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B O R O U G H O F B E X H I L L



A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

F O R T H E Y E A R

1 9 4 0

W. T. DONOVAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

BOYDCH OF BEXHILL



A N H A L H P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1940

W. F. DONOVAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent Borough Isolation Hospital and School Medical Officer:

W. T. Donovan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Liverpool).

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

W. E. Norwell, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector:

A. C. Horne, M.R.San. I., M.S.I.A.

(Appointed Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector-August, 1940.)

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant:

W. Stone.

Clinch Green Isolation Hospital:

Matron: Miss F. M. Blakey.

Maternity and Child Welfare (Bexhill Nursing Association and East Sussex County Council):

M.C.W. Clinics: A. H. Winchester, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., D.C.O.G.
L. M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Ante-Natal

Clinic: L. M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Health Visitors and District Nurses (Bexhill Nursing Association and East Sussex County Council):

M. Reeves, S.R.N., S.C.M.

E. Harris, S.R.N., S.C.M.

L. Parks, S.R.N., S.C.M.

M. Ward, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis (East Sussex County Council):

Sir A.H. Moore, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., R.C.P.S.(Eng.)

Venereal Diseases (East Sussex County Council):

P. Lazarus Barlow, M.D.

Clerks:

Miss M. Boynton.

✓ K.F. Westwood.

Miss N. Philcox. (Resigned August, 1940.)

Miss V. Kemp. (Appointed August, 1940.)

✓ Called up for service with H. M. Forces.

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my sixth Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health.

The Ministry of Health Circular 2314 recommends that the report for 1940 should be curtailed and be considered, like that for the previous year, as an interim report.

The general standard of health of the population, both resident and evacuee, has, in spite of war conditions, been very satisfactory, and there has been no serious outbreak of disease during the year. A notable feature, however, was the general improvement in the health of the evacuees up to the time of their departure from Bexhill at the end of June, at which time Bexhill ceased to be a reception area.

The compilation of statistics for comparative purposes is a difficult matter under present conditions, having regard to the fluctuation in the resident population that has taken place during the year.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population, mid-year 1940, is 23,210. This represents a decrease of 550 on the estimate for the previous year.

The Birth Rate for the Borough is 9.6 per 1,000 estimated population, showing a slight decrease when compared with the rate for 1939.

The Adjusted Death Rate for the Borough is 12.4, while that for England and Wales is 14.3.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the Borough is 20.0 per 1,000 registered live births, showing a decrease of 14.0 when compared with the rate for the previous year.

The incidence of infectious disease within the Borough continues to be low.

Details of the number of children immunised against Diphtheria will be found in the appropriate section of the report; I wish however, to record that an intensive effort was made to bring to the notice of the public details of the facilities available and the results of this publicity have been most satisfactory.

The Borough A.R.P. (Casualty) Services have worked well during the year. Training of personnel has continued steadily and has included co-operation with other sections of the Civil Defence Services. The personnel have performed their duties in a most efficient manner on the several occasions when they have been called upon to deal with Air Raid Casualties.

I wish again to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support, and my gratitude to my staff for their loyal co-operation and assistance rendered throughout another difficult year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. DONOVAN

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
BEXHILL.

August, 1941.

S E C T I O N A

S T A T I S T I C S A N D S O C I A L C O N D I T I O N S O F T H E A R E A

Area	8,015 acres.
Population (Registrar General's estimate of resident population)	23,210
Number of inhabited houses ..	6,079
(According to Rate Books)	
Flats ..	1,068
Rateable Value	£359,916
General Rate	9/6d.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..	£1,375

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The remarks made in my reports for previous years in connection with the Natural and Social Conditions of the Borough are applicable to the year 1940.

METEOROLOGY

The publication of meteorological statistics is withheld, but the practice described fully in previous reports, apart from a temporary break, has been continued throughout the year under review.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births:				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Legitimate	..	..	112	96	208
	Illegitimate	..	..	6	9	15
<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population</u>				..	..	9.6
Stillbirths:				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Legitimate	..	..	2	1	3
	Illegitimate	..	..	-	-	-
<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</u>				..	..	9.7
Deaths:				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	..	..	..	180	211	391
<u>Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population</u>						
				Crude	..	16.8
				Adjusted	..	12.4
Deaths from puerperal causes:						
	Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	..	Nil
	Other maternal causes	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</u>				..	..	4.2
Deaths of Infants under one year of age				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Legitimate	..	..	1	3	4
	Illegitimate	..	..	-	-	-
<u>Death Rate of Infants under one year of age</u>						
	All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	20.0
	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	21.6
	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				..	..	64
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				..	..	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				..	..	Nil
<u>Zymotic Death Rate</u>				..	..	.04

The statistics in the report are compiled from those supplied by the Registrar-General and have been utilised, as directed, when calculating Birth, Death, Infantile Mortality Rates, etc.

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population of Bexhill for the year 1940 is 23,210. This figure represents a slight decrease on the previous year's estimated population which was 23,760.

Births

The Birth Rate for 1940 is 9.6 per 1,000 estimated population. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 11.1, while that for England and Wales for 1940 is 14.6.

Deaths

The Crude Death Rate for 1940 is 16.8 per 1,000 estimated population, but when the Areal Comparability Factor is applied, the Death Rate is 12.4. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 10.6, while that for England and Wales for 1940 is 14.3.

Infantile Deaths

The Infantile Mortality Rate for 1940 is 20.0 per 1,000 registered live births. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 34.0, while that for England and Wales for 1940 is 55.

Zymotic Deaths

Only one death was attributed to the zymotic diseases during 1940, namely, to Whooping Cough. This gives a rate of .04 per 1,000 estimated population, the same rate as for the previous year.

T A B L E 1

CAUSES OF DEATH

All Causes	Male 180	Female 211
1. Typhoid & Parat. Fever	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	1
5. Diphtheria	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	5
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-
8. Syphilitic Diseases	2	-
9. Influenza	4	3
10. Measles	-	-
11. Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encephalitis	-	-
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	1
13. Cancer of Buccal cavity & Oesophagus Uterus (F) (M)	2	6
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	3	6
15. Cancer of Breast	1	7
16. Cancer of all other sites	20	19
17. Diabetes	3	1
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	23	25
19. Heart Disease	47	52
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	7
21. Bronchitis	9	11
22. Pneumonia	7	12
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	3	4
24. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	4	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-
26. Appendicitis	1	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases	2	4
28. Nephritis	3	10
29. Puerperal & Post-abortion Sepsis	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	1
31. Premature Birth	-	1
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	-	2
33. Suicide	4	2
34. Road Traffic Accident	1	-
35. Other Violent Causes	12	11
36. All Other Causes	22	16

T A B L E 2

BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL
MORTALITY & CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN 1940.
(Provisional figures based on Weekly & Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000-50,000, 1931 Census.	London Adminis- trative County
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
<u>BIRTHS</u>				
Live	14.6	16.0	15.7	13.7
Still	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.44
<u>DEATHS</u>				
All causes	14.3	15.8	12.8	17.8
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.01
Influenza	0.32	0.29	0.30	0.18
Smallpox	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1yr. of age	55	61	54	50
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2yrs. of age	4.6	5.9	4.4	5.8
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
<u>NOTIFICATIONS</u>				
Enteric	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.06
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.32	0.33	0.29	0.28
Whooping Cough	1.34	1.29	1.35	0.22
Diphtheria	1.16	1.29	1.21	0.61
Erysipelas	0.33	0.36	0.30	0.35
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	-
Measles	10.24	9.23	9.99	1.78
Pneumonia	1.20	1.37	1.00	0.87
Scarlet Fever	1.63	1.53	1.57	0.82
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)				
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY (excluding Abortion)</u>				
Puerperal Infection	0.52)	Not available		
Others	1.64)			
Total	2.16)			
<u>NOTIFICATIONS</u>				
Puerperal Fever)	11.96	13.90	9.73	3.34
Puerperal Pyrexia)				13.30
				including Puer. Fever

T A B L E 3

AGE AT DEATH - ALL CASES, 1940.

	Under 1 Yr.	1- 2	2- 3	3- 4	4- 5	5- 10	10- 15	15- 20	20- 25	25- 35	35- 45	45- 55	55- 65	Over 65	Total
Males	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	3	5	5	10	23	129	180
Females	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	7	18	32	140	211

T A B L E 4

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS, INFANTILE DEATHS & RESPECTIVE RATES BY WARD DISTRIBUTION

Ward	Total Number of Deaths	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Number of Infantile Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Registered Live Births
Central ..	58	2.5	-	-
Egerton Park ..	81	3.5	2	10.0
Old Town ..	111	4.7	1	5.0
Sackville ..	71	3.1	-	-
St. Mark's ..	70	3.0	1	5.0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1940 SHOWN BY WARDS AND ATTACK RATE PER 1,000 ESTIMATED
POPULATION

Disease	Ward:-										Total	Rate
	Central	Egerton Park	Rate	Old Town	Rate	Sack- ville	Rate	St. Mark's	Rate			
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	.17	3	.13	2	.09	10	.43	19	.82	
Diphtheria	1	-	.04	5	.22	1	.04	4	.17	11	.47	
Pneumonia	-	-	-	4	.17	1	.04	3	.13	8	.34	
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.04	1	.04	
Erysipelas	1	-	.04	-	-	-	-	1	.04	2	.09	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	-	.04	-	-	1	.04	-	-	2	.09	
Whooping Cough	12	5	.21	32	1.38	3	.13	29	1.25	81	3.49	
Measles	2	16	.69	1	.04	4	.17	3	.13	26	1.12	
Totals	21	21	.90	45	1.94	12	.52	51	2.20	150	6.46	

S E C T I O N B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (i) The personnel of the Medical, Nursing and Sanitary Staff of the Borough is incorporated at the beginning of the report.

(ii) a. Laboratory facilities

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations were carried out on behalf of the Authority at the Clinical Research Association, London, and at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, up to September, 1940. In October, however, the Council entered into an agreement whereby routine examinations were to be undertaken by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service.

The following table shows the number of specimens examined during 1940:-

	Number Examined	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria	162	32	130
Typhoid & Paratyphoid:-			
Faeces	5	-	5
Urine	4	-	4
Widal	6	2	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid & Swabs for Meningococcus	8	-	8
Sputa for Tuberculosis	6	-	6
Miscellaneous	2	1	1
Total	193	35	158

b. Ambulance facilities

The arrangements for the removal of cases of Infectious Disease have continued throughout the year without variation and have met the requirements of the Borough.

b. Ambulance facilities (continued)

There has been no change during the year in the arrangements for the removal of Non-Infectious Disease and Accident cases from those described in previous reports.

The ambulances conveyed 493 patients to hospitals during 1940.

c. Nursing in the home

The Boxhill Nursing Association is supported by voluntary contributions and maintains four district nurses who attend non-infectious cases in their homes. During 1940, the following number of cases were attended:-

Maternity and Midwifery	..	..	124
General cases	..	..	214

The visits paid were:-

Maternity and Midwifery	..	..	2499
General Nursing	..	..	5754
Casual visits	..	..	384

The Boxhill Corporation make an annual grant of £100 to the Association.

d. Treatment Centres and Clinics

The facilities at treatment centres and clinics, which included provision for evacuees, continued without interruption up to the 23rd June, 1940, on which date children from the evacuation areas left the Borough.

In July, 1940, evacuation of the resident school children of the Borough took place and in September, there was a temporary voluntary transfer of the civil population, as a result of which, a revision of the services (as set out in previous reports) was undertaken to meet the requirements of this reduced population.

e. Hospitals

Provided by the Council

The Borough Isolation Hospital, Clinch Green: for infectious diseases, other than smallpox. Ten beds (on 144 sq. ft. per patient basis.)

Resident Staff: Matron and two Nurses.

Admissions and discharges are under the control of the Medical Officer of Health, but patients are treated by their own medical practitioners.

In accordance with Ministry of Health instructions, the Isolation Hospital was closed during the period 16th September to 9th October, after which date, authority was given to utilise 50% of the bed accommodation for cases of notifiable infectious diseases.

Number of Beds Retained by the Council in Outside Hospitals

Brede Smallpox Hospital - The Bexhill Corporation has entered into an agreement with the County Borough of Hastings whereby two beds are retained at this Hospital for the admission of Bexhill cases of smallpox. No cases were admitted from Bexhill during 1940.

Other Hospitals

Augusta-Victoria Auxiliary Hospital for Evacuees

This auxiliary hospital, opened in September, 1939, was available for evacuees until their transference to other areas at the end of June, 1940.

During the period 1st January to 9th July (the date of the closure of the Hospital), 48 patients were admitted.

Bexhill Hospital (Voluntary)

Mr. P.E. Windo, Secretary of the Hospital, has kindly supplied the following data:-

"The Hospital has continued to fulfil an important role in the treatment of patients under the Emergency Medical Service.

"During the year, the bed complement was reduced and at the end of the year, the total number of beds available for all purposes was 75. Of this number, 50% are reserved for emergency use.

"The following are statistics of patients treated during 1940, and include both civilian cases and those treated under the E.M.S.:-"

In-patients:...	..	..	..	911
Average length of stay of each patient	..	..	..	17.2 days.
Average daily number of beds occupied	..	..	..	41.7
Operations:-				
Major	..	..	..	294
Minor	..	..	..	945

Out-patients

Aural Dept.	..	..	..	..	167
Casualty Dept.	Emergencies	..	404	..	
	Miscellaneous	..	429	..	833
Dental Dept.	..	..	..	..	58
Dermatological Dept.	..	..	..	..	102
Massage and Electrical Dept.	..	..	..	..	307
Gynaecological Dept.	..	..	..	..	23
Ophthalmic Dept.	..	..	..	..	83
X-Ray Dept.	..	..	..	..	1,334
Surgical Out-patients	..	..	..	..	339
Total	..	..	..	..	3,246
Total Out-patient attendances					8,879

2. Maternity and Child Welfare

The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme in the Borough is carried out by the staff of the Bexhill Nursing Association under the supervision of the East Sussex County Council.

The staff consist of four certified midwives one of whom devotes her time entirely to maternity work, whilst the others devote their time between midwifery and infant health visiting.

Two part-time Medical Officers attend the ante-natal and maternity and child welfare clinics.

During the latter part of the year, the ante-natal and child welfare clinics were closed, in view of the temporary voluntary transfer of the civil population.

(1) Midwifery and Maternity Services

The number of midwives practising within the Borough on the 31st December, 1940, was 7.

T A B L E 6

ATTENDANCES AT THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE, ANTE-NATAL AND DENTAL CLINICS

<u>Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic</u>			<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>
(a) Mothers:				
Number attending ..	..	..	410	392
Number of attendances	..	..	4829	1629
(b) Children:				
Number who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendances were:-				
(i) Under one year	..	..	161	84
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years			23	18
Percentage of notified births represented by the number in (b)(i)			61.2	37.7
Number of attendances by children:-				
(i) Under one year	..	..	2808	741
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years			3432	648
<u>Ante-Natal Clinic</u>				
Number of Expectant Mothers attending			125	74
Number of attendances	..	..	190	124
<u>Dental Clinic</u>				
Number of attendances by Mothers	..		189	150
Number of attendances by Infants	..		21	17

(ii) Institutional provision for Mothers and Children

The facilities for institutional treatment for mothers as described in previous reports have continued to be available. Similarly, the arrangements for elementary school children requiring treatment for Tonsils and Adenoids and Crippling or Postural defects have been continued during the year.

(iii) Health Visitors

The following statement shows the visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year:-

		<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>
To Expectant Mothers:			
	First visits	137	128
	Subsequent visits ..	338	310
To Infants under one year:			
	First visits	216	126
	Total visits	915	1148
To Children ages 1 to 5 years		1141	643
Total visits paid by Health Visitors ..		2056	1791

(iv) Child Life Protection

The provisions of Part V of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, are carried out by the East Sussex County Council.

(v) Arrangements for Dental, Orthopaedic, etc. cases

The arrangements for the dental and orthopaedic treatment of children under five years, as described in previous reports, have been continued throughout the year.

3. Maternity and Nursing Homes

The East Sussex County Council is the local Supervising Authority under Part VI of the Public Health Act, 1936. The following particulars with reference to the Home in Bexhill have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:-

Total number of homes registered in the Borough ..	..	9
Number of applications for registration during 1940 ..	..	1
Homes registered during the year .. ..	..	1
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration ..	..	-
Nursing homes closed down during the year by the owners ..	..	13

A. R. P. (CASUALTY) SERVICES

The Borough A.R.P. (Casualty) Services, under the control of the Medical Officer of Health consists of:-

First Aid Post & Cleansing Centre	...	...	1
Mobile Unit	...	...	1
First Aid Parties	...	...	6
First Aid Points	...	...	2
Ambulances	...	...	9
Casualty Cars	...	...	7
Party Cars	...	...	7

Prior to the recent engagement on a whole-time basis of a nucleus of personnel in the First Aid Post, First Aid Party and Transport Sections, the entire personnel of the Borough Casualty Services was comprised of part-time volunteers.

Training of personnel has continued steadily throughout the year and a high standard of efficiency has now been reached in all branches of the Services.

Exercises have been held regularly in conjunction with other sections of the Civil Defence Services, and the lessons learned from these have proved invaluable when the Services have been called upon to work under actual Air Raid conditions.

S E C T I O N C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (1) Water Supply

The control of the water supply within the Borough is delegated to the Borough Council under the Bexhill Corporation Act, 1925.

No new sources of public water supply were utilised during the year.

With regard to:-

- (a) Quality - the water is of excellent quality both for drinking and domestic purposes
- (b) Quantity - the supply has met the demands of those parts of the Borough which are on a piped supply and there has been no curtailment during the year.

There has been no change in the arrangements with regard to the bacteriological and chemical examination of the piped supply of the Borough from those outlined in previous reports. During 1940, twenty-four samples were submitted for bacteriological and/or chemical examination, all of which were very satisfactory.

The average quantity of water used daily during 1940 in the water area was 916,032 galls. It represents a decrease of 126,987 gallons per day as compared with 1939. The average consumption per head per diem in the water area for 1940 was 39.46 gallons, as follows:- for trade purposes, 1.02; for domestic purposes 38.44.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage

No sewers were constructed during 1940.

2. Rivers and Streams

No action was found to be necessary with regard to the pollution of rivers and streams in the Borough.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation

There has been no change during the year in the number of pail closets and cesspools existing within the Borough.

(ii) Public Cleansing and Salvage

The supervision of the work of the removal and disposal of house refuse is under the control of the Borough Surveyor. The Corporation Tip situated in St. Mary's Lane, in a more rural part of the Borough, is in a satisfactory condition.

During the early part of the year, the tonnage of house refuse collected and materials salvaged rose considerably above normal, owing to the town being a reception area, but in September when there was a voluntary temporary transfer of the population, the work of both collection and salvage underwent great changes and the organisation of this and other cleansing services had to be amended to meet the requirements of the town under the changed conditions.

Although the services of cesspool emptying, removal and disposal of house refuse, salvage and street cleansing have been restricted, they have all been maintained and undertaken in a satisfactory manner, having regard to war-time conditions of a town in this area.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

During the year the district has been inspected and the necessary action taken to deal with any nuisance or defaults discovered. In addition to general sanitary work, 1146 visits were paid in connection with the Casualty Services section of the local A.R.P. organisation. The following table indicates the scope and extent of the duties performed during the year:-

T A B L E 7

Dwelling-houses inspected..	..	..	293	
Visits re above	..	..	821	
Overcrowding	..	..	105	
Schools	..	..	5	
Water supply	..	..	38	
Smoke abatement	..	..	7	
Stables and piggeries	..	..	6	
Offensive trades	..	..	2	
Factories, workshops, etc.	..	..	10	
Bakehouses	..	..	10	
Shops	..	..	15	
Public conveniences	..	..	14	
Theatres and cinemas	..	..	5	
Rats and Mice	..	..	88	
Slaughterhouses	..	..	23	
Foodshops	..	..	337	
Food and Drugs Registration Act	..	..	35	
Other Food visits	..	..	44	
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	..	..	123	
Ice-cream premises	..	..	13	
Milk sampling	..	..	22	
Infectious disease and disinfection	..	..	836	
Disinfestation	..	..	79	
Re-visits to work in progress	..	..	123	
A. R. P.	..	..	1,446	
Miscellaneous	..	..	754	5,254

COMPLAINTS

During the year, 100 complaints were received and in 71 instances it was possible to take remedial action.

The following table indicates the nature of the complaints received:-

T A B L E

8

Condition of premises	..	..	3
Housing defects	..	..	13
Water supply	..	..	3
Overcrowding	..	..	1
Absence of sanitary dustbin	..	..	5
Smoke nuisance	..	..	1
Verminous premises	..	..	4
Keeping of animals	..	..	2
Rats and Mice	..	..	11
Accumulations of refuse, etc.	..	..	14
Burning of refuse	..	..	1
Cesspools	..	..	3
Drains and sanitary fittings	..	..	28
Miscellaneous	..	..	11
			—
			100
			==

SANITARY DEFECTS & NOTICES

Table .9. shows the number of defects found and the notices served together with the results. It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings.

In certain instances, works required by notice were not carried out owing to war conditions, viz: evacuation, damage due to enemy action, etc.

T A B L E

9

Subject of Notice	Preliminary	Statutory	Number Complied with	Number Outstanding at end of Year.
Contraventions of:-				
Housing Act, 1936; Section 62 ..	2	-	-	-
Meat Regulations, 1924 ..	-	-	-	-
Milk & Dairies Order, 1926 ..	-	-	-	2
Factories Act, 1937 ..	3	-	1	2
Rats & Mice Destruction Act 1919	-	-	-	-
Shops Act, 1934; Section 10 ..	2	-	3	-
Dampness arising from:-				
Defective roofs ..	5	-	9	-
Defective eaves gutters ..	6	-	6	-
Defective rainwater pipes ..	2	-	1	1
Defective external pointing ..	3	-	6	-
Other causes ..	4	-	6	-
Absence of ventilated foodstore	1	-	2	1
Defective floors ..	1	-	1	1
Defective doors, cupboards, etc.	1	-	1	-
Defective internal plaster work	3	-	3	1
Defective window frames, sash				
cords, etc. ..	1	-	5	1
Defective fireplaces, oven, etc.	2	-	3	-
Defective chimney flues ..	1	-	1	-
Defective yard paving ..	-	-	-	-
Defective wash-boilers ..	-	-	-	-
Absence of proper sink ..	1	-	1	-
Defective sink waste-pipe ..	-	-	-	-
Dirty condition of rooms or				
premises ..	2	-	2	-
Sanitary dustbins required ..	69	1	67	2
Defective water closets ..	3	-	3	1
Insufficient flush to water closet	1	-	1	-
Choked drains ..	10	-	10	-
Defective drains ..	6	-	5	1
Defective gullies and cement				
dishings ..	2	-	2	-
Defective soilpipes ..	-	-	-	-
Keeping of animals, etc. ..	-	-	-	-
Ditches requiring cleansing ..	-	-	-	-
Accumulation of refuse, etc. ..	6	-	7	-
Smoke abatement ..	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	8	-	10	-
	144	1	156	13

HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

During the year 19 houses were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations and 133 houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action.

The following table shows the details of sanitary improvements effected during the year:-

T A B L E 10

Roofs repaired	6
Eaves gutters, rainwater pipes renewed or repaired ..	3
External walls repaired or repointed	4
Sub-floor ventilation provided	1
Dampness abated	11
Plasterwork repaired, cleansed or distempered	9
Window frames repaired, sash cords renewed ..	6
Stoves or firegrates repaired or renewed ..	5
Floors repaired or renewed	5
New baths fixed	5
New lavatory basins fixed	70
New impervious sinks fixed	4
Existing waste-pipes repaired or renewed ..	3
Ventilated food stores provided	4
Yard paving renewed or repaired	1
Premises limewashed	6
Dustbins provided	90
New W.C. compartments constructed	5
W.C. compartments lighted, repaired and ventilated ..	6
New Pedestal pans fixed	8
New manholes provided	3
Existing manholes repaired or covers fixed ..	1
Flushing cisterns fixed or adjusted	3
New soil pipes or ventilation shafts fixed ..	5
Drains repaired or new branch drains laid ..	16
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed ..	13
Accumulations of refuse, etc. removed ..	6
Miscellaneous	22

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year a total of 10 visits were made, 6 to factories with mechanical power and 4 to factories with non-mechanical power. No defects were found.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

During 1940, 11 complaints were received by the Department with regard to rats and mice, as compared with 24 during the previous year.

There are no large granaries or warehouses in Bexhill and the work presented no major problems and continued throughout the year.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The number of visits paid under this heading during the year was 836, as compared with 785 in 1939.

Bedding is treated by steam at the disinfecting station and the following table indicates the variety and number of articles disinfected or destroyed, and the number of rooms fumigated:-

T A B L E II

ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED

Wearing apparel	..	..	436
Beds	..	..	7
Mattresses	..	..	249
Eiderdowns	..	..	132
Bolsters	..	..	23
Pillows	..	..	339
Blankets	..	..	495
Sheets	..	..	134
Miscellaneous	..	..	242
			<u>2,057</u>

ROOMS FUMIGATED

Diphtheria	..	..	10
Scarlet Fever	..	..	32
Tuberculosis	..	..	8
Cancer	..	..	5
Erysipelas	..	..	1
Measles	..	..	4
Rubella	..	..	7
Miscellaneous	..	..	27

(iv) Shops and Offices

The administration of the provisions of Section 10, Shops Act, 1934, relating to sanitary and other arrangements for the health of workers employed in or about shops is carried out by the Public Health Department.

No complaints were received during the year. Prohibition of visitors and voluntary temporary transfer of population during the latter part of the year resulted in the closure of many shops and the reduction in staff of others. Conditions generally remained satisfactory.

The following improvements were carried out during the year:-

Provision of heating apparatus .. 1

Provision of water closet .. 1

At the end of the year 33 offices were on the register.

(v) Camping Sites

In March, 1940, camping under the Defence Regulations was prohibited in the area and no subsequent work in this connection was undertaken.

(vi) Smoke Abatement

One complaint was received during the year, but, on investigation, this was found to be without justification.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools

(a) Public:

The Corporation Open-Air Swimming Pool, in Egerton Park, is equipped with a modern filtration plant which provides for continuous filtration combined with accurately-controlled chlorination with a four hour turn-over period.

Two samples of the pool water were submitted for examination, both of which were very satisfactory.

(b) Privately-owned:

There are no privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to the public within the Borough.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was as follows:-

<u>Infested</u>			<u>Disinfested</u>		
(a) Council houses	..	4	(a) Council houses	..	4
(b) Other houses	..	3	(b) Other houses	..	3

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Staff of the Public Health Department and there has been no change in (1) the methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs, (2) the methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses and (3) the measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation, from those described in previous reports.

4. Schools

The building of the new elementary school was near completion at the conclusion of the year.

The general position with regard to hygiene in schools remains unchanged.

The recommendations contained in the Memorandum on Closure and Exclusion from School, 1927, with regard to the means to be taken to prevent the spread of Infectious Disease have been followed, and it was not necessary to close any school on account of Infectious Disease.

S E C T I O N D

H O U S I N G

General details with regard to new houses erected, inspection of dwelling-houses, particulars of overcrowding, etc. are submitted in the following tabular form:-

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total	14
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:	
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By private or commercial enterprise ..	Nil
(c) Without State assistance under the Housing Acts:	
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By private or commercial enterprise ..	14

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	293
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	821
(2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	19
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	104
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	143

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	133
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year | 1 |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | 1 |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | 2 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | Nil |

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part LV - Overcrowding (Continued)

(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	.. .. .	6
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	..	47
(d)		Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	..	Nil
(e)		Other particulars:		
	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved in houses owned by the Local Authority	..	4
	(ii)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved in non-Council houses	.. .. .	2
	(iii)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved by voluntary removal to non-Council houses	..	Nil
	(iv)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved by reduction in family	.. .. .	6

★ Overcrowding in these cases was relieved by Evacuation and may be regarded as temporary.

S E C T I O N E

I N S P E C T I O N & S U P E R V I S I O N O F F O O D

(a) Milk Supply

The accompanying table gives the total number of persons and premises that were registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, at the conclusion of 1940, and particulars of the licences that were granted under the Milk and Dairies (Special) Designations Orders 1936 and 1938:-

Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	..	..	14
Cowkeepers and Retail Purveyors of Milk	..	..	8
Retail Purveyors of Milk	..	..	45
Premises as Cowsheds or Dairies	..	..	46

Producer's and Bottler's Licence to sell milk as Accredited	1
Producer's Licence to sell milk as Accredited	.. 4
Pasteuriser's Licence to sell milk as Pasteurised	.. 1
Bottler's Licence to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested	.. 1
Dealer's Licence to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested	.. 6
Dealer's Licence to sell milk as Pasteurised	.. 2

A total of 123 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops during 1940. Thirty-three samples of milk were submitted for examination, the results of which are shown in the following table:-

TABLE 12

AREA OF PRODUCTION	NON - GRADED MILK		GRADED MILK		Inoculation for Tuberculosis		Phosphatase Tests		TOTALS
	Examined by Methylene Blue & Coliform Tests		Examined by Prescribed Tests						
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Posi- tive	Nega- tive	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	
BEXHILL	7	3	-	-	-	5	2	-	17
VARIOUS	7	1	2	-	-	5	1	-	16
TOTALS	14	4	2	-	-	10	3	-	33

(b) Meat and Other Foods

During the year a total of 607 visits were made by the Inspectors to shops, stalls, vehicles and other premises where food is sold, prepared or stored. The hygienic conditions in shops can be considered as being very satisfactory.

There are three slaughterhouses within the Borough, two of which are licensed and one registered. When the Regional Scheme was introduced in January, 1940, slaughtering within the Borough was discontinued. The following table shows the number of animals which were killed and inspected during the month of January, being the total number of animals slaughtered within the Borough during the year:

Cattle	..	..	5
Cows	..	..	1
Calves	..	..	6
Sheep & lambs	..	..	10
Pigs	..	..	82
Total	..	..	104

The following table gives details of the meat and food condemned during the year:

TABLE 13

SUMMARY OF MEAT AND FOOD CONDEMNED

				<u>Total weight</u>
				<u>in lbs.</u>
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>			<u>lbs</u>	
Pork:	2 pigs and offal	..	167	167
<u>OTHER DISEASED CONDITIONS</u>				
Emaciation:	5 lambs	..	94	
Miscellaneous:	..	..	120	214
<u>DAMAGED BY ENEMY ACTION</u>				
Meat:	..	..	85	
Miscellaneous:	..	..	464	
- do -	(washed up by sea)	..	224	773
	TOTAL	..	..	1,154 lbs

(c) Adulteration, etc.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 30 applications were received for the Registration of Premises used in connection with the manufacture or sale of Ice Cream, Preserved Food, etc. The premises were inspected and in each case it was possible to recommend the issue of the necessary licence.

The following information has kindly been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:-

During the year, one prosecution was instituted in respect of a sample of Scotch Whisky resulting in a fine of 5gns. and 4 gns. costs. Cautions were given in respect of one adulterated sample of whisky and one sample of sausages.

The following table is a summary of the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act during the year:-

TABLE 14

Article	No. of Samples taken		No. Genuine		No. Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	11	89	11	89	None	None
Cream	-	5	-	5	-	None
Butter	-	30	-	30	-	None
Sausages	1	11	-	11	1	None
Coffee	-	5	-	5	-	None
Margarine	-	2	-	2	-	None
Whisky	2	5	-	4	2	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, &C. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS 1925 to 1939.

The following samples were taken during the year under the above Regulations:-

T A B L E 15

Article	No. of Samples taken		No. Satisfactory		No. Unsatisfactory	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Bacon	-	5	-	5	-	-
Cream	-	5	-	5	-	-
Margarine	-	2	-	2	-	-
Sausages	1	11	-	11	/ 1	-
Lard substitute	1	-	1	-	-	-

/ Caution given

S E C T I O N F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Prevalence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases

There has been no change during the year in the infectious diseases compulsorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health.

The year 1940 had no outstanding features with regard to the incidence of infectious disease within the Borough; there was, however, an absence of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia Neonatorum, a slight decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria and an increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, as compared with the previous year.

The incidence of infectious disease amongst evacuees, who resided in the Borough until Bexhill ceased to be a reception area at the end of June, 1940, was negligible.

The following table shows the number of cases notified, the number of cases admitted to Isolation Hospital, and the total deaths:-

T A B L E 16

Disease	Notifications received	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths including in-ward transfers
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	19	16	-
Diphtheria	11	11	-
Enteric Fever	1	1	-
Pneumonia	8	-	19
Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	-	-	1
Cerebro-spinal Mening.	2	2	-
Erysipelas	2	1	-
Measles	26	1	-
Whooping Cough	81	5	1
Observation cases	-	4	-
Miscellaneous	-	4	-
Total	150	45	21

Diphtheria Immunisation

At the beginning of the year, a scheme was inaugurated for the Immunisation against Diphtheria, free of charge, for children under five years of age and of the Elementary Schools, in addition to facilities already existing.

Twenty-nine clinics were held during the year at which 1,848 attendances were recorded. The following table shows the number of children immunised.

T A B L E 17

Number of children immunised:

Under 5 years 130

Over 5 years 470

Number of children who attended clinic, but did not complete full course of immunisation:

Under 5 years 12

Over 5 years 101

Cancer

The number of deaths certified as being due to Cancer was 64, 26 males and 38 females, as compared with a total of 59, 22 males and 37 females in 1939.

The Death Rate per 1,000 population was 2.8.

Tuberculosis

During 1940, formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 6 cases of Pulmonary and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, as compared with 14 and 2 respectively during the previous year.

In addition, 6 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the undermentioned sources:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Death Returns of cases not previously notified	2	-
Transfers from other areas	3	-
Notifications of admission and discharge to and from a hospital outside the Borough of a case not previously notified	1	-

Cases of Tuberculosis notified within the Borough come under the control of the East Sussex County Council. Examinations are undertaken at the Dispensary in London Road.

Official notification of this disease is fairly good. No action was found necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following table shows the total number of cases coming to the notice of the Department, either by primary notification or otherwise, during the year, together with the total number of deaths, classified into age groups:-

T A B L E 18

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	5	7	-	2	3	5	-	-

Percentage of non-notified deaths to total deaths: 25%

Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:

Pulmonary ..	..	.34
Non-Pulmonary ..	..	Nil
All forms ..	..	<u>.34</u>

The number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register at the end of 1940 was as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary ..	25	22	47
Non-Pulmonary ..	8	13	21
	<u>33</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>68</u>

Cases of Tuberculosis notified within the Borough come under the control of the East Sussex County Council. Examinations are undertaken at the Dispensary in London Road.

Official notification of this disease is fairly good. No action was found necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 173 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following table shows the total number of cases coming to the notice of the Department, either by primary notification or otherwise, during the year, together with the total number of deaths, classified into age groups:-

T A B L E

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	5	7	-	2	3	5	-	-

This table shows the percentage of non-notified deaths to total deaths: 25%

Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:

All forms	.. 34
Non-Pulmonary	.. 11
Pulmonary	.. 34

The number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register at the end of 1940 was as follows:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	25	32	57
Non-Pulmonary	9	15	24
	34	47	81