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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1939.

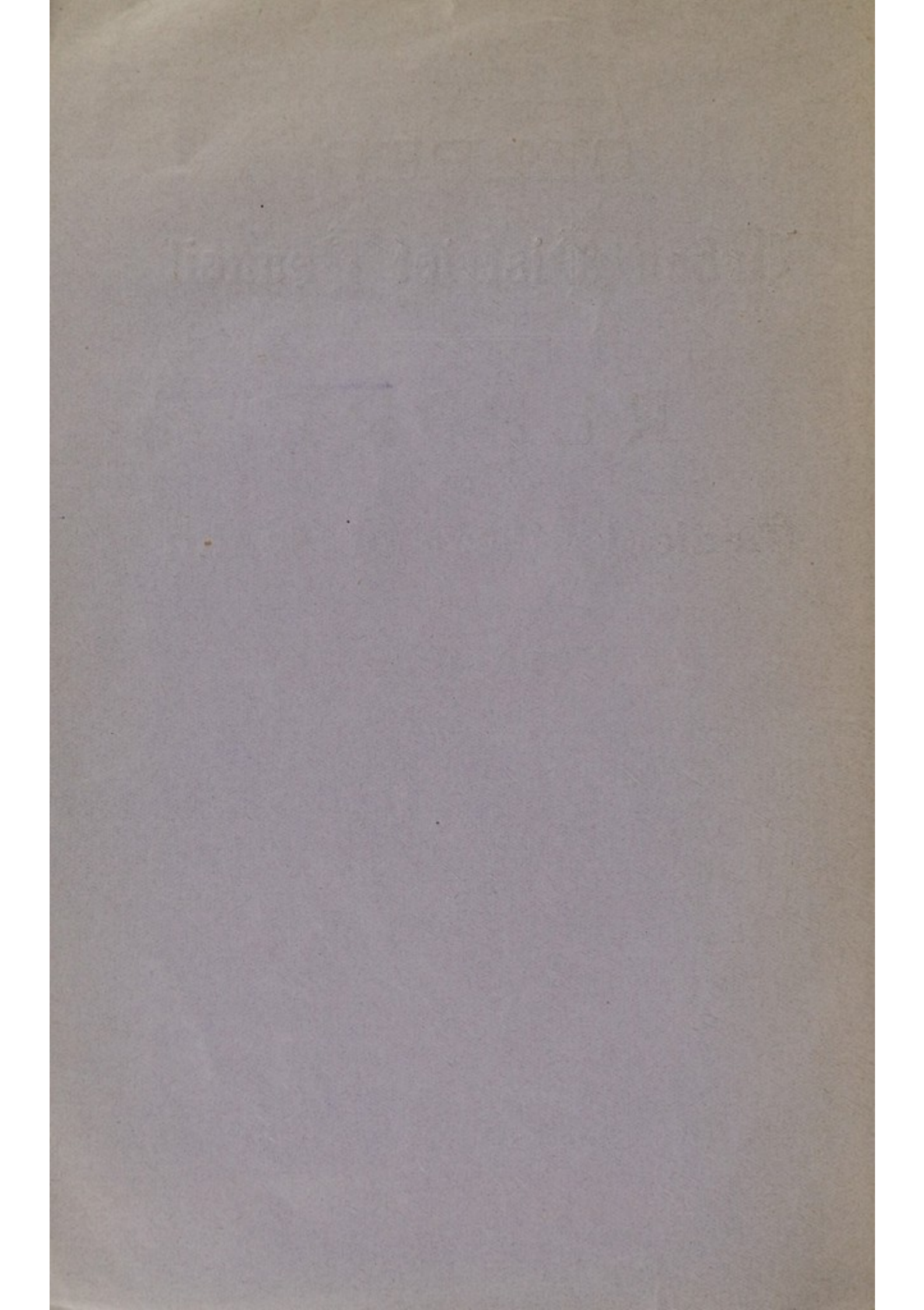
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L.R.C.P. (Lond.), and D.P.H. (Birm.)

Sanitary Inspector : F. COSTELLO, A.R. San. I., Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
R.P.C., Cert. Insp. Meat & other Foods.

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BELPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

October, 1940.

To the members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you herewith the annual report on the health of the district for the year 1939.

In accordance with recent instructions from the Ministry of Health, this year's report appears in abbreviated form, but every effort has been made to ensure that it contains all the important information concerning the health of the district.

The population of the area is 14,650 compared with 14,620 for the previous year.

From a perusal of the statistics you will, I am sure, find that the health of the district was very good during the year under review. The statistics also give some indication of the hard work done by the Sanitary Authority over a number of years.

There is no special item which requires to be brought to your notice. The water and sewerage systems of the district are satisfactory, but conversion work has been held up on account of the war.

During the year there were 165 deaths—90 males and 75 females—giving a death rate of 11.26 per thousand of the population, as against 11.08 in 1938 when 162 deaths were recorded.

Births registered in 1939 totalled 185—107 boys and 78 girls. The birth rate is 12.62 per thousand of the population, and this compares with 15.7 for the previous year and 14.37 in 1937.

The number of infectious disease cases reported shows an increase of 45 compared with 1938, but 14 of the increase is accounted for by the fact that since November whooping cough had to be registered and 14 cases were reported from then until the end of the year.

During the latter part of December the Council lost the services of its Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. A. Statham. His death was not only a loss to myself, but also to the Council, which he served faithfully for about 30 years, and to the public in general. For 10 years he worked under my late father and I know of the high respect he had for him. I have lost not only a colleague, but also a great friend by the passing of Mr. Statham.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council for the help and co-operation they have always shown to me; to Mr. J. Percy R. Pym, the Clerk, for his assistance; and to Mr. R. J. Clarke, who served as Sanitary Inspector from the time of Mr. Statham's death up to the appointment of Mr. Costello.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RICHARD C. ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	...	...	...	4,294
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£71,739
General rate for year	...	...	...	11/8
Product of penny rate	...	...	...	£277
Total debt for all purposes	...	...	...	£125,903
Debt for housing only	...	...	...	£82,176

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Population for 1931 :	13,023.
Estimated population for 1939 :	14,650.
Houses on rate book at end of year :	3,932.
New houses erected :	37 by private enterprise.
Number of births registered :	174—103 boys ; 71 girls.
Corrected births :	185—107 boys ; 78 girls.
Number of illegitimate births :	12— 8 boys ; 4 girls.
Birth rate per 1,000 of population :	12.62.
Still Births :	5 boys ; 4 girls.
Number of deaths :	165—90 males ; 75 females.
Death rate per 1,000 of the population :	11.26.
Infantile mortality per 1,000 births :	59.43.
Number of women dying in consequence of childbirth :	Nil.
Deaths from Measles :	1.
Deaths from Whooping Cough :	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) :	1.
Deaths from Scarlet Fever :	Nil.
Deaths from Diphtheria :	1.
Deaths from Cancer :	23 --12 males ; 11 females.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Health services in the Belper urban area are under the supervision of the Medical Officer, who holds the Public Health Diploma. He is assisted in his work, which is part-time, by the Sanitary Inspector employed by the Council.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made free of charge at the County Offices, Derby. Professional nursing in the home is provided by Belper and Milford Nursing Association, but for infectious diseases there is no appointed nurse.

There is no maternity hospital in the district, except a Maternity Ward at Belper Public Assistance Institution for poor persons. The Nursing Association, however, has nurses for midwifery and general nursing.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary at the County Offices, Derby, is open on Friday of each week, and tubercular patients are also visited in their homes by both the Tuberculosis Officer and the Health Visitor.

The Derbyshire County Council School Clinic and Child Welfare Centre at Belper is visited by dental surgeons and Ophthalmic Surgeons each week.

Patients suffering from infectious disease are treated at Belper Joint Isolation Hospital, where the following bed accommodation is available: Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever, 67; Small Pox, 18.

Treatment centres for venereal disease are established at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, and there are separate sessions for men and women.

NOTES ON NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Comparison with previous years show that the total of 126 cases reported during 1939 was the highest for six years, and more than half as many again as in the previous year. The increase is accounted for by a substantial rise in the number of diphtheria cases, which totalled 42 as against 14 in 1938. There was one death due to this malady.

Scarlet Fever cases, however, fell by four to 40, but there was an increase of six in the cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Pneumonia and Erysipelas cases were the same as the year before—six and four respectively.

In November it became necessary for all local authorities to register Whooping Cough and Measles as notifiable diseases, and during the last two months of the year 14 cases of Whooping Cough were notified.

Scarlet Fever has been the most prevalent disease for six years now, but it is pleasing to record that the total for the year of 1939 was the lowest during that period. The rise in Diphtheria cases, however, is very substantial. Fourteen cases notified in 1938 was the highest since 1934, but 1939's total was three times higher. March was the worst month of the year with 13 cases, including seven members of one family. November was the only "all clear" month.

Fortunately, most of the cases were mild in type and there have been no deaths from this malady. It is important that this disease should be treated in the early stages, and I cannot emphasise too strongly the necessity or advisability of people calling in a doctor on the first symptoms of a sore throat. If only people would do this it would be possible to restrict the disease and thus prevent the spread to others in the household.

Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported, an increase of one, and one Puerperal Pyrexia, the same as the year before and the second since 1933.

CANCER DEATHS UP.

Three more deaths due to Cancer is shown by the returns for this year in comparison with those for the previous year. Twelve males and eleven females died as a result of this complaint during the year, and the average age at death was: Males, 65 years; Females, 67 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Details of the deaths under this heading are as follows:

AGE.		CAUSE OF DEATH.
1 month	...	Prematurity.
5 days	...	Debility from birth.
3 days	...	Prematurity.
6 months	...	Gastro Enteritis.
6 days	...	Exhaustion.
4 days	...	Heart Failure.
3 months	...	Marasmus.
11 months	...	Acute Bronchitis.
8 months	...	Bronchial Pneumonia.
15 hours	...	Prematurity.
2 weeks	...	Cardiac failure.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Once again I have to report that the water supply of the district is satisfactory. There was a plentiful supply throughout the year and samples submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination have proved the water to be of good quality.

RAINFALL FIGURES.

The following figures supplied by Mr. R. J. R. Giblett, of the Herbert Strutt School, show that 1.15 inches more rain fell during the year compared with 1938. The total for 1939 was 29.73 inches. Details are :

January	...	6.47 ins.	July	...	4.60 ins.
February	...	1.62 „	August	...	2.62 „
March	...	1.79 „	September	...	1.14 „
April	...	1.82 „	October	...	2.01 „
May	...	1.24 „	November	...	1.82 „
June	...	1.74 „	December	...	2.86 „

HOUSING.

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1939 - 3,932

Number of new houses erected during 1939 :—

(a) By Local Authority-	-	-	Nil
(b) By Private Enterprise	-	-	37

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

(a) Water Closets	-	-	3,181
(b) Pail Closets	-	-	363
(c) Privy Middens, &c.	-	-	147

CONVERSIONS TO WATER CLOSETS.

(a) Privy Middens	-	-	5
(b) Pail Closets	-	-	15

CLASSIFIED LIST OF DEATHS.

CAUSE.			MALE.	FEMALE.
Measles	...	...	—	1
Diphtheria	...	...	—	1
Influenza	...	...	2	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	3	1
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	2	1
Syphilis	...	...	—	1
Cancer	...	...	14	9
Diabetes	...	...	—	1
Cerebral Hemorrhage	...	...	1	1
Heart Disease	...	...	29	22
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	6	4
Bronchitis	...	...	1	3
Pneumonia	...	...	3	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1	—
Diarrhœa (under two years)	...	...	—	1
Diarrhœa (2 years and over)	...	...	1	—
Liver Disorders	...	...	—	2
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	4	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	...	...	5	2
Senility	...	...	8	5
Suicide	...	...	1	—
Other Violence	...	...	5	2
Other defined diseases	...	...	3	8
TOTALS			90	75

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week		1 to 2 Weeks		2 to 3 Weeks		3 to 4 Weeks		Total Under 1 Month		1 to 3 Months		3 to 6 Months		6 to 9 Months		9 to 12 Months		Total Deaths under 1 Year	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Premature Births, Congenital Debility, etc.	...	4	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	6	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Gastro Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals		4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	2	1	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	6	5

BIRTHS REGISTERED during 1939.

			Males.	Females.	Total.	Illegitimate
January	...	...	8	6	14	1
February	...	...	7	6	13	—
March	...	...	10	7	17	2
April	...	...	5	4	9	—
May	...	...	8	7	15	1
June	...	...	12	4	16	1
July	...	...	13	10	23	1
August	...	...	11	4	15	2
September	...	...	6	9	15	1
October	...	...	8	3	11	1
November	...	...	10	5	15	1
December	...	...	5	6	11	1
Totals	...	...	108	71	174	12

The above table shows the number of Births registered in the Urban District. The Registrar General's Returns allow for Births which occurred in District, but really belong to other Districts, and visa versa.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases notified during 1939.

			Cases Notified.	Cases Removed to Hospital.
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	...	...	7	3
Do.	Other Forms	...	10	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	40	34
Diphtheria	...	...	42	41
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	1
Erysipelas	...	...	4	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	2	2
Pneumonia	...	...	6	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	14	—
			—	—
	Totals	...	126	88
			—	—

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free of charge by Local Authority
when necessary.

Cases of Notifiable Diseases at varying ages during 1939.

AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 2 Years.	2 to 3 Years.	3 to 4 Years.	4 to 5 Years.	5 to 10 Years.	10 to 15 Years.	15 to 20 Years.	20 to 35 Years.	35 to 45 Years.	45 to 65 Years.	65 Years.	65 Years & over.	Total.
Small Pox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	2	1	3	3	3	17	6	-	4	1	-	-	40
Diphtheria	-	-	-	2	1	2	17	8	5	4	3	-	-	42
Enteric Fever (including Para-Typhoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	4
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	1	1	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	1	-	7
„ Non- „	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	2	1	1	1	-	-	10
Totals	2	3	2	6	5	10	44	16	9	14	7	5	3	126

PREVALENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Number of Cases Notified Monthly.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	-	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	7
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	1	1	10
Scarlet Fever ...	1	3	4	3	1	2	2	1	5	13	2	3	40
Diphtheria ...	1	6	13	3	6	1	4	2	3	1	-	2	42
Pneumonia ...	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6
Erysipelas ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	2	14
Totals ...	6	17	18	10	7	5	8	6	9	15	16	9	126

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Comparison Table for past Five Years.

DISEASE.	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	5	9	11	6	7	38
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	3	4	6	5	10	28
Scarlet Fever ..	43	55	58	44	40	240
Diphtheria... ..	1	7	5	14	42	69
Erysipelas	4	4	2	4	4	18
Pneumonia	1	2	10	6	6	25
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	1	...	1	2	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1	1	2
Para Typhoid Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	14	14
TOTALS ...	58	82	92	81	126	439

**Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal
Mortality and Case notes for certain Infectious Diseases
in the year 1939.**

Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	122 County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administra- tive County.
Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births—				
Live	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3
Still	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44
Deaths—				
All Causes	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers }	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02
Influenza	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18
Notifications—				
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53
Diphtheria	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98
Enteric Fever ...	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37
Pneumonia	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age...	50	53	40	48
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2
Maternal Mortality—				
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.77	Not available		
Others	2.16			
Total	2.93			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).				
Maternal Mortality—				
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.74	Not available		
Others	2.08			
Total	2.82			
Notifications—				
Puerperal Fever }	14.35	17.26	12.99	3.31
Puerperal Pyrexia }				14.22

REPORT OF SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

New houses erected—(a) By Local Authority: Nil.

(b) By Private Enterprise: 37.

	Number of Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.	Number of Notices Served. Informal. Legal.	Number of Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
Closets and Ashpits—			
Defective Privies, Pail Closets & Ashpits... (Not for Conversion)	30	10	—
Conversion of Privies into W.C.'s ...	5	6	11
Conversion of Pail Closets into W.C.'s ...	25	8	—
Conversion of Privies into Pail Closets ...	—	—	—
Defective Water Closets ...	8	7	—
Provision of Additional Water Closets ...	—	—	—
Provision of Portable Ashbins... ..	10	10	—
Dirty Closets	2	2	—
Drainage—			
No Disconnection of Waste Pipe	—	—	—
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps, Inlets & Drains	19	8	—
Drains obstructed	5	4	—
Other Defects—			
Paving of Courts and Yards	4	4	—
Roofs, Eaves-Spouts and Down-Spouts ...	1	1	—
Sinks	3	3	—
Insufficient Ventilation	1	1	—
Windows	4	2	—
Dampness	2	1	—
Water in Cellars	3	3	—
Water Supply	9	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Foul Condition of Houses	4	4	—
Offensive Accumulations	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept	4	1	—
Pigsties... ..	2	1	—
Smoke Nuisances	3	2	—
Urinals	3	—	—
Nuisances not specified above	4	4	—
Totals	151	79	82

	Number on Register.	Inspections Made.	Notices Served.	Nuisances Abated with or without Notice.
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops ..	45	12	—	—
Bakehouses	10	30	1	1
Slaughterhouses	7	140	2	2
Offensive Trades	37	40	2	2
Common Lodging-houses	1	8	—	—
Totals	100	230	5	5

