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A N N U A L       R E P O R T

OF THE

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

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 4 1

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W. T. DONOVAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



A F E U A D N E I O R E

OF THE

OFFICE OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1911

W. T. DODD, M.D., CHIEF OF BUREAU

DEPARTMENT 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.

Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector:

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

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

Ante-Natal

Clinics: 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):

E.L. Hobbs, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.  
D. Goldsmith, S.R.N., S.C.M.  
L. Parks, 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 V. Kemp

✓ Serving with H.M. Forces.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health, National Superintendent Borough Institution  
Hospital and School Medical Officer:

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

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

W. E. Rowell, M.R.S.M.I., M.S.I.A.

Acting Chief Sanitary Inspector:

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

Districting Officer and General Assistant:

W. Stone

Clinic Green Institution Hospital:

Miss F. M. Mackey

Matron:

Maternity and Child Clinic (Dexhill Nursing Association and  
East Sussex County Council):

M.C.W. Dittler, L.M. Rhodes-Gibney, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.S.,  
A.R. Winchester, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.

Anti-Natal

Clinic: L.M. Rhodes-Gibney, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.S.

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

E. E. Hobbs, S.R.N., S.C.M., N.V.  
D. Goldsmith, S.R.N., S.C.M.  
E. Evans, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Toxicologist (East Sussex County Council):

Mr. A. N. Harte, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.C.S. (Ed.)

Veterinal Diseases (East Sussex County Council):

V. Bennett Parlow, B.V.

Clerks:

Miss E. Dwyer  
Miss V. Kemp

\* Serving with H.M. Forces.

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

---

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

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

In accordance with the recommendations of Ministry of Health Circular 2604, the report has been curtailed and arrangements made for the preservation of records, including the statistics supplied by the Registrar General.

On the grounds of national security, complete details of the population have not been included in the report and the variety and magnitude of local population movement, and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths, have together combined to frustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of Areal Comparability Factors.

The general standard of health of the residents of the Borough may be considered to have been very satisfactory. There has been a decrease in the number of cases of notifiable disease, especially in relation to Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough.

The progress of the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic may be considered to be fairly satisfactory and continued efforts are being made to secure the immunisation of the maximum number of children, especially of those under 5 years of age.

With regard to Civil Defence, I wish to record that excellent work has been undertaken by both whole and part-time personnel of the Casualty Services throughout the year.

Once again, I wish to express my thanks to the Council for the co-operation given in relation to matters affecting the health of the Borough and to my staff, my appreciation of the loyalty and assistance rendered to me throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient Servant,

W. T. DONOVAN

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Dept.,  
40, Sutherland Avenue,  
BEXHILL.

July, 1942.

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

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen

I have the honor to present to you my seventh Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health Circular 2804, the report has been compiled and arranged in accordance with the recommendations of the Registrar General, including the statistics supplied by the Registrar General.

On the grounds of national economy, complete details of the population have not been included in the report and the variety and magnitude of local population movements, and the incidence of civil war deaths, have not been included to illustrate the attempt to secure comparability between local death rates by the use of annual comparability factors.

The general standard of health of the residents of the Borough may be considered to have been very satisfactory. There has been a decrease in the number of cases of notifiable diseases, especially in relation to Diphtheria, Scarlet fever and Whooping Cough.

The progress of the Diphtheria Inoculation Campaign may be considered to be fairly satisfactory and continued efforts are being made to secure the immunisation of the maximum number of children, especially of those under 5 years of age.

With regard to Civil Defence, I wish to record that excellent work has been undertaken by both male and female personnel of the Casualty Services throughout the year.

Once again, I wish to express my thanks to the Council for the co-operation given in relation to various matters affecting the health of the Borough and to my staff, for their devotion, loyalty and assistance rendered to me throughout the year.

I have the honor to be,  
Your obedient servant,

W. T. DODD

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Dept.,  
40, Butterfield Avenue,  
BEXHILL.

July, 1942



EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births:			
Legitimate .. .. .	90	80	170
Illegitimate .. .. .	7	7	14
<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ..</u>			14.0
Stillbirths:	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate .. .. .	4	-	4
Illegitimate .. .. .	-	1	1
<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..</u>			14.4
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths .. .. .	109	116	225
<u>Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population .</u>			17.2
Deaths from puerperal causes .. .. .			Nil
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:			
Legitimate .. .. .	4	4	8
Illegitimate .. .. .	-	-	-
<u>Death Rate of Infants under one year of age</u>			
All infants per 1,000 live			
births .. .. .			55.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000			
legitimate live births .. .. .			60.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000			
illegitimate live births .. .. .			-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .			25
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. .. .			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. .. .			Nil

T A B L E 1

CAUSES OF DEATH

All Causes	Male 109	Female 116
1. Typhoid & Parat. Fever	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	1
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	2
9. Influenza	1	-
10. Measles	-	-
11. Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encephalitis	-	-
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	1
13. Cancer of Buccal cavity & Oesophagus (m) Uterus (f)	-	-
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	2	4
15. Cancer of Breast	-	3
16. Cancer of all other sites	9	7
17. Diabetes	1	-
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	19	20
19. Heart Disease	24	39
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	9	4
21. Bronchitis	2	3
22. Pneumonia	2	7
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	-	2
24. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	-
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-
26. Appendicitis	1	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	4	3
28. Nephritis	2	2
29. Puerperal & Post-abortive Sepsis	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	-
31. Premature Birth	3	3
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	-	1
33. Suicide	3	1
34. Road Traffic Accident	2	-
35. Other Violent Causes	6	3
36. All Other Causes	14	10



## AGE AT DEATH - ALL CASES, 1941.

	Under 1 Yr.		1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65			
Males	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	4	6	17	75	109	
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3	21	83	116	

TABLE 4

## TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS, INFANTILE DEATHS &amp; 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 ..	31	2.4	1	6.9
Egerton Park ..	40	3.0	1	6.9
Old Town ..	59	4.6	4	27.6
Sackville ..	38	2.9	-	-
St. Mark's ..	57	4.3	2	13.8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1941 SHOWN BY WARDS AND ATTACK RATE PER 1,000 ESTIMATED POPULATION

Disease	Ward:-										Total	Rate
	Central	Egerton Park	Rate	Old Town	Rate	Sackville	Rate	St. Mark's	Rate	Total		
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	3	.23	-	-	5	.38	-	8	.61
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.08	-	1	.08
Pneumonia	3	1	.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	.31
Paratyphoid	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.08
Erysipelas	1	2	.15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	.23
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	-	-	1	.08	1	.08	1	.08	-	4	.31
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.08	-	1	.08
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	6	.45	-	-	8	.61	-	15	1.14
Measles	1	1	.08	14	1.07	-	-	13	.99	-	29	2.22
Totals .. ..	8	4	.31	24	1.83	1	.08	29	2.22	1	66	5.06

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 are carried out on behalf of the Authority at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, under an agreement with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service.

The following table shows the number of specimens examined during 1941:-

	Number Examined	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria .. ..	25	-	25
Typhoid & Paratyphoid:-			
Faeces .. ..	6	2	4
Urine .. ..	5	-	5
Widal .. ..	2	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid & Swabs for Meningococcus .. ..	19	13	6
Sputa for Tuberculosis .. ..	2	-	2
Miscellaneous .. ..	9	-	9
Total .. ..	<u>68</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>52</u>

b. Ambulance facilities

For Infectious Diseases:

The existing arrangements for the removal of cases of infectious disease continued until October, 1941, when, owing to the closure of the Bexhill Isolation Hospital, an agreement was made for cases to be removed to the Hastings Sanatorium in an Infectious Disease Ambulance belonging to the Hastings Corporation.

b. Ambulance facilities (continued)

For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases:

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 262 patients to hospitals during 1941.

c. Nursing in the home

The Bexhill Nursing Association is supported by voluntary contributions and maintains three district nurses who attend non-infectious cases in their homes. During 1941, the following number of cases were attended:-

Maternity and Midwifery	..	..	55
General cases	..	..	190

The visits paid were:-

Maternity and Midwifery	..	..	1003
General Nursing	..	..	5205
Casual Visits	..	..	154

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

d. Treatment Centres and Clinics

- (i) Minor Ailment Clinic for School Children, First Aid Post, Little Common Road: Daily.
- (ii) Dental Clinic for School Children, First Aid Post, Little Common Road: Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- (iii) Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic, London Road: Weekly - Fridays.
- (iv) Ante-Natal Clinic, London Road: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month.
- (v) Dental Clinic for Mothers & Toddlers, London Road: Once a month.
- (vi) Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic, First Aid Post, Little Common Road: Weekly - Mondays.
- (vii) Tuberculosis Dispensary, London Road: Weekly - Wednesdays.
- (viii) Orthopaedic Clinic: Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings.
- (ix) Venereal Diseases Clinic: Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings.

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.)

Normal 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.

No further patients were admitted to this Hospital after the 22nd October, 1941, when a temporary arrangement was made with the County Borough of Hastings for the removal of cases of infectious disease occurring within Bexhill to the Isolation Hospital, Hastings.

The Bexhill Isolation Hospital was closed on the 29th November, 1941, and put on a 'care and maintenance' basis.

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 1941.

Other Hospitals

Bexhill Hospital (Voluntary)

Mr. F. Scary, Secretary of the Hospital, has kindly supplied the following data:-

"In spite of difficult and anxious times, the Hospital continues to fulfil its function as a centre of healing in Bexhill.

"The following are statistics of patients treated during 1941:

In-patients:

No. admitted (this figure includes 125 patients admitted to Hospital from Villages around Bexhill) .. .. .	650
Average length of stay of each patient ..	16.5 days
Average daily number of beds occupied ..	29.3

Out-patients

Dental Department .. .. .	50
Aural Department .. .. .	2
Casualty Department .. .. .	773
Dermatological Department .. .. .	15
Massage & Electrical Department .. .. .	240
Gynaecological Department .. .. .	48
Ophthalmic Department .. .. .	86
X-Ray Department .. .. .	800
Surgical Out-Patients .. .. .	158
	<hr/>
Total	2172
	<hr/>
Out-patient Attendances	8619
	<hr/>

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 consists of three certified midwives, one of whom devotes her time entirely to infant health visiting and attendances at clinics, whilst the other two devote their time between midwifery and general nursing.

One part-time Medical Officer attends the ante-natal and maternity and child welfare clinics.

In November, 1941, the ante-natal and child welfare clinics were re-opened.

(1) Midwifery and Maternity Services

The number of midwives practising within the Borough on the 31st December, 1941, was 6.

T A B L E 6

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

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic

	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>
<b>(a) Mothers:</b>		
Number attending .. .. .	392	186
Number of attendances .. .. .	1629	342
<b>(b) Children:</b>		
Number who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendances were;-		
(i) Under one year .. .. .	84	50
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	18	16
Percentage of notified births represented by the number in (b)(i) .. .. .		
	37.7	27.2
Number of attendances by children:-		
(i) Under one year .. .. .	741	186
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	648	156

Ante-Natal Clinic

Number of Expectant Mothers attending	74	81
Number of attendances .. .. .	124	138

Dental Clinic

Number of attendances by Mothers ..	150	76
Number of attendances by Infants ..	17	4

(-i) Institutional provision for Mothers and Children

The facilities for institutional treatment for mothers, as described in previous reports, have continued to be available.

Owing to the departure in March, 1941, of the Ear, Nose & Throat Surgeon from the Bexhill Hospital, the alternative arrangements whereby children of the Elementary Schools receive treatment for tonsils and adenoids at the Buchanan Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea, were put into operation.

## ATTENDANCES AT THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AND DENTAL CLINICS

(iii) Health Visitors

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

	1940.	1941.
To Expectant Mothers:		
First visits .. .. .	128	86
Subsequent visits .. .. .	310	269
To Infants under one year:		
First visits .. .. .	126	91
Total visits .. .. .	1148	1056
To Children ages 1 to 5 years .. .. .	643	631
Total visits paid by Health Visitors	1791	1727

(iv) Child Life Protection

The provisions of Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to Child Life Protection 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 Homes in Bexhill have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:-

Total number of homes registered in the Borough ..	8
Number of applications for registration during 1941 ..	1
Homes registered during the year .. .. .	1
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration ..	-
Nursing homes closed down during the year by the owners ..	2

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civil Defence (Casualty) Services

During the year, training of personnel of the Casualty Services has continued and the standard of efficiency of all sections is considered to be satisfactory.

First Aid Party Leaders, and certain Deputy Leaders, have attended the Regional School for a course of instruction in Advanced First Aid and Rescue work. Personnel of the First Aid Parties have undertaken the training of local Wardens and members of the Rescue Parties in First Aid. It is intended to give similar instruction to members of the Fire Guard Service.

The standard of protection, accommodation and facilities at Posts and Depots, at which personnel are required to stand-by for lengthy periods, has been reviewed and found to be satisfactory. It is intended, however, to submit plans for the improvement of conditions at one First Aid Party Depot used by part-time volunteers who, owing to the reduction in the number of personnel generally available, may now be required to undertake longer periods of stand-by duty.

The standard of health of volunteers throughout the Service has been satisfactory. Whole and part-time personnel have worked well and a high standard of morale is evident.

Shelters

Periodic inspections of the Public Air Raid Shelters in the Borough have been carried out throughout the year by the Sanitary Staff.

The general hygienic condition of the shelters may be considered satisfactory.

CIVIL DEFENSE

Civil Defense (Casualty) Services

During the year, training of personnel of the Casualty Services has continued and the standard of efficiency of all personnel is considered to be satisfactory.

First Aid Party Leaders, and certain Deputy Leaders, have attended the Regional School for a course of instruction in First Aid and Casualty work. Personnel of the First Aid Parties have undertaken the training of local leaders and members of the Casualty Parties in First Aid. It is intended to give similar instruction to members of the First Aid Parties.

The standard of education, accommodation and facilities at Posts and Depots, at which personnel are required to reside for lengthy periods, has been reviewed and found to be satisfactory. It is intended, however, to submit plans for the improvement of conditions at one First Aid Party Depot and for other depots who, owing to the reduction in the number of personnel available, may now be required to undertake longer periods of duty by duty.

The standard of health of volunteers throughout the service has been satisfactory. High and part-time personnel worked well and a high standard of morale is evident.

Efficiency

Periodic inspections of the public air raid shelters in the Borough have been carried out throughout the year by the...

The general hygienic condition of the shelters was considered satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA1. (i) 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 1941, 24 samples were submitted for bacteriological and/or chemical examination, all of which were very satisfactory.

The average quantity of water used daily during 1941 in the water area was 764,718 galls. It represents a decrease of 151,314 galls. per day as compared with 1940. The average consumption per head per diem in the water area for 1941 was 58.37 galls., as follows:- for trade purposes, 10.18; for domestic purposes 48.19.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage

No sewers were constructed by private enterprise during 1941 and the only work of construction undertaken by the Council was a short length of storm water sewer.

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 existing within the Borough. One additional cesspool was constructed.

(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.

(ii) Public Cleansing and Salvage (continued)

Despite difficulties of labour, transport and petrol restrictions, the frequency of domestic refuse collections has been maintained at one visit per week during the whole of 1941.

Much attention has been given to salvage, and the tonnage of waste materials recovered has been consistently good. At times of special national appeals, the householders have responded well.

In order to meet the demands on the cesspool emptying machine in respect of cesspool emptying, gully cleansing and air raid shelter closet emptying, night shift work was introduced, and by this means all these services have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

It has not been possible to employ on street cleansing as much labour as was customary in peace-time, but the service has not by any means been neglected, and the condition of the streets has at all times been satisfactory.

(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. The following table indicates the scope and extent of the duties performed during the year:

T A B L E 7

Dwelling-houses inspected	..	..	..	162
Visits re above	..	..	..	414
Overcrowding	..	..	..	45
Schools	..	..	..	10
Moveable dwellings	..	..	..	2
Water supply	..	..	..	69
Stables and piggeries	..	..	..	3
Offensive trades	..	..	..	1
Factories, workshops, etc.	..	..	..	3
Bakchouses	..	..	..	14
Shops	..	..	..	4
Public conveniences	..	..	..	28
Theatres and cinemas	..	..	..	3
Rats and Mice	..	..	..	119
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	2
Foodshops	..	..	..	85
Other Food visits	..	..	..	113
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	..	..	..	146
Ice-cream premises	..	..	..	6
Milk sampling	..	..	..	23
Infectious disease and disinfection	..	..	..	402
Disinfestation	..	..	..	63
Re-visits to work in progress	..	..	..	79
Civil Defence	..	..	..	1599
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	801
Total	..	..	..	4196

## COMPLAINTS

During the year, 80 complaints were received and in 69 instances it was possible to take remedial action.

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

TABLE 8

Condition of premises .. ..	5
Housing defects.. ..	3
Water supply .. ..	3
Overcrowding .. ..	1
Verminous premises .. ..	7
Keeping of animals .. ..	1
Rats and Mice .. ..	22
Accumulations of refuse, etc. ..	7
Cesspools .. ..	2
Drains and sanitary fittings ..	23
Miscellaneous .. ..	6
	—
	80
	—

## 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.

TABLE 9

Subject of Notice	Preliminary	Saturatory	Number Complied with	Number Outstanding at end of Year
Contraventions of:-				
Housing Act, 1936; Section 62 ..	-	-	2	-
Meat Regulations, 1924 ..	-	-	-	-
Milk & Dairies Order, 1926 ..	4	-	4	2
Factories Act, 1937 .. ..	-	-	-	-
Rats & Mice Destruction Act, 1919	7	-	6	1
Shops Act, 1934; Section 10 ..	-	-	-	-
Dampness .. .. .	3	-	2	1
Defective floors .. .. .	2	-	1	1
Defective internal plaster work ..	2	-	2	-
Defective fireplaces, oven, etc ..	1	-	1	-
Defective wash-boilers .. ..	2	-	1	1
Absence of proper water supply ..	3	-	3	-
Absence of proper sink .. ..	3	-	3	-
Defective sink waste-pipe .. ..	2	-	1	1
Dirty condition of rooms or premises .. .. .	9	-	11	-
Sanitary dustbins required	1	-	1	-
Defective water closets .. ..	2	-	2	1
Insufficient flush to water closet	3	-	3	-
Choked drains .. .. .	10	-	11	-
Defective drains .. .. .	3	-	2	1
Defective cesspool .. .. .	1	-	1	-
Defective soilpipes .. .. .	-	-	1	-
Ditches requiring cleansing ..	1	-	1	-
Accumulation of refuse, etc. ..	6	-	6	-
Keeping of animals, etc. .. ..	1	-	1	-
Miscellaneous .. .. .	3	-	3	-
	69	-	69	9

#### HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

During the year 1 house was recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations and 42 houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action.

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

TABLE 10

Roofs repaired .. .. .	1
Dampness abated .. .. .	2
New baths fixed .. .. .	2
New lavatory basins fixed .. .. .	5
New impervious sinks fixed .. .. .	3
Existing waste-pipes repaired or renewed .. .. .	1
Premises limewashed .. .. .	7
Dustbins provided .. .. .	2
New W.C. compartments constructed .. .. .	2
W.C. compartments lighted, repaired and ventilated .. .. .	2
New Pedestal pans fixed .. .. .	5
New manholes provided .. .. .	1
Existing manholes repaired or covers fixed .. .. .	1
Flushing cisterns fixed or adjusted .. .. .	5
New soil pipes or ventilation shafts fixed .. .. .	2
Drains repaired or new branch drains laid .. .. .	11
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed .. .. .	18
Accumulations of refuse, etc. removed .. .. .	18
Miscellaneous .. .. .	11

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year 3 visits were made, 2 to factories with mechanical power and 1 to a factory with non-mechanical power. No defects were found.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

During 1941, 22 complaints were received by the Department with regard to rats and mice, as compared with 11 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 402, as compared with 836 in 1940.

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:-

TABLE II

ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED

Wearing apparel	..	..	1310
Beds	..	..	14
Mattresses	..	..	94
Eiderdowns	..	..	31
Boilers	..	..	13
Pillows	..	..	141
Blankets	..	..	407
Sheets	..	..	57
Miscellaneous	..	..	909
			2976
			2976

ROOMS FUMIGATED

Diphtheria	..	..	1
Scarlet Fever	..	..	8
Para-typhoid	..	..	1
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	.	.	13
Tuberculosis	..	..	5
Cancer	..	..	3
Miscellaneous	..	..	24
			55
			55

(iv) Shops and Offices

The provisions of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, are administered by the Health Department.

No complaints were received during the year, and no action was found to be necessary.

(v) Camping Sites

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

(vi) Smoke Abatement

No complaints were received during the year, and no action was found to be necessary.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools

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.

Three samples of the pool water were submitted for examination, all of which were very satisfactory.

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	... 7	(a) Council houses	... 7
(b) Other houses	... Nil	(b) Other houses	... Nil

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Staff of the Public Health Department and there has been no change, from those described in previous reports, 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.

4. Schools

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.

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Swimming Pools and Baths

No complaints were received during the year, and no action was found to be necessary.

(vii) Swimming Pools and Baths

The Corporation Over-Air Swimming Pool, in Gordon Park, equipped with a water filtration plant which provides for continuous filtration combined with automatic chlorination with a 24-hour turn-over period.

Three samples of the pool water were submitted for analysis, all of which were very satisfactory.

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

(viii) Inspection of Bed Bugs

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

<u>Infested</u>		<u>Not Infested</u>	
(a) Council houses	5	(a) Council houses	...
(b) Other houses	111	(b) Other houses	...

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Corporation of the Public Health Department and there has been no change from the methods reported in previous reports, in (1) the methods reported for the infested houses from bed bugs, (2) the methods employed for the disinfection of premises and (3) the measures taken by way of supervision of premises to prevent infestation or re-infestation.

Vermin

The general position with regard to vermin is as follows:-

The reports received in the Borough during the year 1957, with regard to the spread of infectious diseases have been very satisfactory and necessary to close any school on account of infectious diseases.

S E C T I O N D

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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:- .. .. Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year

(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. .. .	..	162
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. .. .	..	414
(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	.. .. .	..	1
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. .. .	..	2
(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	.. .. .	..	42

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	.. .. .	..	42
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### 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 .. .. .	Nil
(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 IV - Overcrowding (Continued)

(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .	..	..	Nil
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	..	..	Nil
(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 ..	..	..	Nil
	(ii) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved in non-Council houses .. .. .	..	..	Nil
(iii)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved by voluntary removal to non-Council house ..	..	..	Nil
(iv)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved by reduction in family .. .. .	..	..	Nil

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Number of cases of ...

- (i) Number of cases of ...
- (ii) Number of cases of ...
- (iii) Number of cases of ...
- (iv) Number of cases of ...
- (v) Other ...
- (vi) Number of cases of ...
- (vii) Number of cases of ...
- (viii) Number of cases of ...
- (ix) Number of cases of ...
- (x) Number of cases of ...



TABLE 12

## MILK SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE BOROUGH

AREA OF PRODUCTION	NON - GRADED MILK		GRADED MILK		Inoculation for Tuberculosis		Phosphatase Tests		Special Examinations		TOTALS
	Examined by Methylene Blue & Coliform Tests		Examined by Prescribed Tests		Posi- tive	Nega- tive	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory							
BEXHILL	13	4	2	1	-	9	1	1	1	-	32
VARIOUS	9	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
TOTALS	22	9	3	1	-	9	1	1	1	-	47

(b) Meat and Other Foods

During the year a total of 375 visits were made by the Inspector 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.

No slaughtering was carried out in the Borough during the year; meat supplies are received from Regional Slaughterhouses in the adjoining County Borough of Hastings.

The following table gives details of foodstuffs dealt with by the Inspector during the year:

T A B L E 13

SUMMARY OF MEAT AND FOOD CONDEMNED

			<u>lbs.</u>
Beef and Mutton	..	..	58
<del>///</del> Bacon	..	..	66
Fish	..	..	232
<del>///</del> Meat Roll	..	..	300
Fruit	..	..	176
Vegetables	..	..	100
<del>/</del> Butter	..	..	93
Cheese	..	..	10
Tea	..	..	4
Other Foodstuffs	..	..	2
Total	..	..	<u>1041</u>

~~/~~ Transferred for use in catering trade.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following table, a summary of the samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act during the year, has kindly been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:-

T A B L E 14

Article	No. of Samples taken		No. Genuine		No. Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	4	16	4	16	None	None
Sausages	-	1	-	1	None	None

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

One sample of sausages was taken during the year under the above Regulations and found to be satisfactory.

DECONTAMINATION OF FOODSTUFFS

During the year the Sanitary Inspector attended the Ministry of Food course "Treatment and Disposal of Foodstuffs Contaminated by Poison Gas." A scheme for dealing with foodstuffs affected by poison gas was submitted to and approved by the Ministry, and recruitment and training of Food Treatment Squads has proceeded throughout the year.

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## SECTION

## F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASESPrevalence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases

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

With regard to the incidence of infectious disease within the Borough, there was, during the year, a marked decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough.

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

TABLE 15

Disease	Notifications received	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths including in-ward transfers
Smallpox .. .. .	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	8	8	-
Diphtheria .. .. .	1	1	-
Paratyphoid .. .. .	1	1	-
Pneumonia .. .. .	4	-	9
Ac. Inf. Encephalitis .. .. .	-	-	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .. .. .	4	4	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	1	-	-
Erysipelas .. .. .	3	1	-
Measles .. .. .	29	-	-
Whooping Cough .. .. .	15	-	-
Observations cases .. .. .	-	1	-
Miscellaneous .. .. .	-	2	-
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>

### Diphtheria Immunisation

In February, 1940, the Dexhill Council introduced a scheme whereby children of the elementary schools, and children under 5 years of age, were offered facilities for immunisation against Diphtheria, free of charge.

Since that date, the scheme has progressed and been extended until facilities for free immunisation are now available at the Council's Clinic to all children up to the age of 15 years within the Borough.

Throughout the year, efforts have been made to increase the number of children immunised, particularly those under 5 years of age, and in this connection, a film "The Defeat of Diphtheria" prepared by the Ministry of Information was shown in October.

During 1941, 21 sessions for inoculation were held and 26 sessions for Schick-testing.

The following table shows the number of children immunised during the year:-

T A B L E 16

Number of children immunised:				
Under 5 years .. .. .	..	..	..	132
Over 5 years .. .. .	..	..	..	171
Number of children who attended clinic, but did not complete full course of immunisation:				
Under 5 years .. .. .	..	..	..	5
Over 5 years .. .. .	..	..	..	9

### Cancer

The number of deaths certified as being due to Cancer was 25, 11 males and 14 females, as compared with a total of 64, 26 males and 38 females in 1940.

The Death Rate per 1,000 population was 1.9.

### Tuberculosis

During 1941, formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 6 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, as compared with 6 cases of Pulmonary and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the previous year.

Tuberculosis (continued)

In addition, 7 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 .. .. .	5	-

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

Official notification of this disease is fair. 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 17

Age Periods	New Cases (Civilians)				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	3	-	-	1	1	-	-
25 - 35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Over 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Tuberculosis (continued)

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

Tuberculosis (continued)

Percentage of non-notified deaths to total deaths: 40%

Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:

Pulmonary .. ..	.38
Non-pulmonary .. ..	Nil
All forms .. ..	<u>.38</u>

The number of cases of Tuberculosis, **civilian & non-civilian** of the Register at the end of 1941 was as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary .. ..	31	18	49
Non-Pulmonary .. ..	8	12	20
	<u>39</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>69</u>

Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1937	1	1	-	-	2
1938	1	1	-	-	2
1939	1	1	-	-	2
1940	1	1	-	-	2
1941	1	1	-	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>