Visitors or at the Hospital First Aid Post when home conditions are unsuitable. Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion treatment is used and found to be very effective. The bedding and personal clothing of the patients are disinfected at the Council Disinfector when considered necessary. War-time conditions aggravate the spread of this disease, the chief factor having been the introduction of many cases by the evacuees when this was a reception area and the aggregation of the population into closer personal contact.

However, the disease is well under control in this District and cases should become fewer and fewer as each fresh case is eradicated. The Scabies Order 1941, is very helpful in effecting treatment, and the threat of prosecution was successful in the recalcitrant cases.

Lice Infestation.

23 cases came to the notice of the Department, chiefly from Schools. Treatment was vigorously pursued until each patient was cleansed. Thorough inspection by the School Nurses and Health Visitors is keeping this infestation well in control.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES UNDER THE AGE GROUPS--1942.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	3	1	18	7	2	5	—	1	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	4	7	4	7	18	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	3	13	18	19	34	187	23	4	3	1	—	—
Pneumonia ..	3	1	2	1	2	2	—	2	8	7	5	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1942
(Civilians only)

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	37	37	Nil
Whooping Cough	42	1	Nil
Diphtheria	1	1	Nil
Erysipelas	5	2	Nil
Smallpox	—	—	—
Measles	305	2	—
Pneumonia	34	7	13
Septic Pyrexia	1	1	Nil
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	1	1	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis ..	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—

**PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGS.
1925 AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (SECTION 172)**

No action was taken under the above powers.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.	Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F.
0- ..								
1- ..			2	1			2	
5- ..			4	4	1			
15- ..	3	3		1	1			
25- ..	5	2		2				1
35- ..	3	1			2			
45- ..	1	1						
55- ..	1	1				1		
65 and upwards	1							
Totals ..	14	8	6	8	4	1	2	1

There were no non-notified tuberculous deaths during the year.

The dwellings of all patients suffering from tuberculosis are regularly inspected and unhygienic conditions are remedied as far as possible.

A.R.P. CASUALTY SERVICE.

This service has been adequate for the needs of the District up-to-date, as experience has shown, and all units, including paid and volunteer staffs, deserve commendation for the enthusiastic and efficient manner with which they have carried out their duties.

During the year there were six enemy raids, causing, unfortunately, the deaths of 13 persons. 11 seriously wounded casualties were removed to Hospital and 8 with minor injuries were treated at the First Aid Posts.

Arrangements are laid down for reinforcements to the Service by the Regional and County Authorities if necessary.



