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**BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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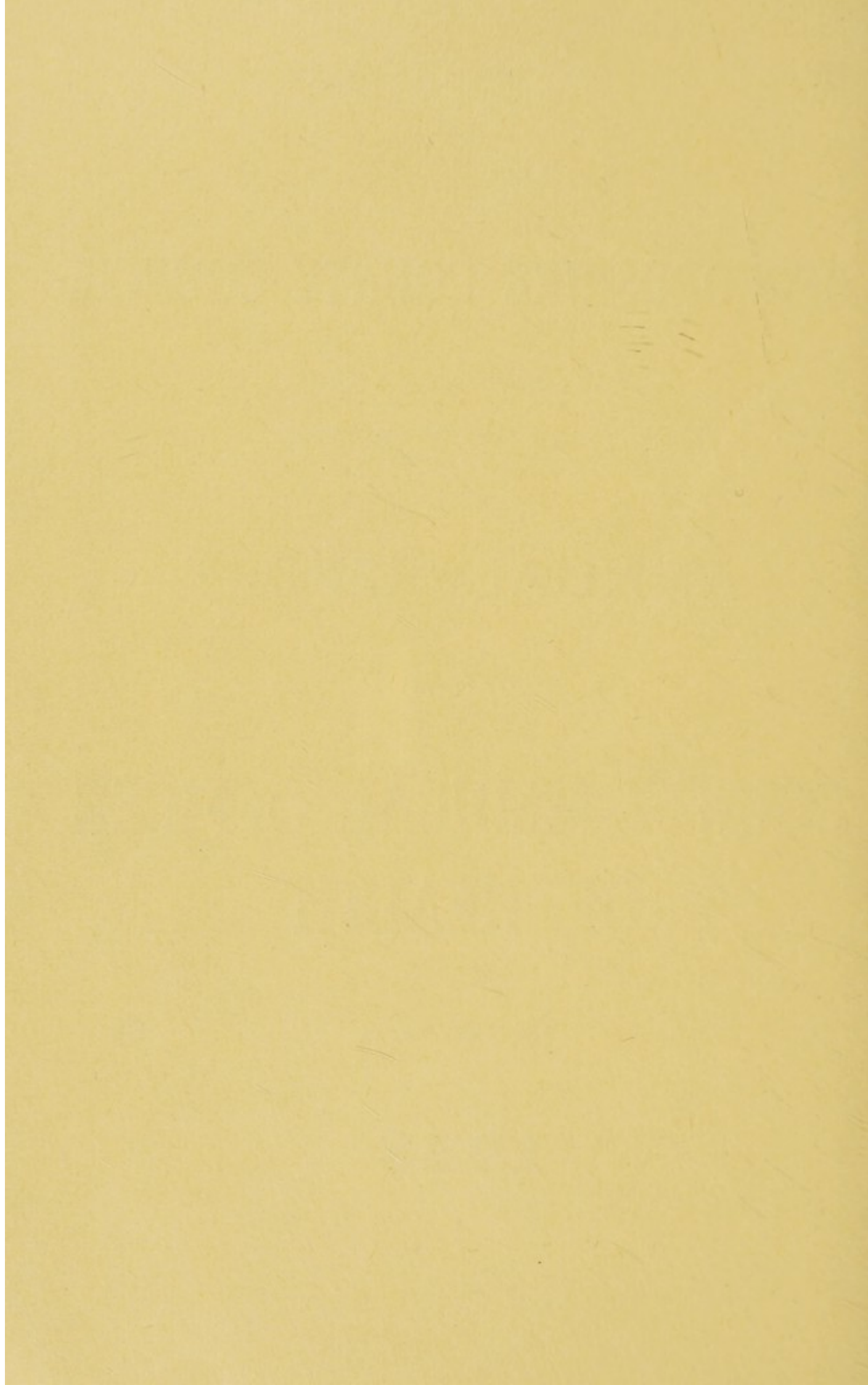
**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

**1938**



**BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

*upon the*

**SANITARY CONDITION  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

*of the*

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF BEDFORD**

*for the year*

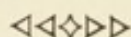
**1938**

*by*

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*County Medical Officer of Health.*



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### STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Details are omitted since the Personnel is as set out on pages 6, 7 and 8 of the Annual Report for 1937.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary circumstances of the County of Bedford, for the year 1938.

In April, 1939, when this Report would normally have been prepared, the Government requested Local Authorities so to arrange their work that during the following three months priority could be given to civil defence matters. It was, therefore, decided to postpone the publication of the Report. The sudden outbreak of hostilities caused a further postponement, and the Report now submitted has been abbreviated. It contains, however, full statistical information regarding the health of the County, so that a continuous record may be preserved.

During the year 1938, the population of the County is estimated to have increased by 8,120 persons as compared with 6,190 in the previous year.

The Birth Rate for Bedfordshire shows a further rise, being the highest recorded since 1925.

The Infantile Mortality rate was higher than in 1937, but still below the figure for England and Wales as a whole.

The corrected Death Rate for the County was slightly lower than in the year 1937, and is low in comparison with that of England and Wales as a whole.

The preparation of the A.R.P. Casualties Services Scheme for Bedfordshire, entailed a great deal of work, and I am pleased to report that in September, 1938, a Scheme was in being and was put into operation at the time of the Munich Crisis, *e.g.* preparations for the reception in Bedfordshire hospitals of 500 patients whom it was intended to transfer from London hospitals immediately on the outbreak of hostilities.

The Clerk of the Council has, as heretofore, been ever ready with his assistance and advice, and my thanks are due to the District Medical Officers of Health for their cordial co-operation at all times.

I should like to place on record my appreciation of the good work of the whole Staff of the Public Health Department during the past year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CUTHBERT G. WELCH,

*County Medical Officer of Health.*

SHIRE HALL, BEDFORD.

MARCH, 1940.



## BEDFORDSHIRE.

The area of the geographical and administrative County is 474 square miles, or 302,942 acres. Its greatest length from North to South is  $36\frac{1}{2}$  miles and its greatest breadth  $22\frac{1}{2}$  miles from East to West.

The County contains no County Boroughs but includes the three Non-County Boroughs of Bedford, Dunstable and Luton. There are in addition, five Urban Districts, and four Rural Districts.

At the 1st April, 1938, the rateable value was £1,568,970. The estimated produce of a penny rate for 1938-39 was for general County purposes, £6,144.

### VITAL STATISTICS. POPULATION.

The population of the County, according to the 1931 Census, was 220,525.

The aggregate resident population of the County, as estimated for the middle of 1938, by the Registrar General, was as follows :—

Urban Districts	Persons
Ampthill ... ..	2,350
Bedford ... ..	45,760
Biggleswade ... ..	5,980
Dunstable ... ..	13,760
Kempston ... ..	7,278
Leighton Buzzard ... ..	6,989
Luton ... ..	90,840
Sandy ... ..	3,243
Aggregate of Urban Districts ...	176,200
Rural Districts	
Ampthill ... ..	18,860
Bedford ... ..	26,400
Biggleswade ... ..	24,960
Luton ... ..	15,560
Aggregate of Rural Districts ...	85,780
The County	261,980

## BIRTHS.

The Birth-Rate for Bedfordshire for the year 1938 was 15.9 per thousand.

4,136 live births were registered in the County, 163 of which were illegitimate. The birth-rates per 1,000 for Bedfordshire and the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and for England and Wales for the last five years, are given below :—

LOCALITIES.	BIRTH RATE.				
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Urban Districts	14.1	14.9	15.0	15.7	16.3
Rural Districts	14.6	14.0	14.5	15.3	14.7
Whole County ...	14.3	14.6	14.8	15.5	15.9
England & Wales	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.9	15.1

A further small increase is shewn in the County birth rate, the present birth rate being the highest recorded since 1925. The birth rate for England and Wales also shews a slight increase.

*Natural increase of population* is the excess of births over deaths and is usually expressed per thousand of the population. In Bedfordshire the natural increase was 4.3 per thousand in 1938 ; that for England and Wales being 3.5 per thousand.

The following tables give the live birth statistics for the County districts for the year 1938 :—

URBAN DISTRICTS	TOTAL BIRTHS.	LEGITIMATE.	ILLEGITIMATE.	TOTAL BIRTH RATE.
Amphill ... ..	42	39	3	17.9
Bedford... ..	658	623	35	14.4
Biggleswade ... ..	91	88	3	15.2
Dunstable ... ..	243	232	11	17.7
Kempston ... ..	139	137	2	19.1
Leighton Buzzard ... ..	101	98	3	14.5
Luton ... ..	1,567	1,510	57	17.3
Sandy ... ..	31	31	—	9.6
Aggregate of Urban Districts ... ..	2,872	2,758	114	16.3

RURAL DISTRICTS.	TOTAL BIRTHS.	LEGITIMATE.	ILLEGITIMATE.	TOTAL BIRTH RATE.
Amphill ... ..	307	295	12	16.3
Bedford ... ..	365	356	9	14.0
Biggleswade ... ..	318	306	12	12.7
Luton ... ..	274	258	16	17.6
Aggregate of Rural Districts ... ..	1,264	1,215	49	14.7

### STILL BIRTHS.

The Still-Birth Rate for Bedfordshire for the year 1938, that is to say, the rate per thousand total births (live and still) was 33.9.

The Still-Birth Rate *per thousand of the population* for 1938 was 0.60, the same as that for England and Wales.

Particulars of still births registered in the County during the last five years, are set out in the following table :—

		TOTAL.		LEGITIMATE		ILLEGITIMATE.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Urban Districts	1934	45	38	43	37	2	1
	1935	37	50	34	47	3	3
	1936	63	48	62	48	1	—
	1937	53	50	50	46	3	4
	1938	48	45	46	42	2	3
Rural Districts	1934	22	11	21	11	1	—
	1935	20	21	19	21	1	—
	1936	18	19	18	19	—	—
	1937	14	15	13	14	1	1
	1938	30	22	28	21	2	1
Whole County	1934	67	49	64	48	3	1
	1935	57	71	53	68	4	3
	1936	81	67	80	67	1	—
	1937	67	65	63	60	4	5
	1938	78	67	74	63	4	4

### DEATHS.

The crude Death-Rate for Bedfordshire for the year 1938 was 10.6 per thousand ; that for England and Wales being 11.6 per thousand.

It will be observed that the death-rate for Bedfordshire is lower than in the previous year and also below that for England and Wales.

The total number of deaths registered in the County, after adjustment for outward and inward transfers, during 1938, was 2,785, compared with 2,920 in 1937.

The death-rates per thousand of the population for Bedfordshire and the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and for England and Wales, were as follows :—

LOCALITIES.	GENERAL DEATH RATE.				
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Urban Districts	11.5	10.9	11.1	11.2	10.7
Rural Districts	12.0	11.5	12.0	12.2	10.5
Whole County ...	11.7	11.1	11.4	11.5	10.6
England & Wales	11.8	11.7	12.1	12.4	11.6

The recorded crude Death Rates for the Sanitary Districts in Bedfordshire for 1937 and 1938 are given below :—

Urban Sanitary Districts.	Death Rate.		Rural Sanitary Districts.	Death Rate.	
	1937.	1938.		1937.	1938.
Amphill ... ..	12.4	15.3	Amphill ... ..	13.6	12.8
Bedford ... ..	11.8	12.1	Bedford ... ..	12.5	11.2
Biggleswade ... ..	13.3	14.2	Biggleswade ... ..	10.7	8.2
Dunstable ... ..	11.2	9.2	Luton ... ..	12.3	13.5
Kempston ... ..	10.0	11.7			
Leighton Buzzard... ..	14.6	12.6			
Luton ... ..	10.5	9.6			
Sandy ... ..	12.3	10.2			

### ADJUSTED DEATH RATES.

In order to obtain a more accurate index of the mortality of a district, and to arrive at a true basis on which to compare the mortality rates of one district with those of another, allowance must be made for the sex and age distribution of its population. In this connection the Registrar-General has supplied comparability factors for each separate district and the County as a whole. The application of these adjusting factors gives the corrected death rates for the County and for the separate sanitary districts thereof, which are as follows :—

Whole County ... ..	9.6
Urban Districts :—	
Amphill ... ..	8.9
Bedford ... ..	10.6
Biggleswade ... ..	11.9
Dunstable ... ..	8.6
Kempston ... ..	11.1
Leighton Buzzard ... ..	10.7
Luton ... ..	10.2
Sandy ... ..	8.4
Aggregate of Urban Districts ...	10.2
Rural Districts :—	
Amphill ... ..	10.0
Bedford ... ..	8.8
Biggleswade ... ..	7.1
Luton ... ..	12.3
Aggregate of Rural Districts ...	8.7

From an examination of the above table it will be seen that when the various circumstances have been taken into account, the corrected death rate for the County of Bedford is 9.6 as compared with the crude death rate of 10.6.



CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF  
THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD, 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATH	ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS											TOTALS		
	Amphill		Bedford		Biggleswade		Dunstable Borough	Kempston Urban	Leighton Buzzard Urban	Luton		Sandy Urban	U.D's, 1938	R.D's, 1938
	Urban	Rural	Borough	Rural	Urban	Rural				Borough	Rural			
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	5	4
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	1	4	4	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	6
Diphtheria ...	—	1	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	9	1	1	14	3
Influenza ...	1	6	8	5	4	1	3	2	1	7	5	—	26	17
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Tuberculosis of Resp. System...	1	9	23	11	2	4	11	3	2	45	2	1	88	26
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	—	4	5	3	—	1	3	2	1	7	1	—	18	9
Syphilis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	—
General Paralysis of the Insane	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tabes Dorsalis ...	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	7	31	78	45	14	45	14	11	12	115	23	8	268	144
Diabetes ...	—	4	6	5	3	6	4	1	3	16	—	1	34	15
Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c. ...	2	30	23	20	5	15	12	5	8	55	7	2	112	72
Heart Disease ...	12	72	127	56	16	48	27	20	30	195	32	6	433	208
Aneurysm ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	1
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	—	9	85	44	3	11	4	7	2	21	10	5	127	74
Bronchitis ...	4	5	13	11	3	4	4	2	3	21	7	—	50	27
Pneumonia (all forms)...	—	3	26	14	4	10	5	9	4	36	5	2	86	32
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	2	5	3	—	2	2	1	—	7	—	—	15	7
Septic Ulcer ...	—	3	5	3	—	1	2	1	—	13	1	—	21	8
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	—	1	2	1	2	—	2	—	—	10	—	—	16	2
Appendicitis ...	—	2	3	1	1	1	1	—	2	8	1	—	15	5
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	6	1
Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ...	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	7	3
Other Digestive Diseases ...	1	5	7	4	1	4	—	—	2	29	9	—	40	22
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	—	9	12	4	2	6	3	—	1	24	2	3	45	21
Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—
Other Puerperal Causes ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc....	—	9	26	8	1	9	8	6	5	47	5	—	93	31
Infantility ...	—	6	6	9	5	10	7	—	7	47	13	2	74	38
Suicide ...	—	2	5	1	1	—	2	2	1	16	3	—	27	6
Other Violence ...	4	4	30	13	3	10	6	3	1	39	12	—	86	39
Other Defined Diseases...	4	15	44	23	6	13	5	10	4	76	17	2	151	68
Causes ill-defined or unknown...	—	3	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	4	7
TOTALS: ALL CAUSES ...	36	242	555	295	85	204	126	87	88	872	161	33	1883	902

A comparative statement showing the chief causes of death in 1937 and 1938 is set out below :—

CAUSE OF DEATH.						1937	1938
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	632	641
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	433	412
Arterio-sclerosis and other circulatory diseases						185	201
Cerebral haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	170	184
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	114	118
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	...	116	114
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	89	77
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	143	43
TOTAL						1,882	1,790

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This is calculated as the proportion of deaths of children under one year of age to every 1,000 live births and forms the record known as the rate of infantile mortality.

The death-rates per thousand of the live births for Bedfordshire, the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and for England and Wales for the last five years are given below :—

LOCALITIES.	INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.				
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Urban Districts	47.5	44.9	40.5	40.1	51.5
Rural Districts	39.6	36.8	45.6	41.4	41.9
Whole County	44.8	42.4	42.1	40.5	47.1
England & Wales	59.0	57.0	59.0	58.0	53.0

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

During the year under review the number of maternal deaths was seven, the same as in the previous year.

The following table shows the maternal death rate for the County compared with that of England and Wales for the last five years.

	Year.	Live Births Registered.	No. of Maternal Deaths.	Rates per 1,000 Live Births registered.		
				Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Puerperal Causes.	Total Puerperal Mortality.
Bedfordshire	1934	3,280	18	3.35	2.13	5.48
	1935	3,421	16	2.63	2.05	4.68
	1936	3,678	17	1.36	3.26	4.60
	1937	3,947	7	—	1.77	1.77
	1938	4,136	7	0.48	1.21	1.69
England & Wales	1934	597,642	2,748	2.03	2.57	4.60
	1935	598,756	2,457	1.68	2.42	4.10
	1936	605,292	2,301	1.40	2.41	3.81
	1937	610,557	1,988	0.97	2.26	3.23
	1938	621,204	1,917	0.89	2.19	3.08

## CANCER

412 deaths were certified in 1938 as due to Cancer as compared with 433 in the previous year.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications of cases of Infectious Disease received during the year 1938, under Article 14 (2) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926.

	Administrative Areas												TOTALS
	Amphthill		Bedford		Biggleswade		Dunstable Urban	Kempston Urban	Leighton Buzzard Urban	Luton		Sandy Urban	
	Urban	Rural	Borough	Rural	Urban	Rural				Borough	Rural		
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	3	46	37	42	3	29	31	17	48	79	12	2	349
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup ... ..	—	29	36	9	43	8	12	1	32	152	13	2	337
Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid) ... ..	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4
Pneumonia ... ..	—	20	57	32	—	24	5	1	12	72	9	—	232
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	7
Acute Polio-Myelitis ... ..	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	8
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Dysentery... ..	—	—	13	1	—	—	3	—	—	10	—	—	27
Ophthalmia Neonatorum... ..	—	—	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	9	1	—	16
Erysipelas ... ..	—	4	8	6	1	11	7	—	3	21	3	1	68
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	2	14	—	—	1	1	—	—	19	—	—	37
TOTALS ... ..	3	103	174	93	48	74	61	19	96	373	38	5	1087

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified during 1938, were less than in the previous year.



**INFLUENZA.**

Forty-three deaths were attributed to Influenza during 1938 as compared with one hundred and forty-three in the previous year.

**SMALLPOX.**

One case, of a mild type, occurred at Leighton Buzzard during the year.

**DIPHThERIA.**

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified during 1938, was 337, as compared with 555 in 1937. Seventeen deaths were attributed to Diphtheria in 1938 as compared with 35 in the previous year.

**SCARLET FEVER.**

No deaths were attributed to Scarlet Fever in 1938. During this period 349 cases were notified as suffering from this disease.

**ENTERIC FEVER.**

(including Typhoid and Paratyphoid).

There were four cases of Enteric Fever notified during 1938, the same number as in the previous year. There were no deaths from this condition.

**PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA.**

There were two deaths from Puerperal Sepsis in the County in 1938. During the year 37 cases were notified as against 39 in the previous year.

**CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.**

Seven cases of this disease were notified during 1938, 4 of which died.

**ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.**

Two deaths from this disease occurred in the County in 1938.

**DIARRHOEA AND ENTERITIS.**

There were 18 deaths from these causes among children under two years of age.

## TUBERCULOSIS

There were 141 deaths registered from this cause in Bedfordshire in 1938, being 5 per cent of the total number of deaths from all causes, as compared with the previous year's total of 146 and 5 per cent respectively.

The following table shows the death-rates from pulmonary tuberculosis per thousand population for the County and the Urban and Rural Districts :—

DISTRICTS.	Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population.				
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Urban Districts ... ..	0.57	0.67	0.67	0.49	0.50
Rural Districts ... ..	0.41	0.45	0.41	0.38	0.30
Whole County ... ..	0.52	0.60	0.58	0.46	0.40

As will be seen from the above table, the death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis for the County for 1938 was 0.40, compared with 0.53 for England and Wales. The non-pulmonary tuberculosis death-rate for the County for 1938 was 0.10, as compared with 0.12 in the previous year, and the same as that for England and Wales.

The County death-rate from tuberculosis (all forms) per thousand of the population was 0.53, that for the combined Urban Districts being 0.60, and that for the combined Rural Districts being 0.40.

The following new cases of tuberculosis were notified, in accordance with the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, during 1938 :—

Pulmonary	Males	139	
	Females	130	
		—	269
Non-Pulmonary	Males	30	
	Females	32	
		—	62
			— 331

The total number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified was thirty-six in excess of the number notified during the previous year, whilst the non-pulmonary cases showed an increase of two.

The table overleaf shows the age periods of the new cases and all deaths from the disease in the County during 1938 :—

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES NOTIFIED				DEATHS			
	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	3
1 & under 5 years	5	4	3	6	—	—	3	4
5 „ „ 10 „	14	12	6	8	—	—	2	2
10 „ „ 15 „	5	8	8	3	} 13	11	5	2
15 „ „ 20 „	11	15	—	2				
20 „ „ 25 „	21	28	4	5	} 13	18	2	—
25 „ „ 35 „	33	28	5	4				
35 „ „ 45 „	23	19	—	3	16	11	—	—
45 „ „ 55 „	17	9	1	—	9	3	—	—
55 „ „ 65 „	9	4	—	—	10	8	—	—
65 and upwards	1	3	1	—	1	1	1	1
<b>TOTALS</b> ...	<b>139</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>

39 other cases (20 males and 19 females) came to the notice of your Medical Officer other than by notification as required by the Regulations, *e.g.*, Death Returns, Inward Transfers, etc.

77 per cent. of the new cases notified under the Regulations were examined by the Council's Tuberculosis Officers.

The number of cases remaining on the Register of Notifications on December 31st, 1938, was 1,834 pulmonary (927 males and 907 females) and 711 non-pulmonary (352 males and 359 females) making a total of 2,545.

The total number on the Register on the last day of the previous year was 2,423.

These figures show that approximately 9 per 1,000 of the population of Bedfordshire were known to be suffering from tuberculosis last year.

During the year 30 cases were removed from the Register as "Recovered from the disease."

### Dispensaries.

For Dispensary purposes, the County is divided into three areas, namely, Bedford, Luton and Biggleswade.

The Dispensaries are open on the following days in each week and between the times stated :—

Dispensary at	Day	Time
Dents Road, Bedford ...	Thursday ...	10.30—12.30
St. Andrew's Rooms, Biggleswade	Wednesday ...	11—1
17, Church Street, Luton ...	Tuesday (Children)	12—1
	„ (Men)	2—5
	Thursday (Women)	2.30—5

On January 1st, 1938, the total number of names on the Registers of the three Dispensaries was ... .. 1,125

During the year the following cases were added :—

“ Lost sight of ” cases returned	...	...	...	...	13
From other Counties	...	...	...	...	19

**New Cases examined and found to be :—**

Definitely Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	238
Doubtfully tuberculous	...	...	...	...	1
Non-tuberculous	...	...	...	...	367

**Contacts examined and found to be :—**

Definitely Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	20
Non-tuberculous	...	...	...	...	122

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1,905

Of this number 690 were written off for the following reasons :—

Recovered...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Non-tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	492
Transferred to other Counties or “ Lost sight of ”	...	...	...	...	...	70
Dead (all causes)	...	...	...	...	...	95
						<hr/> 690

Number remaining on 31st December, 1938 ... 1,215

The number of cases remaining on the Registers at the end of 1938 was therefore 1,215, classified as follows :—

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>
438	406	125	69	74	102
<i>together with one “ doubtfully tuberculous ” case</i>					

The number of attendances at the Dispensaries during 1938 (including contacts) was 2,457, and 2,395 visits were paid to the homes of patients by the Tuberculosis Nurse and the Council's Health Visitors.

All cases on the Dispensary Register are visited from time to time by the Council's Health Visitors, and visits and examinations are made by the Tuberculosis Officers as and when required.

During the year 513 consultations took place with medical practitioners, and in addition 318 visits were paid to patients at their homes by the Tuberculosis Officers.

808 specimens of sputum, etc., were examined during the year.

449 Domiciliary Reports on Progress (Form G.P. 36) were received during the year from Panel practitioners with regard to insured persons suffering from tuberculosis. The number of insured persons under domiciliary treatment on 31st December, 1938, was 131.

Patients suffering from lupus and other forms of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, attend for treatment at the Institute of Ray Therapy in Luton. A total of 534 attendances were made by these patients during the year.

By an arrangement with the Bedford County Hospital and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton, X-Ray examinations in connection with the Council's Tuberculosis Scheme are made at these Hospitals. During 1938, 392 such examinations were made.

### **Extra Nourishment.**

As in past years extra nourishment has been granted to suitable cases, all applications being investigated by a special Sub-Committee appointed for this purpose. Every effort is made to see that the milk supplied is of an approved quality, and wherever possible "Accredited" milk is given. The cost of this service during the financial year ended 31st March, 1939, was £490 4s. 7d., as compared with £353 5s. 11d. in the previous twelve months.

### **Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium.**

Institutional treatment for cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, and suitable cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (glandular) is provided at the Council's Sanatorium, situated at Mogerhanger Park. The Sanatorium has accommodation for 73 beds; 37 male, 36 female. During the year 1938, 121 cases completed treatment at the Sanatorium. One other case was admitted for observation and subsequently discharged as non-tuberculous. In 84 cases the disease was either quiescent or the condition much improved, 16 failed to improve, and 21 died in the Institution. One valuable means of lessening the spread of tuberculosis is by removing persons seriously affected with the disease from their homes to the Sanatorium; this arrangement results in increased comfort to the sufferer, and greater security to other members of the household. Patients in all stages of tuberculosis are admitted to appropriate wards at the Sanatorium.

The average cost of treatment per patient during the financial year ended 31st March, 1938, was £2 17s. 6d. per week. The average number of beds occupied during this period was 57.

The County Dentists continue to visit the Sanatorium to attend those patients who are found to be in need of dental treatment.

The following table shows the condition at the end of 1938 of all patients who have received treatment at the Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium since it was opened on the 18th November, 1921 :—

Condition as at 31st December, 1938.	CLASSIFICATION ON ADMISSION.													TOTAL CASES.		
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.									Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.						
	Early.			Intermediate.			Advanced.			Total.					Tot	
	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.		M.	F.	Ch.			
<i>Discharged during the five years ending 31/12/26—</i>																
Recovered ...	27	36	25	12	20	1	...	2	...	123	...	1	10	11	134	
Disease Quiescent ...	8	8	5	12	3	...	1	...	...	37	...	2	3	5	42	
Disease Active ...	5	3	1	4	4	...	1	...	...	18	...	...	...	...	18	
Non-Tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	
Patient Dead ...	62	41	4	98	44	3	58	37	8	355	...	...	4	4	359	
Transferred to other Areas and Lost Sight Of	22	39	10	8	19	...	4	1	...	103	2	...	5	7	110	
Total	124	127	45	134	90	4	64	40	8	636	2	3	22	27	669	
<i>Discharged during the five years ending 31/12/31—</i>																
Recovered ...	23	37	27	6	7	1	...	...	...	101	1	2	33	36	137	
Disease Quiescent ...	27	27	15	4	5	1	...	...	...	79	...	1	18	19	98	
Disease Active ...	5	7	3	8	4	...	...	...	...	27	...	...	...	...	27	
Non-Tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Patient Dead ...	69	63	3	110	71	1	38	24	1	380	1	...	3	4	384	
Transferred to other Areas and Lost Sight Of	26	32	23	11	15	...	1	...	...	108	...	1	14	15	123	
Total	150	166	71	139	102	3	39	24	1	695	2	4	68	74	770	
<i>Discharged during the five years ending 31/12/36—</i>																
Recovered ...	1	10	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	16	...	...	3	3	19	
Disease Quiescent ...	29	20	37	29	14	2	...	...	...	131	1	...	10	11	142	
Disease Active ...	6	5	4	12	15	...	3	1	...	46	...	1	...	1	47	
Non-Tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Patient Dead ...	14	7	3	76	68	2	60	57	...	287	3	1	...	4	291	
Transferred to other Areas and Lost Sight Of	12	12	6	8	12	1	...	1	...	52	...	2	1	3	55	
Total	62	54	51	127	109	6	63	60	...	532	4	4	14	22	559	
<i>Discharged during 1937—</i>																
Recovered* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Disease Quiescent ...	2	4	12	15	10	...	...	...	...	43	...	...	1	1	44	
Disease Active ...	3	2	4	11	6	...	1	1	...	28	...	2	...	2	30	
Non-Tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Patient Dead ...	1	...	1	11	7	1	12	6	1	40	...	...	...	...	40	
Transferred to other Areas and Lost Sight Of	...	...	1	1	7	...	...	2	...	11	...	...	...	...	11	
Total	6	6	18	38	30	1	13	9	1	122	...	2	1	3	127	
<i>Discharged during 1938—</i>																
Recovered* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Disease Quiescent ...	3	6	15	17	10	...	1	...	...	52	...	...	...	...	52	
Disease Active ...	1	1	2	15	13	...	1	1	...	34	...	...	...	...	34	
Non-Tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Patient Dead ...	...	...	...	5	5	...	11	6	1	28	...	...	...	...	28	
Transferred to other Areas and Lost Sight Of	...	...	...	3	1	...	1	1	...	6	...	1	...	1	7	
Total	4	7	17	40	29	...	14	8	1	120	...	1	...	1	122	

\* No patient is considered to be "Recovered" until five years have elapsed since the disease became quiescent.

The results shown compare very favourably with those published by other similar Institutions.

### Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 172.

It was not found necessary during 1938 to apply for any Orders under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis, cases of the disease specified under this Section having voluntarily agreed to removal to the Council's Institution.

### Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Cases of tuberculosis of the bones, joints, etc., in adults and children are dealt with by securing their admission to Institutions recognised by the Ministry of Health for this purpose. Among those made use of by the Council are the following :—

Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate.

Creton Sanatorium, Northamptonshire.

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (Country Branch), Stanmore.

Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College, Alton.

St. Martin's Orthopaedic Hospital, Pyrford.

St. George's Convalescent Branch Hospital, Wimbledon.

Wingfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Headington, Oxford.

Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton.

Victoria Home, Margate.

Papworth Village Settlement, Cambridge.

Burrow Hill Sanatorium Colony, Frimley.

It will be observed that some of these Institutions are at a considerable distance from Bedfordshire, and the travelling expenses to and from these Institutions are, therefore, somewhat high. In cases where the patients are unable to meet these costs, the whole or part is paid by the County Council.

In cases where the circumstances of the patients make it impossible for them to bear the cost of surgical appliances, the necessary expenditure is met by the County Council.

### Residential Treatment.

The following Table shows the extent of institutional treatment (other than in Public Assistance Institutions) afforded to Bedfordshire patients :—

			In Insti- tutions on 1/1/38	Admitted during the year	Disch'ged during the year	Died in Insti- tutions	Remain- ing in on 31/12/38
Adults	Men	...	40	95	71	17	47
	Women	...	28	72	61	7	32
Children	...	...	24	42	40	1	25
Total	...	...	92	209	172	25	104

Of the total of 104 patients remaining in Institutions on the 31st December, 1938, 57 were receiving treatment in the Council's Sanatorium at Mogerhanger. The remaining 47 were receiving treatment in one or other of the Institutions named on page 20.

On comparing these figures with those of the previous year, it is seen that the number of patients admitted to Institutions during 1938 was 45 more than the number admitted during 1937.

46 persons suffering from tuberculosis received treatment in the Public Assistance Institutions during the year. When advisable, arrangements are made for the transfer of the patients to the Sanatorium; in some instances complications render such transfer impossible or unsuitable.

### Shelters.

The Council own 19 Shelters which are loaned to suitable patients. Three new Shelters were purchased during the year to replace those beyond repair.

This provision has proved of great service, particularly to patients who have become accustomed to sleeping in plenty of fresh air whilst in sanatoria. Special visits are made to patients to whom shelters have been loaned to ascertain that they are being used for the purpose for which they are supplied.

### VENEREAL DISEASES.

Dr. G. R. Painton, Medical Officer in charge of the Venereal Diseases Clinics, has furnished me with the following particulars :—

The Clinics are open on the following days in each week and between the times stated :—

CLINIC AT	DAY	TIME
Bedford County Hospital ...	Wednesdays ...	... Women, 5.0—6.30 p.m. Men, 6.45—7.45 p.m.
	Fridays ...	... Women 2—3 p.m. Men, 3.15—4.15 p.m.
Luton and Dunstable Hospital Luton ...	Wednesdays	... Women, 2—3 p.m. Men, 3.15 to 4.15 p.m.
	Fridays ...	... Women, 5.0—6.30 p.m. Men, 6.45—7.45 p.m.





## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The population of the area served by the Council for Maternity and Child Welfare services is 127,370.

### HEALTH VISITING.

The following table gives particulars of the visits paid by the Council's Health Visitors, under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, during the year :—

Visits to Expectant Mothers	...	...	...	972
Primary visits to infants under one year	...	...	...	1,846
Revisits to infants under one year	...	...	...	12,366
Visits to children between one and five years	...	...	...	23,101
Special visits to " orthopaedic " cases under five years of age	...	...	...	67
				38,352
				38,352

### INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are eighteen Infant Welfare Centres provided or subsidised by the County Council, at each of which one of the Council's Health Visitors is an active worker.

The Council's Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare work attends each centre with the exception of Pottton, Woburn, Harrold, Caddington and Toddington. At Pottton, the centre is under the care of Dr. C. A. Harvey, whilst arrangements have been made by the Council for local practitioners to attend at two other centres, Dr. R. F. M. Fawcett attending at Toddington and Dr. J. E. S. Smith at Caddington.

Details of attendances, etc., at the Infant Welfare Centres during the year 1938 are set out in the table on the next page.

Dr. G. K. Bowes (Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Bedford) has kindly supplied the following figures in respect of the two Infant Welfare Centres in the **Borough of Bedford** :—

Total attendances during the year	...	...	15,019
No. of individual children attending Welfare Centres	...	...	1,128
Ante-Natal attendances	...	...	1,121
Post-Natal attendances	...	...	83

Dr. F. Grundy (Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Luton) has kindly supplied the following figures in respect of the eight Infant Welfare Centres in the **Borough of Luton** :—

Total attendances during the year	...	...	38,861
No. of individual children attending Welfare Centres	...	...	3,750
Ante-Natal attendances	...	...	4,704
Post-Natal attendances	...	...	506

## ATTENDANCES AT THE INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Day and Time	No. of infants who attended the Centre for first time during year		No. of infants attending during the year who at the end of the year were		Total attendances of infants		No. of Consultations with Council's Medical Officer	No. of Sessions held during year
		Under 1 year	Between 1—5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1—5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1—5 years		
		AMPTHILL Social Hall ...	Friday (Weekly)	54	2	46	85		
ARLESEY Methodist Schoolroom	Monday (Fortnightly)	29	1	19	23	323	311	548	23
BIGGLESWADE St. Andrew's Rooms	Tuesday (Weekly)	71	22	50	123	860	913	613	49
CADDINGTON Church Hall ...	Tuesday (Weekly)	35	30	30	116	519	716	415	48
CRANFIELD Baptist Schoolroom ...	Tuesday (Fortnightly)	19	6	14	34	180	142	221	26
DUNSTABLE Methodist School-room ...	Tuesday and Friday (Weekly)	197	35	142	260	2971	2441	1063	76
HARROLD The Institute, Harrold	3rd Wednesday	14	6	14	41	30	190	†—	11
The Recreation Hut, Carlton	Last Wednesday								
HOUGHTON REGIS Baptist Schoolroom ...	Wednesday (Weekly)	52	25	40	128	1054	1177	607	52
KEMPSTON Council Offices ...	Thursday (Weekly)	110	19	88	171	1616	1026	638	52
LEIGHTON BUZZARD Premises at Water Lane ...	Friday (Weekly)	85	14	73	136	1055	2301	725	51
POTTON Parish Hall ...	Wednesday (Fortnightly)	31	5	29	22	381	399	546	25
SHARNBROOK, Church Hall ...	Thursday (Fortnightly)	19	9	13	71	58	512	262	23
SHEFFORD Methodist Schoolroom	Wednesday (Weekly)	54	8	35	19	552	486	456	26
STEWARTBY Stewartby Club ...	Tuesday (Weekly)	23	7	18	53	585	653	365	50
STOTFOLD Unionist Club ...	Monday (Fortnightly)	43	7	21	28	467	464	591	24
TODDINGTON Wesley Hall ...	Tuesday (Weekly)	31	6	31	71	612	752	785	49
TURVEY ...	1st Thursday	6	4	6	22	24	137	†—	11
WOBURN Town Hall ...	1st and 3rd Wednesday	8	1	6	21	58	231	†—	22
TOTALS		881	207	675	1424	12345	13522	8505	643

† The Council's Medical Officer does not attend at these Centres.

### ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

The following table gives details of the attendances, etc., at each Clinic during the year 1938.

Clinic	Day and Time	Total number of attendances	Total number of Women attending	No. of Sessions held
BIGGLESWADE St. Andrew's Rooms ... ..	Tuesdays (Fortnightly) 10.30	156	51	24
DUNSTABLE Methodist Schoolroom	Thursday (Fortnightly) 10.30 and 2.30	312	121	21
LEIGHTON BUZZARD Premises at Water Lane	Friday (Fortnightly) 10.30	153	68	25
SHEFFORD Methodist Schoolroom	Wednesday (Fortnightly) 10.30	181	63	19
STOTFOLD Unionist Club ...	Monday (Fortnightly) 10.30	126	36	19
		928	339	108

In addition to the above Clinics an Ante-Natal Clinic is provided at the Bedford County Hospital's Maternity Department which is available for the use of women living in the County Area. The Clinic is held on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30.

### DENTAL TREATMENT

The following table gives particulars of the work performed by the County Dentists in connection with the Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics during the year :—

Clinic		Extractions			Fillings	Other Operations				No. of Cases Treated
		Anaesthetic		Total		Dressings	Scalings	Miscellaneous	Total	
		Local	Gas							
Biggleswade	Mothers	189	—	189	11	—	3	—	3	65
	Infants	23	4	27	1	—	—	—	—	12
Dunstable	Mothers	7	189	196	27	8	26	4	38	105
	Infants	15	25	40	3	7	—	1	8	29
Kempston	Mothers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Infants	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	1
Leighton Buzzard	Mothers	10	99	109	14	1	11	12	24	54
	Infants	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Totals ...		247	322	569	56	16	40	17	73	269

Artificial Dentures have also been supplied under the Council's scheme to eleven other patients by private dental practitioners.

### MILK GRANTS.

During the financial year, 1938, 22,548 pints of liquid milk were supplied to infants, expectant and nursing mothers, at a total cost of £286 12s. 4d. as compared with £161 7s. 9d. in the previous twelve months, and 1,514 tins of dried milk were also supplied. A special Sub-Committee investigates each case, and usually grants are discontinued when the child reaches the age of twelve months, or sooner in those instances where the financial circumstances of the parents have sufficiently improved to warrant its withdrawal. Grants were made in 245 cases.

### INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.

During the year under review 97 cases were admitted to the Maternity Department of the County Hospital in accordance with the arrangement made by the County Council with that Institution, as compared with 80 in the previous year. The average duration of stay was 14 days.

Under arrangements made by the County Council with the Luton Corporation 67 cases were admitted to the Luton Maternity Hospital during the year.

The Bedford and County Girls' Home provides accommodation for 16 mothers and their infants. During 1938, 49 cases were admitted, the same number as in 1937. This Institution is maintained by the St. Albans' Diocesan Girls' Aid Association to which the County Council contributes an annual sum of £345 17s. 4d. An annual grant is also made by the Bedford Town Council.

The number of maternity cases admitted to the Public Assistance Institutions in the County during the last five years is shown in the following table :—

INSTITUTION	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Ampthill ... ..	—	—	1	—	—
Bedford (St. Peter's Hospital) ... ..	81	79	108	139	154
Biggleswade ... ..	1	11	1	1	—
Luton ... ..	22	22	41	18	26
Leighton Buzzard ... ..	—	2	1	—	—

The average duration of stay at St. Peter's Hospital and the Luton Institution was fourteen days.

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MIDWIVES ACTS.

The number of midwives who notified their intention to practise midwifery within the Administrative area of the County during 1938 was 94 as against 122 in the preceding year.

The total number of Midwives practising at the end of the year in the Administrative area of the County was :—

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Totals
(a) Employed by the Local Supervising Authority	—	4	4
(b) (i) under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Author- ity in pursuance of Section 1 of the Midwives Act, 1936	54	—	54
(ii) others ... ..	2	—	2
(c) In private practice	25	—	25
Totals	81	4	85

The following table shows the number of notifications received from Midwives during the past five years :—

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Of intention to practise.....	116	129	125	122	94
Of change of address .....	10	22	12	27	18
Of change of name .....	—	1	1	1	—
Of sending for medical help .....	345	333	366	258	276
Of still-births occurring in their practice .....	20	26	22	12	12
Of deaths occurring in their { Mothers practice ..... { Infants	— 10	1 11	1 12	1 4	— 4
Of laying out the dead .....	17	8	10	8	18
Of liability to be a source of infection	30	30	17	13	19
Totals	548	561	566	446	441

*Still-births*—As will be seen from the above table twelve still-births occurred in midwives' practices during the year. All were legitimate. Enquiries were made in respect of each case and in each case the mother was engaged in household duties.

*Puerperal Pyrexia*—3 cases attended by Midwives were notified as suffering from Puerperal Pyrexia during 1938.

*Ophthalmia*—Inflammation or discharge from the eyes, however slight. Central Midwives Board Rule E. 12 (5). During 1938 9 cases were reported.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum*—Two cases occurred in midwives' practices during 1938. In each case as the result of treatment the vision was unimpaired.

Each midwife is given a supply of collosal argenticum for routine use in the care of infants' eyes. Prompt enquiries are made into every case of "inflamed eyes" occurring in a midwife's practice.

#### INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by the County Council Inspectors of Midwives during 1938, as compared with the previous four years :—

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Routine visits of inspection	285	265	265	235	218
Visits paid but midwives not at home ... ..	178	169	158	59	47
Special enquiry visits arising from notifications ...	481	492	562	369	416
Other visits and enquiries ...	281	274	209	121	158
Total	1225	1200	1194	784	839

Each midwife who has given notice of her intention to practise in the Council's area has been asked to make a return of the number of cases she has attended during the year (*a*) as a midwife, and (*b*) as a maternity nurse (*i.e.*, acting under a medical practitioner), and a summary of the Returns is set out on the next page :—

	Domiciliary Cases	Cases in Institutions	Totals
(a) Employed by the Council			
As Midwives ... ..	—	161	161
As Maternity Nurses ... ..	—	20	20
(b) Employed by Voluntary Associations :			
(i) under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of Section 1 of the Midwives Act, 1936			
As Midwives ... ..	602	—	602
As Maternity Nurses ... ..	493	—	493
(ii) others			
As Midwives ... ..	1	—	1
As Maternity Nurses ... ..	7	—	7
(c) In private practice			
As Midwives ... ..	172	47	219
As Maternity Nurses ... ..	116	15	131
Totals { As Midwives ... ..	775	208	983
As Maternity Nurses ... ..	616	35	651

During the year, 222 claims under Section 14 of the Midwives Act, 1918, were received from doctors, amounting to £326 6s. 9d. The sum of £99 2s. 0d. was recovered from patients during the year.

### NURSING HOMES.

The County Council is the Local supervising authority for the whole County with the exception of the Boroughs of Bedford and Luton.

On 31st December, 1938, the number of premises registered in the Council's area was four (as Maternity Homes 3, as a Nursing Home 1), providing a total accommodation of 4 beds for maternity cases and 22 for surgical and medical cases.

The number of registered premises in the **Borough of Bedford** was eight, providing accommodation for 28 maternity cases and 29 other cases.

The number of registered premises in the **Borough of Luton** was four, providing accommodation for 8 maternity cases and 23 other cases.

### INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

During the year 1938, 280 visits (36 of which were primary visits) were made to children under the age of nine who are being maintained for reward apart from their parents or relatives.



Generally speaking, the children were found to be well looked after, receiving both care and affection, being in fact, treated as members of the family. In no case was it found necessary to make an Order for the removal of the child.

The number of such children under the age of 9 living in the administrative area of the County on the 31st December, 1938, was 63.

Dr. G. K. Bowes, the Medical Officer of Health for the **Borough of Bedford**, reports that 10 primary visits were made by his Health Visitors, and 73 periodical and special visits.

Dr. F. Grundy, the Medical Officer of Health for the **Borough of Luton**, reports that during the year 399 visits were made by his Health Visitors. The number of infants on the Register on the 31st December, 1938, was 11.

## THE MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The work of this branch of the Public Health Department is fully reported upon in the Annual Report on the School Medical Service, but in accordance with the custom of past years the following statistical information is included :—

Among the 7,365 elementary school children examined, 651 were recommended to have treatment for some defect, excluding decayed teeth and verminous conditions—a slightly larger proportion than was found in 1937. Of the 853 scholars attending Secondary Schools examined by the Council's Medical Officers, 82 were found to require some form of medical treatment.

The defects found are classified in the following table :—

	<i>Elementary Schools</i>		<i>Secondary Schools</i>	
Diseases of the Skin ...	in	18 children	in	1 child
External Eye Disease ...	„	33	„	1 „
Defective Vision and Squint	„	274	„	64 children
Diseases of the Ear and				
Deafness ... ..	„	42	„	2 „
Chronic Tonsillitis only	„	34	„	1 child
Adenoids only ... ..	„	12	„	—
Chronic Tonsillitis and				
Adenoids ... ..	„	106	„	2 children
Heart Disease ... ..	„	12	„	—
Anaemia ... ..	„	4	„	1 child
Tuberculosis ... ..	„	3	„	—
Rickets, Spinal Curvature and				
other deformities ...	„	44	„	5 children
Miscellaneous ... ..	„	101	„	7 „
Totals ... ..		683		84



(3)	Attendances made by the children for treatment	...	4460
(4)	Fillings	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Permanent Teeth} \dots 2142 \\ \text{Temporary Teeth} \dots 217 \end{array} \right\}$	Total 2359
(5)	Extractions	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Permanent Teeth} \dots 1099 \\ \text{Temporary Teeth} \dots 5822 \end{array} \right\}$	Total 6921
(6)	Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions		327
(7)	Other operations to permanent or temporary teeth (Scaling, etc.)	... ..	789

The following is the record of the work performed at Secondary Schools during 1938 :—

(1) Number of **Secondary School** Children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist—

		10	...	...	30		
		11	...	...	96		
		12	...	...	114		
		13	...	...	118		
	Routine	14	...	...	121	} Total	... 597
	Age Groups	15	...	...	70		
		16	...	...	32		
		17	...	...	13		
		18	...	...	3		
	Specials	...	...	...	...		
	Grand Total	...	...	...	...	...	601

(b) Found to require treatment ... .. 543

(c) Actually treated ... .. 290

(2)	Half-days devoted to	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Inspection} \quad 9 \\ \text{Treatment} \quad 87 \end{array} \right\}$	Total	96
(3)	Attendances made by the children for treatment	...	393	
(4)	Fillings	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Permanent Teeth} \dots 470 \\ \text{Temporary Teeth} \dots \text{—} \end{array} \right\}$	Total	470
(5)	Extractions	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Permanent Teeth} \dots 145 \\ \text{Temporary Teeth} \dots 11 \end{array} \right\}$	Total	156
(6)	Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions		28	
(7)	Other operations to permanent or temporary teeth (Scaling, etc.)	... ..	119	

## PUBLIC VACCINATION.

The following Statistics for the whole County have been compiled from the Monthly Returns of the Vaccination Officers.

	VACCINATION DISTRICT										TOTALS
	BEDFORD	BIGGLES- WADE	AMPTHILL	WOBURN	LUTON	DUN- STABLE	LEIGHTON BUZZARD	WYM- INGTON	EATON SOCON		
No. of Cases outstanding on 31/12/37 ...	619	126	96	43	493	49	18	1	12		1457
No. of children shown on Birth Sheets received during 1938 ...	1227	364	172	125	1750	226	128	16	44	56	4052
	1846	490	268	168	2243	275	146	17			5509
Successfully Vaccinated ...	158	36	17	21	191	21	1		10		455
Insusceptible of Vaccina- tion ...	3	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	9
Died Unvaccinated ...	54	8	6	1	83	5	7	1	—	—	165
Declarations of Conscien- tious Objection ...	934	289	151	97	1331	181	122	11	34	44	3150
	1149	333	176	121	1607	207	130	12	—	—	3779
No. of Cases outstanding on 31/12/38 ...	697	157	92	47	636	68	16	5	12		1730

It will be observed from the foregoing table that during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1938, 4,052 births were entered on the Births Lists received by the Vaccination Officers, which, together with the number outstanding from the previous year (1,457), made a total of 5,509.

Of this number, 455 were successfully vaccinated, and declarations of conscientious objection were made in respect of 3,150 infants. Of the remainder, 165 died unvaccinated; 9 were found to be insusceptible of vaccination; and 1730 had either left the County or were otherwise outstanding at the end of the year.

In order to obtain as accurate a figure as possible to represent the percentage of children vaccinated in the County, the records in respect of the births returned for the previous twelve months have been examined. From 1st January, 1937, to 31st December, 1937, 3,835 births were returned. By the end of January, 1939, these births had been accounted for as follows:—

Successfully vaccinated	...	...	...	...	428
Insusceptible of vaccination	...	...	...	...	9
Number in respect of whom Declarations of conscientious objection were made	...	...	...	...	3,054
Died unvaccinated	...	...	...	...	127
Vaccination postponed	...	...	...	...	13
Cases outstanding	...	...	...	...	204
					—
					3,835
					—

It will therefore be seen that of the births dealt with only 12.52% were vaccinated. With regard to the remaining 87.48% the parents declined to allow vaccination on the grounds of conscientious objection.

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS.

Plans have been prepared for the reconstruction and extension of the Luton Public Assistance Institution and for extensions and alterations at the Bedford Public Assistance Institution. Plans have also been prepared for building an entirely new Infirmary at Biggleswade.

Until these extensions have been carried out it will not be possible to close any of the smaller Institutions.

The following table gives brief particulars of the five Institutions in Bedfordshire :—

Name and Situation	Area Served		No. of Sick Wards	Beds available for sick, maternity, and mental cases at 31/12/38			
	Acreage	Pop. acc. to 1931 Census		Men	Women	Children under 16	Total
Ampthill Public Assistance Institution, Ampthill ... ..	69,992	22,151	7	49	28	3	80
Bedford Public Assistance Institution (St. Peters Hospital), Kimbolton Rd., Bedford...	118,864	70,298	13	52	64	12	128
Biggleswade Public Assistance Institution, Biggleswade ... ..	58,275	29,946	9	27	28	2	57
Luton Public Assistance Institution, 11a, Dunstable Rd., Luton ... ..	39,779	87,164	26	81	107	16	204
Leighton Buzzard Public Assistance Institution, Leighton Buzzard ... ..	16,032	10,966	1	25	30	—	55
Total	302,942	220,515	56	234	257	33	524

Particulars of admissions, discharges, etc., during the year are set out below :—

Name of Institution.	Patients in on 1/1/38.	Admissions during the year (including infants born in the Institution)	Deaths.	Discharges.	Patients remaining in on 31/12/38.
Ampthill ... ..	58	72	35	37	58
Bedford ... ..	117	1132	208	917	113
Biggleswade ... ..	44	107	25	83	43
Luton ... ..	178	861	177	686	176
Leighton Buzzard...	34	40	20	21	33
Total	431	2212	465	1744	423

The table printed on the next page gives information with regard to the classification of the patients treated during 1938.



## VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.

The new Luton and Dunstable Hospital (158 beds) which replaces the former Bute Hospital, Luton, was opened by Her Majesty Queen Mary on February 14th, 1939. The existing Bute Hospital Buildings have been purchased by the County Council in connection with the extension of the Luton Public Assistance Institution.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The following particulars with regard to ambulance provisions for accident and non-infectious cases are included in this Report as a ready means of reference for Medical Officers and others concerned :—

<i>Owned by :—</i>	<i>Stationed at :—</i>
Bedfordshire County Council ... (Public Assistance Committee) (Telephone : Luton 2872) (Public Assistance Committee) (Telephone : Bedford 3322).	Public Assistance Institution, 11A, Dunstable Road, Luton. Public Assistance Institution, Kimbolton Rd., Bedford.
(National Insurance Act Committee) (Telephone : Blunham 203) (Public Health, &c., Committee) (Telephone : Bedford 3201)	County Sanatorium, Mogerhanger Park.
Trailer Ambulance	Highways Depot, London Road, Bedford.
Bedford Corporation ... .. (Telephone : Bedford 2222)	Fire Station, Mill St., Bedford.
Luton Corporation ... .. (Telephone : Luton 2222)	Police Station, Luton.
Luton Corporation (Maternity Hospital) (Telephone : Luton 2202)	Maternity Hospital, Dunstable Road, Luton.
British Red Cross Society ... .. (Telephone : Dunstable 309)	Police Station, Dunstable.
St. John Ambulance Brigade ... (Telephone : Leighton Buzzard 2143)	Buckmaster's Garage, Leighton Buzzard.
*London Brick Co. & Forders, Ltd. (Telephone : Kempston 311)	Brickworks, Stewartby, near Bedford.
*Mr. J. H. Green ... .. (Telephone : Hockliffe 212)	Hockliffe Garage, Watling Street, Hockliffe.

\* These are private ambulances and only available for the use of the public by arrangement with the owners.



In addition to the above a motor ambulance for the removal of cases of infectious disease is attached to each of the five Isolation Hospitals within the County, viz. :—

Oakley Hill Isolation Hospital.	Tel. Bedford 2042.
Spittlesea Isolation Hospital.	Tel. Luton 328.
Biggleswade Isolation Hospital.	Tel. Biggleswade 2125.
Steppingley Isolation Hospital.	Tel. Flitwick 352.
Kensworth Isolation Hospital.	Tel. Dunstable 72.

## BLIND WELFARE

Arrangements made for the administration of the Blind Persons Act have been included in previous reports and are therefore omitted from this report.

A Register is kept by the Clerk of the Council of all blind persons in the County.

On March 31st, 1938, there were 427 registered blind persons residing in the County.

During the year 55 cases were removed from the Register and 63 cases were added to the Register.

The number of cases on the Register on the 31st March, 1939, was therefore 435.

The ages and sexes of these 435 blind persons are as follows :—

				Males	Females
0—4	...	...	...	—	1
5—16	...	...	...	5	3
16—21	...	...	...	5	2
21—40	...	...	...	22	15
40—50	...	...	...	32	16
50—65	...	...	...	48	66
65—70	...	...	...	17	27
70 and over	...	...	...	65	111
				—	—
	Total	...	...	194	241
				—	—

The numbers were distributed as follows :—

North Beds	...	...	...	181
South Beds	...	...	...	254

The number on the Register includes 21 blind persons in Institutions in the County and 6 children at Schools for the Blind outside the County.

## MENTAL DEFICIENCY

The following particulars are given of the numbers of mental defectives in Institutions or under guardianship as at 31st December, 1938 :—

In Certified Institutions :—

	Males	Females	Total
Bromham House, Bedford ...	33	38	71
Stoke Park Colony, Bristol ...	15	19	34
Whittington Hall, Chesterfield ...	—	10	10
Cell Barnes Colony, St. Albans ...	20	7	27
Coldeast Colony, Southampton ...	—	1	1
Girls' Village Home, Barkingside	—	1	1
The Royal Earlswood Institution, Surrey ... ..	3	—	3
St. Mary's Home, Alton ... ..	—	1	1
Hermitage Training Home, Sussex	—	1	1
Seafield House, Near Liverpool ...	1	—	1
Mount Tabor Home, Basingstoke...	—	1	1
Chasefield Laundry Home, Bristol	—	1	1
Hillside Certified Institution, Herts	1	—	1
Hortham Colony, Bristol ... ..	—	1	1
Home of The Holy Innocents, Exeter ... ..	1	—	1
In Rampton State Institution ...	12	4	16
Under Guardianship ... ..	3	6	9
	89	91	180
	—	—	—

Of the above, three males and four females were on leave of absence from Certified Institutions on 31st December, 1938, and also one female on leave from Guardianship.

## MILK AND DAIRIES (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1915.

Under the above Act the Medical Officer of Health of any Local Authority who has reason to suspect that tuberculosis is caused, or is likely to be caused, by the consumption of any milk which is being sold, or exposed, or kept, for sale within the area of the Local Authority, should endeavour to ascertain the source, or sources, of the supply, and on ascertaining the facts should forthwith give notice of them to the County Medical Officer of Health. On receipt of such information the County Medical

Officer at once notifies the Chief Veterinary Officer, who arranges an early examination of all milk producing animals on the farm, or farms. Samples of milk are collected from cows thought to be suspicious, and group samples are taken from the remainder of the herd for examination.

Where tubercle bacilli are discovered arrangements are made for the immediate slaughter of the affected animals. The results of all investigations are communicated to the Medical Officers of the Local Authorities concerned.

### **TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938.**

Sixty animals were slaughtered during the year under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938, as compared with 73 in 1937.

### **MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.**

The County Register containing the names of registered cow keepers is kept in the Public Health Department. Sanitary Authorities are required to notify the County Council of all alterations made in their registers of cow keepers so that the central register may be kept up to date. The number of registered cow keepers on the County Register on 31st December, 1938, was 653.

### **MILK (Special Designations) ORDER, 1936.**

#### **Tuberculin Tested Milk.**

On the 31st December, 1938, the number of persons in the County of Bedford licensed by the County Council as producers of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk was 16.

#### **Accredited Milk.**

On the 31st December, 1938, there were, in the County, 97 producers holding licences for the production of "Accredited" milk, 8 new licences having been issued during the year.

Five hundred and fifty-four samples of milk were taken by the County Sanitary Inspector during the year in connection with Licences for designated milk, particulars of which are given on the next page :

Source of Supply	Total.	Result of Examination.	
		Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Milk produced by herds of intending applicants for licences ... ..	19	5	14
Milk produced by herds of applicants for licences	75	46	29
Milk produced by designated herds ... ..	460	340	120
TOTAL ... ..	554	391	163

It will be seen that 70.58% of the samples of designated milk were up to the required standard, whilst the remaining 29.42% fell below the standard for designated milk.

### SCHOOL MILK SUPPLY

The Scheme whereby scholars are able to receive one-third of a pint of fresh milk for one halfpenny is now in operation at 91 schools in the County. A census taken in September, 1938, revealed that 5781 scholars were participating in the Scheme as compared with 4,723 at the same time in 1937. In 35 schools independent arrangements have been made for 1,092 scholars to receive milk or milk preparations.

Before an arrangement can be entered into by the Head Teacher for a supply of milk under the Scheme, the approval of the County Medical Officer of Health must be obtained. Approval has only been given after consultation with the Medical Officer of Health of the local Sanitary district in which the school is situated, and after careful investigation, and when the milk is of a standard of cleanliness equal to that of "Accredited."

The methods of production by the dairymen supplying the schools have been kept under constant supervision, regular inspections being made of the cow sheds and dairies. The Schools are supplied by 4 "Tuberculin Tested" herds, 24 "Accredited" herds and 31 non-accredited herds.

Routine milk samples have been taken from every school milk producer in the County. Of the 63 samples of milk taken from the non-accredited herds during the year, 44 were of the required standard. In those instances where the milk samples proved to be below the standard required for "Accredited" milk, the producer was notified and further samples taken.

In the event of the milk continuing to be below the required standard, approval to the supply of such milk would be withdrawn.

I am happy to report that such action was not found to be necessary during the year.

## FOOD AND DRUGS

During the year 990 samples were obtained by the County Inspector and submitted to Mr. J. Kear Colwell, the County Analyst, for analysis and report.

Of this number 881 samples were purchased with the usual formalities under the Act, and the remaining 109 were obtained informally.

30 samples proved to be adulterated and were certified accordingly, particulars of which, together with the action taken, are given below :—

Quarter of the year (1938)	Article (Total-30)	Adulteration	Action taken
First ... 9	Milk ...	Fat abstracted 3%	Warning letter sent
	" ...	" " 7%	" " "
	" ...	" " 6%	" " "
	" ...	" " 5%	" " "
	" ...	" " 3%	" " "
	" ...	" " 20%	Fined £1 and costs
	" ...	Added water 5.2%	Warning letter sent
Sausages	" " 6.1%	" " "	" " "
	Sulphur dioxide 410 parts per million. Lettering on wrapper covered by label.	No proceedings.	
Second 6	Milk ...	Fat abstracted 11%	Fined £3 and costs
	" ...	" " 9%	Warning letter sent
	" ...	" " 14%	Case dismissed
	" ...	" " 10%	Warning letter sent
	" ...	" " 6.6%	" " "
	" ...	" " 18%	Case dismissed
Third ... 9	Milk ...	Fat abstracted 15%	Case dismissed on payment of costs
	" ...	" " 4%	Warning letter sent
	" ...	" " 7%	" " "
	" ...	" " 14.6%	Fined 10s., no costs
	" ...	" " 15.3%	Fined £1 and costs
	" ...	" " 55.6%	Fined £1 and costs
	" ...	" " 11%	Case dismissed
	" ...	" " 6%	Warning letter sent
" ...	" " 11%	Fined £1 and costs	
Fourth 6	Milk ...	Fat abstracted 3%	Warning letter sent
	" ...	" " 14%	" " "
	" ...	" " 6.3%	" " "
	" ...	" " 8.0%	" " "
	" ...	" " 4.0%	" " "
	" ...	Added water 4.2%	" " "
30			

## HOUSING.

From information kindly supplied by District Medical Officers of Health, I have prepared the following statement showing the number of new houses erected within the County during 1938 :—

	Total number of new houses erected in 1938	By the Local Authority	By private enterprise
<b>URBAN DISTRICTS</b>			
Amphill ... ..	31	—	31
Bedford ... ..	462	95	367
Biggleswade ... ..	80	62	18
Dunstable ... ..	167	—	167
Kempston ... ..	132	7	125
Leighton Buzzard ... ..	64	40	24
Luton ... ..	891	24	867
Sandy ... ..	15	5	10
Total ... ..	1842	233	1609
<b>RURAL DISTRICTS</b>			
Amphill ... ..	135	16	119
Bedford ... ..	633	470	163
Biggleswade ... ..	77	30	47
Luton ... ..	271	8	263
Total ... ..	1116	524	592

It will be seen from the above statement that 2,958 houses were erected within the County during 1938, as compared with 3,196 in 1937.

