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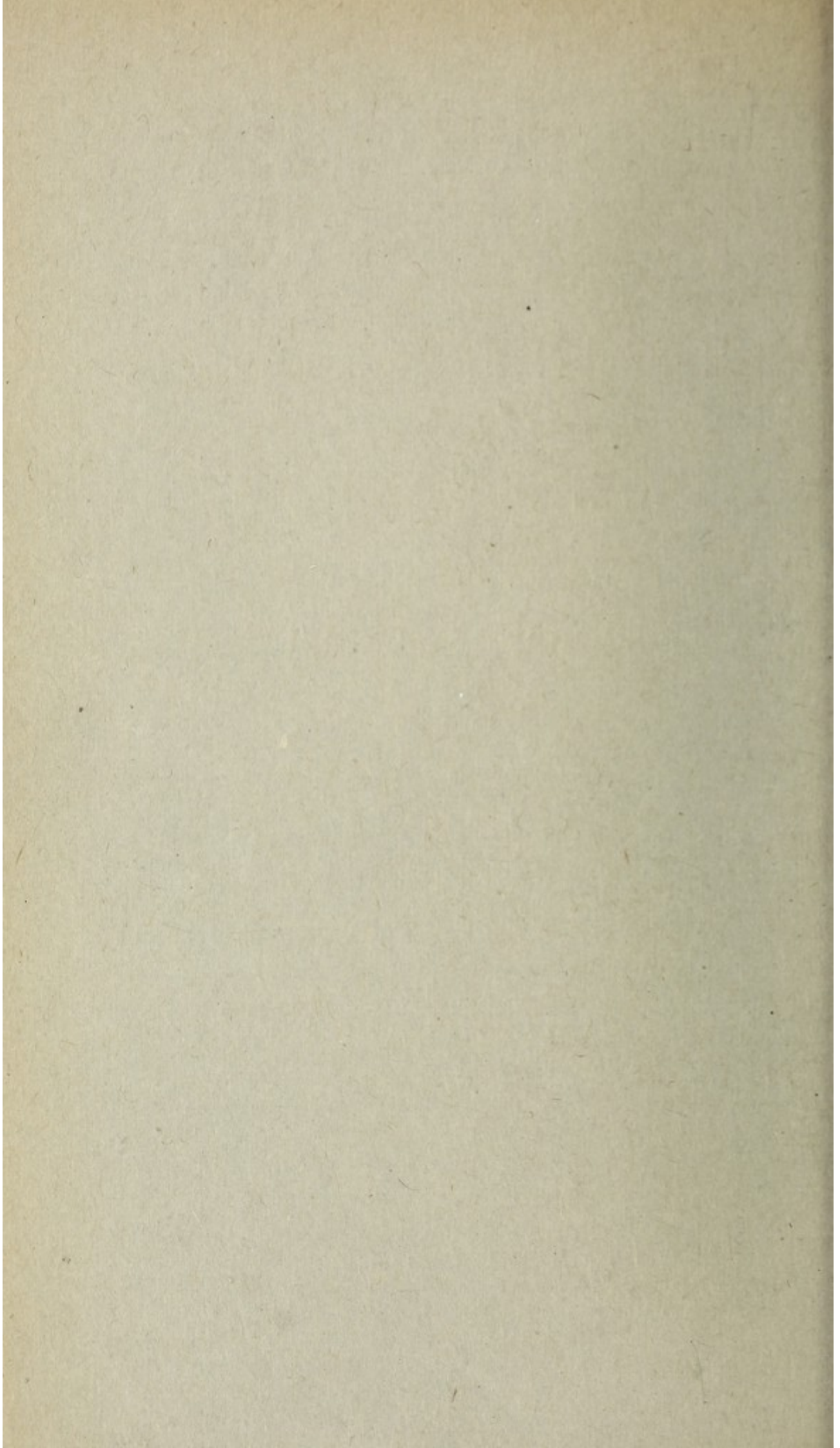


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR
1944



D. MORLEY MATHIESON, M.A., M.D.(Edin.), Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health;
Chief Medical Officer for the Municipality's Hospital, Maternity, Child Welfare,
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POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

POPULATION

Population.—The population of the Borough, as recorded at the time of the 1931 census was 147,803.

The Registrar-General has estimated the population of the Borough as at mid-year 1944 as 118,770.

BIRTHS

Births registered during 1944, and birth rate.—During the year 2,770 live births belonging to the Borough were *registered*.

The live birth rate for 1944 was 23.3.

Birth rate in recent years.—The birth rates since 1934 are as follows:—

1934	16.8	per 1,000
1935	17.0	„
1936	16.4	„
1937	16.3	„
1938	17.0	„
1939	16.8	„
1940	18.7	„
1941	18.5	„
1942	19.6	„
1943	21.9	„
1944	23.3	„

Still births.—In addition to live births, 107 still births belonging to Birkenhead were registered in accordance with Section 7 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1926. This is equivalent to a still birth rate of 0.90.

Comparison of birth rate with rates for country generally:—

	Per 1,000 of population	
	Live births	Still births
England and Wales	17.6	0.50
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	20.3	0.64
148 smaller towns (estimated resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at census, 1931)	20.9	0.61
London Administrative County	15.0	0.42
Birkenhead	23.3	0.90

Sex-distribution of births.—Of the 2,770 live births, 1,438 were males and 1,332 females; a proportion of 1,000 : 927.

Legitimacy.—Of the 2,770 live births registered 249 were illegitimate, a percentage of 8.98.

Registration of stillbirths.—The 107 stillbirths registered were classified as follows:—

Legitimate—Males	56
Females	43
Illegitimate—Males	3
Females	5
	107

The stillbirth rate was 38 per 1,000 total births.

Births notified during 1944.—During the year, 3,202 births were notified in the Borough under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Of these, 111 were stillbirths, leaving a total of 3,091 live births. This total includes births which occurred in the Birkenhead Maternity Hospital and the Birkenhead Municipal Hospital, many of which were transferable to other areas.

The following is an analysis of the above births:—

Births in Public Institutions :—	
Birkenhead Maternity Hospital ..	557 (22 stillbirths)
Birkenhead Municipal Hospital ...	662 (28 ..)
Birkenhead General Hospital	— (— ..)
Births in Nursing Homes	435 (11 ..)
Other births :—	
Notified by doctors	7 (— ..)
Notified by midwives	1430 (50 ..)
Notified by parents	— (— ..)
	3091 (111 stillbirths)

Un-notified births.—The Registrars reported 57 cases of un-notified births; 37 by both certified midwives and doctors, 9 by the Maternity Hospital staff, 3 by the Municipal Hospital staff, and 8 by Annandale Nursing Home.

DEATHS

Death - rate.—1,583 deaths occurred during the year; the total figure includes 112 deaths of Birkenhead residents which occurred outside the Borough, but excludes 307 deaths of non-residents which occurred in the area. This gives a death-rate of 13.3 per 1,000.

Deaths in recent years.—The death-rates since 1934 are as follows:

1934	12.0 per 1,000
1935	12.5 ..
1936	12.6 ..
1937	13.0 ..
1938	12.1 ..
1939	12.9 ..
1940	16.1 ..
1941	18.9 ..
1942	14.3 ..
1943	14.8 ..
1944	13.3 ..

Sex-distribution of deaths.—Of the total deaths, 849 were males and 734 females, a proportion of 1,157: 1,000.

Uncertified deaths.—In 1944 there were 2 uncertified deaths belonging to the area.

Coroners' inquests.—Coroners' inquests were held regarding 71 deaths—that is, in 4.5 per cent. of the total deaths during the year.

The Coroners' (Amendment) Act, 1926.—Under the provisions of this Act, which came into force on 1st May, 1927, a Coroner may certify death, after a post-mortem examination has been held, **without an inquest.** During the year 64 of the registered deaths (4.0 per cent. of the total deaths) were certified in this way.

Infantile mortality.—There were 163 deaths of infants under 1 year old. This corresponds to an infantile mortality rate of 59 per 1,000 births.

There were 23 deaths in illegitimate infants under 1 year old; giving an illegitimate mortality rate of 92 per 1,000.

The infant mortality rates for each since 1934 are given below:

1934	60
1935	67
1936	63
1937	77
1938	75
1939	58
1940	80
1941	102
1942	68
1943	74
1944	59

The main causes of infant deaths during the past two years are shown below:—

	No. in 1943	No. in 1944
(a) Pneumonia (all forms)	42	30
Bronchitis	6	2
Whooping cough	2	1
Measles	1	—
Diarrhœa and enteritis	37	21
(b) Premature birth	36	40
(c) All other causes	63	69
	—	—
	187	163
	—	—

Deaths from tuberculosis.—Tuberculosis was responsible for 7.5 per cent. of all the deaths recorded in the Borough in 1944. The deaths from the disease were as follows:—

Deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs	92
Deaths from other forms of tuberculosis	28
	—
	120
	—

This gives a tuberculosis death-rate of 1.01 per 1,000 of the population.

Of the 92 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis during 1944, 85 occurred in persons between 15 and 65 years old—that is, of a wage-earning age.

Deaths from certain epidemic diseases.—The seven "principal epidemic diseases" caused 31 deaths, as follows:—

Diarrhœa and enteritis (under 2 years)	24
Whooping cough	3
Measles	—
Scarlet fever	1
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	3
Fever (enteric, typhus, and simple continued)...	—
Smallpox	—

This corresponds to a death-rate from all these diseases of 0.26 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths from other notifiable infectious diseases.—Pneumonia caused, in its various forms, 83 deaths, and cerebro-spinal fever, 1

WATER SUPPLY, FOOD, AND DRUGS

WATER SUPPLY

During the year, 89 samples of water from the Alwen and other supplies were bacteriologically examined in the Laboratory of the department. In addition, 37 tests for enteric have been carried out.

MILK SUPPLY

23 samples of milk from farms outside the Borough were taken by the Veterinary Officer during the year and submitted for biological examination at the Municipal Laboratory. Of these, 1 (approximately 4½%) was found to contain living tubercle bacilli. Appropriate action was taken.

The Veterinary Officer paid two quarterly visits to the 8 accredited herds in the Borough and made 502 clinical examinations of dairy cattle. The remainder of the dairy cattle, 180 in number, situated within the Borough, were subjected to inspection.

(The Veterinary Officer, Mr. N. M. Clayton, was seconded to the Ministry of Food for duty as from 1st September, 1944).

265 samples of milk were examined bacteriologically at the Municipal Laboratory during the year. 228 of these samples were satisfactory, and 37 unsatisfactory. Suitable action was taken with regard to the unsatisfactory samples.

OTHER FOODS : DRUGS

During the year 78,492 animals were slaughtered in the area, a decrease of 25,688 on the preceding year. Approximately 350 tons of meat were condemned during the year. The large increase in the amount of meat condemned is due to the increase in the number of cows slaughtered in poor and diseased condition. This condemned meat was utilised in the manufacture of non-edible by-products. In the inspection of shops, etc., foodstuffs amounting to 5,549 lbs. and 7944 tins (various sizes) of meat, fish, fruit, milk, and 3848 assorted cakes and pies, and 377 lbs. of slab cake were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were condemned.

During 1944, 467 samples were taken under the Food and Drugs Acts. Of these, 217 were formal and 250 informal; 243 were samples of milk.

Of the total number of samples analysed, 34 were reported adulterated, and proceedings were taken in respect of 6 of these. Penalties were inflicted in 4 cases.

TUBERCULOSIS

There is a further upward trend in the number of notifications of tuberculous diseases. Pulmonary cases show a decrease of 7, but—what is very disconcerting—there is a sharp increase, viz. 20, in the number of children suffering from non-pulmonary diseases.

This local increase will probably be found to be in conformity with the incidence throughout the rest of the country, and is a natural aftermath of five years of war.

Government Allowances (Memo 266/T)

Since this scheme was adopted in Birkenhead in November, 1943, 95 patients have been granted Maintenance Allowances, 4 Discretionary Allowances and 9 Special Payments.

A Mass Miniature Radiography apparatus has recently been installed in Liverpool, but so far this form of investigation has not been made available for Birkenhead.

Corporation Allowances

During the year an innovation has been made in Birkenhead whereby all tuberculous patients (pulmonary or non-pulmonary, early, advanced or chronic) are now dealt with medically, financially and socially by one Committee of the Corporation—the Health Committee. In May the payment of allowances to advanced, chronic and non-pulmonary tuberculous persons, who were receiving Public Assistance, was transferred from the Public Assistance Committee to the Health Committee. 23 cases were taken over immediately; and up to the end of the year a total of 55 patients have been granted financial assistance under this scheme. The payments under both schemes are made expeditiously at the tuberculosis clinic every Friday by a member of the Borough Treasurer's staff, all cases being dealt with in half an hour.

Artificial Pneumo-thorax Clinic

There was a marked increase in the number of artificial pneumo-thorax treatments given during the year as is shown by the graph on page 11.

DEATHS

	Adults.		Children.		Total.
	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.	
1938	90	9	8	8	115
1939	118	7	8	6	139
1940	65	1	2	2	70
1941	87	3	5	2	97
1942	76	—	2	1	79
1943	72	3	1	1	77
1944	77	3	—	—	80

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified during the year was 288, made up as follows:—

	Males		Females		Total
	Up to 15 years of age	15 years of age and over	Up to 15 years of age	15 years of age and over	
Pulmonary	4	123	4	92	223
Other forms	30	8	11	16	65
Total.....	34	131	15	108	288

The number of new cases (288) was somewhat greater than 1943 (271).

The number of cases on the Notification Register at the end of the year was 1,364. Of these, 1,059 (580 males and 479 females) were suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, and 305 (152 males and 153 females) were suffering from non-respiratory tuberculosis.

The number of cases on the Clinic Register at the end of the year was 807. Of these, 589 (321 males and 268 females) were suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, and 218 (110 males and 108 females) were suffering from non-respiratory tuberculosis.

BIRKENHEAD ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

Patients dealt with.—At the commencement of the year there were 38 patients in the Hospital. There was 61 admissions during the year. These were classified as follows:—

Tuberculosis of bones and joints	19
„ „ abdominal glands or peritoneum	14
„ „ cervical and other glands	11
„ „ other organs	6
For observation and diagnosis	9
Non-Tubercular conditions of bones and joints	2

There were 39 patients under treatment at the end of the year.

Average duration of stay.—For the patients discharged during the year the average length of stay in the hospital was 26 weeks.

CHESHIRE JOINT SANATORIUM

The approved accommodation for Birkenhead cases is 32 beds.

Patients dealt with.—At the beginning of the year 36 Birkenhead patients were under treatment. During the year 49 Birkenhead patients were admitted, 55 were discharged, and 2 died; 28 patients remained under treatment at the end of the year.

	Men	Women	Children (under 15)	Total
In Sanatorium January 1, 1944	19	17	—	36
Admitted during year	22	27	—	49
Discharged or left Sanatorium during year	28	27	—	55
Died in Sanatorium	1	1	—	2
In Sanatorium December 31, 1944	14	14	—	28

LEASOWE HOSPITAL

Children.—There were 3 cases in hospital at the beginning of the year; 1 new case was admitted during the year, and 2 have been discharged; leaving 2 patients in hospital at the end of the year.

Adults.—There were 4 female adults in Leasowe Hospital at the beginning of the year; 2 new cases (females) were admitted during the year, and 4 cases were discharged before the end of the year; leaving 2 patients in hospital at the end of the year.

BIRKENHEAD MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL

Artificial pneumothorax treatment. — During 1944, 1,958 refills were given by Dr. Foster, including 20 primary inductions. This represents an increase of 422 refills over those given during 1943, and 7 more primary inductions. There were 1,550 screenings performed during the year.

X-ray examinations.—During the year 1,108 patients were sent from the Tuberculosis Clinic for X-ray examination at the Municipal Hospital, an increase of 29 over the number X-rayed during 1943.

21 Bronchograms were done during 1944.

ARTIFICIAL PNEUMO-THORAX TREATMENTS 1932-1944



VENEREAL DISEASES

A continued high incidence of venereal diseases during the past year is recorded by Dr. Blackstock, the council's specialist in these conditions, though there has been a slight improvement compared with 1943, chiefly in the number of cases of gonorrhœa. The conclusions arrived at as the result of Dr. Blackstock's careful observation call for serious consideration.

The success hoped for from Regulation 33B has not been forthcoming, and local authorities are still powerless to trace all contacts and enforce treatment upon those persons known to be infected with the disease. Much time and trouble has been taken to bring such persons to the clinic for treatment, for example, by home visiting, and talks to the infected parents regarding the danger to their children. Failure has mostly been recorded from these persuasive measures. There are still no powers to wield against the anti-social members of the community, and syphilis continues to be passed on from parent to child without any obstruction.

Persons suffering from primary syphilis and gonorrhœa seek medical aid earlier than during previous years, but in most cases the patients do not know the names nor the addresses of their consorts; and when they know the names, the addresses are often so vague that tracing is impossible.

[The social background of venereal disease has been demonstrated on Tyneside in painstaking efforts to trace sources of infection between October, 1943, and March, 1944. Out of a total of 451 contacts, only 177 supplied complete information to enable visitors to find the infected persons. 155 attended the clinic; 103 were suffering from either syphilis, gonorrhœa, or both. Of the 350 contacts looked for, 109 were not identified. Of the 241 identified, 21 failed or refused to attend for examination, and 30% of the 451 contacts gave insufficient identifying information to justify attempts to find them.]

Local authorities must bear in mind that when the war in Europe is over and the men and women in the services commence to demobilise they will come back home to a reservoir of venereal disease not yet controlled. Those returning, if they contracted venereal disease during their time of service, were obliged by military law to undergo compulsory treatment. For them concealment of venereal disease was a punishable offence. What excuse can we offer for our ineffective control in civilian life? Some explanation must be given for our ineffective measures to control the spread of the disease, and of our failure to provide sufficient money to finance successful venereal diseases schemes. Medical science now holds the key to the successful treatment of venereal disease, but doctors want properly equipped clinics in which to apply curative measures. These clinics do not exist in many places; and when a treatment centre is available, its size, staff, equipment and furniture are sometimes so incomplete that many persons refuse to attend for treatment owing to the discomfort and lack of privacy.

There is a large increase since the war in the number of women affected with syphilis and gonorrhœa; many of these women are promiscuous and readily accept more than one consort. When peace comes more consorts will be available and an increase in venereal disease may be expected.

It is highly desirable that we should make plans to meet this increase, diminish the spread of disease, provide better facilities for treatment, and make concealment of venereal disease a punishable offence and its treatment compulsory.

During the year 1944, 673 persons attended the clinic at the General Hospital; 161 of these were suffering from syphilis, 204 from gonorrhœa, and 3 from soft sore. 305 were considered to be suffering from non-venereal complaints. 9,206 treatments were given to patients during the year.

Details of attendances and new cases at the General Hospital clinic during the years 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944 are set out below:—

(a) **Total attendances**

Year	Males	Females	Total
1940	3,688	1,745	5,433
1941	3,183	1,975	5,159
1942	4,052	3,603	7,655
1943	4,486	5,716	10,202
1944	4,161	5,045	9,206

(b) **New Cases**

Year	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhœa		Non-Venereal		Totals		Total New Cases
	Males	Fe-males	Males	Fe-males	Males	Fe-males	Males	Fe-males	Males	Fe-males	
1940	46	17	7	—	110	14	94	24	257	55	312
1941	49	23	11	—	138	13	93	25	291	61	352
1942	47	48	3	—	110	52	99	35	259	135	394
1943	59	43	3	—	120	102	214	111	396	256	652
1944	60	39	3	—	73	56	188	117	324	212	536

Penicillin.—A few cases of gonorrhœa have been treated with penicillin and very quickly rendered non-infectious. It is too early to judge the effect of this drug on the incidence of gonorrhœa, as it has only been given to patients resistant to other forms of treatment. In all cases treated, four injections of the drug were given over a period of nine hours. This has been sufficient to effect a cure; some of the cases treated gave negative urethral smears two hours after the first injection and remained negative. There is an increase in the number of cases of gonorrhœa which have become resistant to sulphonamides which proved effective in as high a percentage as 85 to 90% when they were first used. This percentage is now only 50 to 55%. It is hoped that the gonococcus will not be able to overcome the lethal effect of penicillin as it has sulphonamides. This danger does exist; and we can only hope it can be overcome in the future. An easy

method of blocking kidney secretion, which is without danger, will have to be used in the treatment with penicillin; it is secreted much too quickly by the kidneys. Sufficient concentration must be maintained in the blood stream to stop the growth of the gonococcus.

These are problems of the future which we hope will be effectively overcome and make penicillin a sure and quick treatment for both gonorrhœa and syphilis. The danger of treating with penicillin cases suffering from gonorrhœa who may also be potential sufferers from syphilis is too technical to be discussed further, except to say that the problem is mostly a matter of adequate supplies of penicillin, and these are not yet available.

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES WHICH ARE NOTIFIABLE

Below is a table showing the number of cases of infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during 1944 showing ages:—

Disease	and 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. up	Total
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Scarlet fever	7	28	37	37	71	273	104	24	15	3	7	—	606
Diphtheria and membra- nous croup	2	4	6	8	6	36	15	11	21	8	2	—	119
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	16	9	36
Typhus fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3
Continued fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	2	—	—	—	2	3	2	1	2	1	1	—	14
Encephalitis lethargica (acute).....	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Polio-encephalitis (acute)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (acute)..	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	35	6	—	—	43
Ophthalmia neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia.....	30	15	22	15	8	34	13	9	14	23	54	30	267
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3
Dysentery	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
*Measles	42	94	117	98	134	369	21	7	8	—	1	1	892
*Whooping cough	49	55	73	56	41	101	3	—	2	—	—	1	381
Totals	136	196	256	215	265	820	158	55	108	47	82	41	2379

* Made notifiable under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, dated October 23rd, 1939.

The number of patients treated in the Infectious Diseases Hospital during the year was as follows:—

In hospital at beginning of year	56
Admitted to hospital during year	719—775
Discharged from hospital during year	709
Number of deaths in hospital during year	8—717
Remaining in hospital at end of year	58

An analysis of the cases dealt with during the year is given below:

Patients sent in as suffering from	In hospital at beginning of year	Admitted during year	Died during year	Discharged during year	Remaining in hospital at end of year
Scarlet fever .....M.	18	251	1	249	19
.....F.	21	263	1	253	30
Diphtheria.....M.	3	47	1	47	2
.....F.	10	71	1	77	3
Enteric fever .....M.	...	2	...	2	...
.....F.	...	1	...	1	...
Cerebro-spinal fever .....M.	1	6	...	7	...
.....F.	...	5	4	1	...
Erysipelas .....M.	...	...	...	...	...
.....F.	...	4	...	4	...
Measles .....M.	...	10	...	9	1
.....F.	...	19	...	18	1
Whooping Cough .....M.	...	13	...	13	...
.....F.	...	7	...	7	...
Other diseases .....M.	...	8	...	7	1
.....F.	3	12	...	14	1
Totals ...	56	719	8	709	58

Of the 3 patients sent into the Infectious Diseases Hospital as cases of enteric fever, none were found to be suffering from this disease. The final diagnoses were as follows:—1 enteritis, 1 food poisoning and 1? lungs.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Immunisation against diphtheria free of charge has continued throughout the year, although the number of children who completed the course shows a marked decrease compared with the previous year.

The number of children whose immunisation was **completed** during the year was 1,318, made up as follows:—

1— 5 years of age	1,057	
5—15 years of age	237	
		1,294
15 years and over	24	
Total	1,318	

It is not possible to state exactly the total numbers of children in these age groups, but a fair estimate would be:—

1— 5 years of age	10,500
5—15 years of age	18,200
Total	28,700

Out of this total, the numbers of children who have now (that is, by the 31st December, 1944) received a complete course of immunisation against diphtheria are as follows:—

Under 5 years of age	3,484	(33%)
5—15 years of age	10,690	(59%)
Total	14,174	(49%)

The following tabular statement shows the number of children immunised each year since 1933:—

Age in years on 31st December of the corresponding year.	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944			
Under 1 year	—	—	3	1	1	13	3	3	1	5	18	9	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st December, 1944 3484		
1 year	2	1	62	16	19	31	12	15	103	419	551	548		Total inoculated aged 5-15 years on 31st December, 1944 10690	
2 years	2	8	29	15	24	73	45	31	198	501	465	347			Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763
3 years	7	7	42	12	30	78	32	25	209	414	392	65				Grand Total 1933-1944 21937
4 years	2	13	62	19	28	77	28	19	182	379	382	57	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763		
5 years	4	12	201	24	43	125	43	23	216	349	246	60		Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763	
6 years	6	11	47 ⁹	29	48	174	31	19	373	263	285	48			Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763
7 years	2	9	580	18	32	190	45	27	385	214	320	43				Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763
8 years	8	9	591	13	19	200	32	27	387	160	248	23	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763		
9 years	1	12	668	10	23	120	23	18	401	126	286	21		Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763	
10 years	—	11	713	7	5	125	20	17	384	117	240	16			Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763
11 years	—	1	666	7	10	96	11	10	393	112	292	16				Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763
12 years	—	6	557	4	9	111	11	10	385	109	298	7	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763		
13 years	—	3	532	4	6	62	9	7	336	103	198	15		Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763	
14 years	—	1	306	11	4	44	3	5	250	36	208	19			Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763
15 years and over	9	6	90	14	9	69	25	23	132	27	33	24				Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1944 7763
Total each year.	43	110	5581	204	310	1588	973	279	4335	3334	4462	1318			

SKIN CLINIC

3,676 attendances were made at the Clinic during the year by adults, and children under 5 years of age. Details of the defects treated are set out below.

Information relating to the treatment of school children may be found on page 44 of this report.

Disease or defect	Number of defects treated at the Clinic during the year
Scabies	
(a) Uncomplicated	575
(b) Complicated	331
Scabies contacts (found to be free from Scabies)	167
Diseases of the scalp (due to lice and nits)	127
Other skin diseases	259
Total	1,489

MUNICIPAL LABORATORY

Details of the work carried out at the Municipal Laboratory in respect of Birkenhead and neighbouring Authorities during the year are set out below:—

Birkenhead

	I.D. Hospital	B'head Mun. Hospital	Other Sections of Dept.	Medical Practs.	Total
Swabs for Diphtheria—Pos.	46	15	1	15	77
Neg.	385	703	38	408	1534
Sputum for Tubercle—Pos.	—	223	109	521	853
Neg.	2	1078	58	257	1395
Blood for Widal Pos.	1	—	1	3	5
Neg.	1	8	2	15	26
Blood for Wassermann	—	372	906	1100	2378
Smears for Gonococci	1	104	1688	34	1827
Other Examinations	23	9288	638	1131	11080
	459	11791	3411	3484	19175

Other Authorities

Clatterbridge County (General) Hospital	17,658
Wirral Joint Hospital Board Fever Hospital	4,312
Borough of Bebington	590
Liverpool Open-air Hospital for Children, Leasowe ...	24
County Borough of Wallasey	1,074
Hoylake Urban District Council	98
Wirral Urban District Council	134
Neston Urban District Council	9
Ellesmere Port Urban District Council	—
	23,899
Total	43,074

BIRKENHEAD MUNICIPAL (GENERAL) HOSPITAL

An important development in the work of the hospital took place during the year, when the Council decided to appoint a part-time Consultant and Operating Surgeon on the staff. This appointment was given to Mr. J. H. Rawlinson, F.R.C.S., and dated from 18th May. The object of this appointment was to relieve the Medical Superintendent and his deputy of a considerable part of the major surgery of the hospital, and allow the Medical Superintendent to devote most of his time to administrative duties.

The whole-time Medical Staff of the Hospital consists of:—

Medical Superintendent (Dr. R. A. Grant)
Deputy Medical Superintendent
Senior Resident Medical Officer
Four Resident Medical Officers

In addition, the part-time services of

A Radiologist
A Physician
An Aurist and Laryngologist
A Psychiatrist
A Consulting Surgeon in General Surgery
An Orthopædic Surgeon
An Obstetrician and Gynæcologist, and
A Dental Surgeon

are now retained, and Dr. Foster and Dr. Blackstock carry out duties as Consultants in their special subjects (tuberculosis and venereal disease).

The Hospital is recognised as a training school for the General Nursing Council and as a Part 1 training school for the diploma of the Central Midwives Board. During the past year members of the nursing staff have passed out from the Hospital as fully trained nurses and midwives, and many nurses who have been trained at this Hospital in the past are now serving with the Queen Alexandra Nursing Services attached to H.M. Forces.

During 1944, 4,921 patients were admitted as against 4,929 the previous year.

Several wards were provided for the treatment of battle casualties from the Western area; by the end of the year these had all been discharged. The Hospital is classified under the Ministry of Health's scheme as a Class 1 Casualty Clearing Hospital, but the reservation of 100 beds required for the admission of air raid casualties was cancelled as from the last day in December. During the past winter it was necessary to restrict the admission of senile and chronic cases owing to lack of accommodation at the Hospital. At no time, however, has it been necessary to refuse the admission of acute surgical, medical or emergency obstetrical cases. The strain on the reserves of the

Hospital has been so severe this winter that unless alternative accommodation is found for chronic sick and infirm cases, it is possible that patients suffering from acute conditions will require to be refused admission in the future.

A further increase in the number of mothers dealt with and babies born at the Hospital occurred in 1944. With the limited accommodation for Maternity cases at the Hospital, it has not been possible to deal with every application for admission, and it is still necessary to transfer mothers and babies from the Maternity Block to the main Hospital often only a few days following confinement. The Maternity Block was inspected by representatives of the Central Midwives Board who recognised the heavy handicaps associated with obsolete and inadequate accommodation, and stated that "magnificent work was being done under very considerable difficulties."

In order to provide better working conditions, a scheme has been drawn out for the delivery of Maternity cases in the main Hospital. This would avoid the danger of transfers of mothers during the puerperium, and would also enable the Hospital to deal with a slightly larger number of confinements. The scheme was approved by the Council which sanctioned the necessary expenditure, but up to date it has not been possible to put this into operation, as the suggested ward to be converted contains some 18 senile infirm cases. It is not at present possible to see how this ward can be utilised until alternative accommodation has been found for chronic and senile sick. Between 60 and 70 of this class of patient is constantly being nursed in first-class Hospital beds, and it is urgently necessary to provide suitable accommodation for these elderly patients, and so release beds for more urgent work at the Hospital.

Stretcher bearers from the B.R.C.S. still continue to render valuable assistance to the Hospital. Their help is particularly appreciated in transferring cases to the municipal annexe at Arrowe on Sunday mornings. They have also kindly assisted the nursing staff in the wards and operating theatres after the day staff of porters have left the hospital, and we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Red Cross for their kind assistance.

Alterations and variations in the patients' dietary have been carried out with the assistance of the Clerk Steward and the Dietitian. A full and varied diet is at present supplied to patients and greatly appreciated by them. Recently an additional evening meal has been added to the Dietary, but whether this can be continued or not depends largely upon the maintenance of adequate staff in the Kitchen.

Very considerable difficulty has been met in retaining a suitable staff at the Hospital. There is a great national shortage of nurses, particularly of trained nurses, and Matron has encountered serious difficulties in attempting to keep wards adequately staffed. Towards the end of 1944, this became an impossibility. Wards were under

staffed, and it is a regrettable fact that the same amount of nursing attention cannot be given to patients until a very considerable increase in available nurses takes place.

Domestic and manual staff have also provided many problems. The standard of cleanliness maintained in the wards and corridors in peace time has had to be lowered owing to the difficulty in obtaining suitable staff from the Ministry of Labour.

During the year 1944, a new **Diabetic Clinic** has been instituted at the Municipal Hospital. The Clinic has received the approval of the Diabetic Association, and is held every Tuesday morning under the supervision of Dr. Grunberg, the Senior Resident Medical Officer and Dr. Ritchie, the Borough Pathologist. Cases sent up by General Practitioners are seen as well as Continuation cases who have been in-patients at the Hospital. Advice on the Dietetic side is given by the Dietitian, and the help of the Laboratory in maintaining Diabetics on a healthy footing is greatly appreciated. It is hoped that this Clinic will increase in numbers as it becomes better known in the Town; there is no doubt it is the best means of Diabetics maintaining the highest possible standard of health during life. A printed brochure concerning the necessary diets is given to all patients at a cost of 1/-, and where necessary Insulin has been given free of charge to those patients who are otherwise unable to obtain this drug.

Birkenhead municipal hospital

The following table shows the number of admissions, births, discharges and deaths during the year:—

	Men	Women	Children	Total
In Hospital on 31st Dec., 1943 ...	122	139	88	349
Admissions				
From own homes and other Hospitals	1047	2087	715	3849
Service cases admitted	220	13	—	233
From Birkenhead Institution	25	20	58	103
From Eastham House	2	2	—	4
Births in Hospital	—	—	664	664
Air raid casualties	1	—	—	1
London Hospital Transfers:—				
(a) Sick	20	14	—	34
(b) Air Raid casualties	1	7	—	8
Billeted Evacuees	3	20	2	25
Total Cases dealt with	1319	2163	1439	4921
Discharges				
To own homes or other Hospitals ...	726	1896	1295	3917
Service cases discharged	204	13	—	217
To Birkenhead Institution	32	34	59	125
Deaths in Hospital	321	179	92	592
London Hospital Transfers:—				
(a) Sick	19	13	—	32
(b) Air Raid Casualties	1	6	—	7
Billeted Evacuees	3	18	12	33
Total Discharges and Deaths ...	1306	2159	1458	4923
Cases in Hospital on 31st Dec., 1944	111	143	69	323
Service cases on 31st Dec., 1944	24	—	—	24
Total cases in Hospital on 31st Dec., 1944	135	143	69	347

The total number of **Surgical operations** carried out during the year was as follows:—

Operations carried out under :—

General Anaesthetics	624
Local	70
Spinal	150
Intravenous	132
No	31
	— 1007

Operations for tonsils and adenoids—

S.M.S.	32
Others	3
	— 35

Eye operations	14
Nasal	6
Dental	—

Below is a summary of the **Maternity cases** dealt with at the Hospital during 1944:—

Total No. of women dealt with	Married	Single	Total No. of children dealt with	Live births	Still births
685	624	61	685	657	28

A summary of the work carried out at the **X-Ray Department** during 1944 is set out below:—

IN-PATIENTS

	Cases	Radiographs taken
Stomach	256	1024
Kidney	107	642
Gall Bladder	87	348
Chest	814	844
General	539	1617

OUT-PATIENTS

	Cases	Radiographs taken
Chests	1108	1156
General	253	759
Total No. of Radiographs taken		6390
Total No. of Patients screened		2574
Electrocardiographs taken		60

Summary of the attendances made in the **Continuation Clinic** and **Out-patient Department** :—

	New Cases.	Attendances.
Ear, Nose and Throat ..	323	588
Ophthalmic	328	589 (Spectacles prescribed 96)
Orthopaedic	67	286
Tuberculosis	45	1958 (21 Broncho-grams)
Dressings	148	2476
Massage	297	2109
Post-Natal	162	232
Diabetic	41	171 (Clinic established 6th June, 1944)
Dental	84	178
E.M.S.	1	65

The following specimens were sent to the **Municipal Laboratory** during the year:—

Bacteriological specimens	6915
Biochemical specimens	1208
Pathological specimens	3668

ARROWE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL ANNEXE

639 patients were admitted to this Hospital in 1944 as against 345 patients in 1943.

This increase was partly due to the restriction placed on admissions to the Municipal Hospital following D Day, and it became necessary to obtain the sanction of the Council to increase the number of available beds at the Annexe.

A total of 40 beds are now maintained, and this has to some extent eased the strain on the Hospital. It must be remembered that there is still a grave shortage of beds at the Municipal Hospital partly due to two wards having been destroyed by enemy bombardment and to other reasons. Undoubted benefit is felt by patients who are transferred to the wards at the Annexe. It is felt that patients following a stay at Arrowe are discharged much more physically fit than if their entire convalescence had been spent at the Municipal Hospital. The average duration of stay in Arrowe is in the neighbourhood of fourteen days.

	Men	Women	Children	Total
In Hospital on 31st Dec., 1943	2	13	6	21
Admissions				
From Municipal Hospital	221	293	125	639
Discharges				
To own Homes	168	279	110	557
To Birkenhead Municipal Hospital	21	15	8	44
To Birkenhead Infectious Diseases Hospital	—	—	3	3
To Birkenhead Orthopaedic Hospital	—	—	3	3
To Military Camps	27	—	—	27
Died in Hospital	—	1	—	1
Total Discharges	216	295	124	635
Total cases in Hospital at 31st Dec., 1944	7	11	7	25

MENTAL DEFICIENCY

There were no new developments in connection with the administrative arrangements during the year.

The total number of cases under the care of the Mental Deficiency Acts Committee at the end of the year was 285. These had been dealt with in the following ways:—

	Males		Females		Total
	Under 18 years	18 years and over	Under 18 years	18 years and over	
Mental Defectives on the Register placed by the Committee under home supervision and not at present recommended by the Committee for institutional care	18	35	14	43	110
Mental Defectives on the Register placed by the Committee under guardianship	—	4	—	—	4
Mental Defectives on the Register placed by the Committee temporarily under home supervision but recommended by the Committee for institutional care as soon as accommodation becomes available..	9	12	1	5	27
Mental Defectives on the Register placed by the Committee in institutions:—					
Ashton House	—	—	—	1	1
Brentry Colony	—	1	—	—	1
Cranage Hall	7	27	5	47	86
Mary Dendy Home	1	—	—	—	1
Public Assistance Institution	2	17	—	4	23
Rampton State Institution	—	—	1	—	1
Royal Albert Institution	3	1	—	—	4
Royal Earlswood Institution	2	—	—	—	2
Stoke Park Colony	—	—	—	1	1
Mental Defectives on the Register placed in institutions (including State Institutions) by parents, Public Assistance Committee, etc.	3	9	1	11	24
	45	106	22	112	285

WELFARE OF THE BLIND

No changes were made in the administrative arrangements during the year.

The total number of blind persons on the Register at the end of the year was 268—143 males and 125 females.

The number of blind evacuees at the end of the year was 4.

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

This work still suffered during 1944 owing to shortage of staff. The normal staff consists of 14 Inspectors, including the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and one Sanitary Inspectors' Assistant.

Two of these are serving in H.M. Forces; four others left the service for more lucrative posts, but only one of the vacancies has been filled.

No houses were erected during the year which did not comply with the building bye-laws.

The total number of premises inspected for housing and other defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts during the year was 10,914. 28,988 inspections were made for this purpose.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Although fewer babies are being breast fed on account of war-time difficulties, their health and nutrition are good and the regular attendances made by young mothers at the clinics show that they appreciate the necessity of nursing and medical supervision in the feeding of their babies. Almost every baby who comes to the clinic is receiving the cod liver oil and orange juice, and rickets is practically never seen.

Nutrition is very good on the whole and the majority of babies are well cared for.

Advice is sought on the subject of weaning and mothers are given up-to-date diet sheets to help them over this difficult stage.

The toddler, too, enjoys quite good health, due largely, no doubt, to the concessions made for them by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Food.

Clinics are well attended and the children are immunised against diphtheria when they attain the age of 10-12 months.

The weight and height of the average child are well maintained and the vitamins and milk are all taken regularly. Deformities due to rickets are rarely seen, and mothers are anxious to avail themselves of the amenities offered by the various special clinics, e.g., orthopaedic, eye, ear, nose and throat, and artificial sunlight clinics.

Teeth are apt to be neglected and there is a considerable degree of early caries of the deciduous teeth. A dental clinic for this age group would provide a very useful service.

There is very little evidence of malnutrition due to war-time conditions, and mothers are becoming more aware of the advantages of a well-balanced diet.

War-time Nurseries

This year has been a record year for all three Birkenhead Nurseries.

In each establishment there have been periods when the demand for admission has exceeded the capacity of the nursery, and a waiting list had to be compiled.

Admission has always been limited to one child from each family, though in many cases the working mother was anxious to leave 2 or even 3 children.

The following figures show the number of attendances made in 1944 at each nursery:—

Name of Nursery	Capacity	No. of children on register during year		No. of attendances during year	
		0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5
Cavendish Road	45	76	86	3906	8431
Old Chester Road.....	47	74	61	3797	7030
Hollybank Road.....	38	50	63	3664	6781

The children, whose ages vary from about 3 months to 5 years, are brought to the nursery at 7.30 a.m. and collected again at 5.50—6 p.m. During their stay they are given 3 meals—breakfast, dinner and tea, and a bath.

The older children, between the ages of 2-5 are supervised by a trained warden and a certificated teacher, and it is astonishing to see the progress made by these young children; they have a time-table and the daily routine is strictly adhered to. As much time as possible is spent in the open air, good habits are learned, such as teeth cleaning, washing themselves and table manners, and their mental and physical needs are well catered for.

All children are medically inspected approximately every two months and any special defects are noted, and advice given to the mother. All children are immunised against diphtheria.

All three nurseries have suffered from minor epidemics of infectious diseases, but on the whole the health of the children and staff has been good, and the children have all gained weight, and have been happy and contented.

In addition to caring for the children entrusted to them, the Matrons are training young probationers to become Nursery nurses, and it is pleasing to be able to report that the first five candidates from the Cavendish Road Nursery to take the examination for the Diploma of the National Society of Children's Nurseries were all successful.

Midwives

100 midwives gave notice of their intention to practise in the Borough.

Municipal Midwives

The following is a summary of the work of the eight whole-time Municipal midwives on the staff of the department:—

Number of bookings	804
Number of births	662
Number of visits to patients	16,535

Maternity Hospital Midwife

Under the terms of the agreement with the Maternity Hospital for domiciliary midwifery, the Hospital midwife carried out work as follows:—

Number of bookings	112
Number of births	79
Number of visits to patients	1,695

Home Visits

In connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, visits were paid by the Health Visitors as follows:—

To children under 1 year	6725
To children between 1 year & 5 years	8326
To expectant mothers	189
To mothers and children (miscellaneous matters)	3276

Infant Welfare Clinics

At the infant welfare clinics 1,656 first visits and 19,563 revisits were made by children under 5 years of age. Of these, 1,586 (who made 5,877 revisits) were examined by an assistant medical officer.

Below is a table showing the number of births notified during the year in the areas associated with each clinic; and the number of infants under one year who have attended the clinics for the first time.

	North	South	Hamilton Sq.	Mount Grove	Total
No. of births notified	965	991	590	545	3091
No. of infants who attended	508	593	227	208	1536
	(52%)	(60%)	(40%)	(30%)	(50%)

Supplies of free milk were given to:—
78 infants

At the toddlers' clinics 250 first visits and 2824 revisits were made.

Antenatal Clinics

In regard to the antenatal clinics, sessions were held on 154 occasions, the number of patients dealt with 1,140; the total number of attendances being 3,779.

A small amount of postnatal work was carried out at the antenatal clinics. 5 mothers paid 5 visits.

Infant Life Protection

At the end of the year the names of 22 children were entered on the Register in accordance with the provisions of Section 65 of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

3 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year. One was treated at home and two were treated in hospital. Vision was unimpaired.

Maternal Mortality

The Registrar-General's annual statement of causes of death includes 13 deaths connected with pregnancy and childbirth.

This gives a maternal mortality rate of 4.51 per 1,000 births (living and still), as compared with a rate of 1.93 for the whole country.

The causes of the deaths were as follows:—

Puerperal sepsis	3
Other maternal causes	10

Evacuation of Expectant Mothers

40 expectant mothers were evacuated from the Borough during the year.

CIVIL DEFENCE MEDICAL SERVICE

Although enemy activity was resumed over the London and the Southern Counties during the year with pilotless planes and rocket shells, no incidents occurred in this area.

A request for volunteers for reinforcing the Casualty Service personnel of the London and Southern Regions met with an instant response from both the full time (paid) and part time (unpaid) staff of the First Aid Posts in Birkenhead. Although they were ready to move at very short notice it did not become necessary for them to do so. It was, however, very gratifying to know that the personnel were so loyal and willing to assist.

Further reductions in the whole time paid establishments were made during November and December, the authorised paid establishment at the end of the year being 3 Trained Nurses and 4 First Aid Attendants.

In consequence of the reduction of the personnel 5 fixed first aid posts were closed and the mobile first aid post dismantled before the end of the year, when there remained 3 fixed first aid posts.

Civil Nursing Reserve

There were no new developments during the year.

Mrs. G. S. Prentice, Honorary Organising Chairman for the Civil Nursing Reserve for Birkenhead, continued throughout the year to give very valuable service.

The enrolment figures of all Birkenhead Civil Nursing Reserve members up to the end of the year who were giving regular reliable service are as follows :—

Full time Nursing Auxiliaries (including B.R.C.S. and S.J.A.B. members)	76
Part time Nursing Auxiliaries (including B.R.C.S. and S.J.A.B. members)	203
State Registered and Assistant Nurses	47

HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Staff

During the year no changes have occurred in the whole-time medical staff engaged on executive School Medical Service duties; the staff consisted of Dr. E. Blackstock, Dr. A. M. Williams and Dr. Esmé Grant.

Every effort to replace Dr. Murray, who was called for military service in 1943, by a whole-time officer proved unsuccessful, and additional part-time services were obtained. The part-time medical staff has consisted of Dr. P. Marsh; Dr. P. I. Unsworth, who rejoined the staff in May; and Dr. A. R. F. Adams, who inspected boys in the Central and Secondary Schools in the early part of the year.

The work of dental inspection and treatment has been carried on by one Senior Dental Surgeon, Mr. P. Wilson Smith, and two Assistant Dental Surgeons, Mrs. D. F. Wilson and Miss E. M. Warlow.

Orthopædic Clinic for Children

On the 20th August Mr. T. Hartley Martin was compelled, on account of ill health, to terminate his appointment as Orthopædic Surgeon on the staff of this Department; and his death took place on the 18th October. Mr. Martin had been in charge of the Orthopædic Clinic since its opening in November, 1925, and the immediate and continual success of the work carried out has been largely due to his untiring efforts and to the great interest shown in each individual case. Mr. Martin was a most able orthopædic surgeon, and instantly won the confidence of the children who came under his care. He was popular with his colleagues, his rare charm of manner being felt even by the least sensitive.

Mr. Horace Davies, M.B., Ch.M., M.Ch.Orth., F.R.C.S., who acted as locum tenens during Mr. Martin's holiday period, has consented to carry on with this work until the cessation of hostilities in Europe. Mr. Davies reports that since taking up his duties at the Clinic he has been impressed by the high percentage of preventative conditions, e.g. flat feet, faulty position etc. found amongst children of school age. The treatment of postural defects, which are responsible for many disabilities in adult life, is of prime importance in child development. In view of this, special postural classes have been set up in schools in the Borough. The scheme is still in its early stages and in spite of war-time difficulties a good foundation is being laid which will show, undoubtedly, significant results.

Details of the work carried out at the Clinic are given on pages 46-49 and 56 of this report.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic

Mr. P. W. Leathart, the Consultant Aurist and Laryngologist, who resigned his appointment on the 30th June, has been replaced by Mrs. B. M. L. Abercrombie, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.L.O. Mr. Leathart always

took the greatest interest in all children referred to him; and the conservative methods he employed were the source of much interest among the members of the medical profession.

Details of the operative and other treatment provided for children of school age at this Clinic may be found on pages 46 and 56 of this report.

Municipal Skin Clinic

Most essential work has been carried out during the year at this Clinic, which remains under the care of Dr. Blackstock and the Nurse in Charge, Miss Beattie.

Although the Clinic has been in existence for such a comparatively short period, it has become an indispensable part of the Borough's health service. The work carried out is of vital importance in that it considerably eases the strain on the out-patient clinics and in-patient accommodation of the hospitals in the area.

Although there has been a steady decline, throughout the year, in the incidence of scabies, a greater number of other skin diseases has been treated. It was found that rather less than two treatments (the average for the year was 1.82) were required to effect a cure for a case of **uncomplicated** scabies. This remarkably rapid cure was possible only where the treatment was applied by specially trained staff at the Clinic. No comparable results could be achieved by home treatment. Certain other skin diseases require a much greater number of daily treatments. These can be provided successfully only at a special Skin Diseases Clinic. At the Minor Ailments Clinics no provision is made for the treatment of whole families. It is essential for a speedy and complete recovery that all members of a family suffering from a contagious skin disease should be treated **at the same time** in order to prevent re-infection in the home.

During the year 377 school children suffering from pediculosis and uncleanliness received treatment, which included, in some cases, the provision of baths and the stoving of clothes. Many of these cases were referred to the Clinic by parents, welfare officers, and the staffs of the Invalid Children's Association and of the Birkenhead and Wirral Children's Hospital.

The prevalence of contagious skin diseases and uncleanliness is largely due to overcrowded conditions which, unfortunately, are likely to remain for some years after hostilities have ceased. The need for the setting up of a permanent Skin Diseases Clinic is, therefore, a matter of great urgency.

Government Evacuation Scheme

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, issued in November, 1944, arrangements have been made for the return to Birkenhead of the majority of evacuated school children.

At the end of December there were approximately 286 children remaining in the Reception Counties. Of this number 12 were remaining for the purpose of taking either the School Certificate or the Higher School Certificate examination; and 274 have not returned either because of unsatisfactory home conditions, e.g. where mothers are in the Women's Services, or where there is insufficient accommodation in the home; or on account of the fact that parents have made private arrangements with the billet holders for the children to remain in Wales.

The medical and dental inspection of these children is being carried out by the staffs of the County Medical Officers during visits to the schools which the children attend.

I have great pleasure in expressing, once again, my appreciation of the willing co-operation of the County Medical Officers and their staffs; and of the interest shown in the children's welfare by the householders with whom they were billeted. Many of the children now returning to Birkenhead have benefited greatly, both physically and mentally, from their evacuation to the country districts.

General

In spite of the shortage of medical staff available for School Medical Service duties every effort has been made, throughout the year, to complete the medical inspection of children in **all the four age groups**, and of pupils attending the Secondary Schools. With the exception of a small number of entrants, who will be examined early in the New Year, this has been achieved.

In view of the many war-time difficulties the general health of school children in the Borough may be reviewed with considerable satisfaction; the general standard of nutrition shows in a number of cases some improvement.

Many mothers continue in some form of war work, and their children are often not as well cared for as in pre-war years. A small number of children with previous records of cleanliness have been found suffering from pediculosis; clothing is often dirty and inadequate; and, in particular, the condition of footwear is very poor. Untidiness is especially marked amongst children between the ages of 11 and 14 years, many of whom have home duties to perform and younger children to care for during their mother's absence.

Unfortunately there are still found a few examples of complete indifference on the part of parents to their children's welfare; no amount of persuasion by either doctors or nurses succeeds in making them conscious of the harm which they are causing by neglecting to obtain the necessary treatment for defects discovered at medical inspections.

On the whole, however, parents are more co-operative; and they are becoming increasingly conscious of the advisability of availing themselves of all the services provided by the Education Authority. Their

growing appreciation is evidenced by the fact that during 1944 parents attended at 59% of the medical inspections carried out in schools, as compared with 46% in the previous year.

At the Nutrition Surveys held in schools the Assistant Medical Officers discover that many of the children selected as suffering from malnutrition or sub-normal physical development are receiving, already, extra milk, tonics and vitamin preparations. One of the main causes of malnutrition still to be dealt with is **insufficient sleep**. The Assistant Medical Officers emphasize repeatedly that many children are allowed to stay up far too late. Parents must realize that an adequate amount of sleep is essential if their children are to grow up healthy both in body and in mind.

The long hours of evening light associated with Double Summer Time are sometimes quoted as an excuse by parents for their failure to put their children to bed at correct hours. This is a poor excuse for what is in fact lack of parental care and control. In the more Northern parts of Britain, before the introduction of Summer Time, daylight persisted up till eleven o'clock or later; but children were put to bed at proper hours, and slept.

The provision of milk and meals in the majority of the Secondary and Elementary Schools in the Borough continues to prove beneficial to a large number of children; particularly to those whose mothers are unable to provide a mid-day meal, not only sufficient in quality but suitable in composition—that is to say containing the materials essential for healthy growth and maximum possible development.

I would express once again my warm appreciation of the ready help given to me by the Director of Education and his staff; and of their continual interest in the work of the School Medical Service.

MEDICAL INSPECTION

(see note a)

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections in the Prescribed Groups (see note b)—	
Entrants	2133
Second age group	1494
Third age group	1271
Total	4898
Number of other Routine Inspections (see note c)	
Fourth age group	1285
Nursery Classes	36
Total	1321
Grand Total	6219

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections (see note d)		3963
In schools	24	
In clinics	3939	
Number of Re-inspections (see note e)		3371
In schools	1426	
In clinics	1945	
Total		7334

CHILDREN FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Number of individual children found at routine medical inspection to require treatment (excluding defects of nutrition, uncleanliness and dental diseases).

Note.—No individual child is counted more than once in any column of this Table; for example, a child suffering from defective vision and from adenoids appears once in Column 2, once in Column 3 and once only in Column 4. Similarly a child suffering from two defects other than defective vision appears once only in Column 3 and once in Column 4.

Group. (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For all other conditions recorded in table on p. 37 (3)	Total. (4)
Entrants.....	10	250	259
Second Age Group.....	97	132	229
Third Age Group	88	107	194
Total (Prescribed Groups)	195	489	682
Other Routine Inspections	66	108	171
Grand Total..	261	597	853

NOTES ON TABLES (Page 35).

(a) The return refers to a complete calendar year.

(b) This heading relates solely to the routine medical inspection of the three ordinary age groups, *i.e.*, to medical inspection carried out

- (i) in compliance with Article 17 of the Consolidated Regulations relating to Special Services—Grant Regulations No. 19; which states that “the authority must provide for the medical inspection of all children in Public Elementary Schools as soon as possible in the twelve months following—(a) their first admission to a Public Elementary School and (b) their attaining the age of 8 years and (c) their attaining the age of 12 years.”
- (ii) on the school premises (or at a place specially sanctioned by the Board);
- (iii) for the purpose of making a report on each child on the lines of the approved Schedule set out in Circular 582.

(c) Under this heading is recorded *routine* inspections, if any, of children who do not fall under the three prescribed age-groups, *e.g.*, *routine* inspections of a fourth age-group (children who are eligible to leave school at the end of the term in which the inspection takes place) or of other groups of children, as distinct from those who are individually selected on account of some suspected ill-health for “Special” Inspection.

(d) A Special Inspection is a medical inspection by the School Medical Officer himself or by one of the Medical Officers on his staff of a child specially selected or referred for such inspection, *i.e.*, not inspected at a routine medical inspection as defined above. Such children may be selected by the Medical Officer during a visit to the School or may be referred to him by the Teachers, School Nurses, Attendance Officers, Parents, or otherwise. It is immaterial for the purpose of this heading whether the children are inspected at the School or at the Inspection Clinic or elsewhere. If a child happens to come before the School Medical Officer for special inspection during a year in which it falls into one of the routine groups, its routine inspection is entered in Part A of the table on page 35 headed “Routine Inspections” and its special inspection in Part B. The inspection recorded under the heading of special inspections is only the first inspection of the child so referred for a particular defect. If a child who has been specially inspected for one defect is subsequently specially inspected for another defect, such subsequent inspection is recorded as a Special Inspection and not as a Re-inspection.

(e) Under this heading is entered the medical inspections of children who as the result of a routine or special inspection come up later on for subsequent re-inspection, whether at the School or at the Inspection Clinic. The first inspection in every case is entered as a routine or special inspection as the case may be. Every subsequent inspection of the same defect is entered as a re-inspection.

Nothing is included under the head of special inspections or re-inspections except such inspections as are defined above. Attendances for treatment by a Nurse, or for examinations by anyone other than a Doctor on the staff of the School Medical Service, are not recorded as medical inspections. If, however, at any such attendance a child is also examined by one of the Authority's Medical Officers, this is recorded as a special inspection or re-inspection as the case may be, even if treatment is also given; but such attendance is also of course recorded as an attendance for treatment.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION

Defect or disease (1)	Routine Inspections		Special Inspections	
	No. of defects		No. of defects	
	Requiring treatment (2)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment (3)	Requiring treatment (4)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment (5)
<i>Skin</i>				
(1) Ringworm—Scalp.....	2	—	7	—
(2) „ —Body.....	2	1	17	—
(3) Scabies	27	1	368	—
(4) Impetigo	7	—	82	—
(5) Other diseases (non-tuberculous).....	14	2	197	—
<i>Eye</i>				
(6) Blepharitis	14	4	74	—
(7) Conjunctivitis	6	—	71	—
(8) Keratitis	—	—	—	—
(9) Corneal ulcers.....	—	—	—	—
(10) Other conditions (excluding defective vision and squint) ...	18	4	91	—
(11) Defective vision (excluding squint)...	303	84	55	—
(12) Squint	27	10	14	—
<i>Ear</i>				
(13) Defective hearing	11	—	17	—
(14) Otitis media	7	—	37	—
(15) Other ear diseases	33	4	208	—
<i>Nose and throat.</i>				
(16) Chronic tonsillitis only	42	35	205	—
(17) Adenoids only	5	2	4	—
(18) Chronic tonsillitis and adenoids	6	—	20	—
(19) Other conditions	44	2	125	—
(20) Enlarged cervical glands (non-tuberculous).....	6	6	39	—
(21) Defective speech	4	7	9	—
<i>Heart and circulation</i>				
(22) Heart disease—Organic	1	—	—	—
(23) „ —Functional	27	25	6	—
(24) Anæmia	50	8	45	—
<i>Lungs</i>				
(25) Bronchitis	14	10	9	—
(26) Other non-tuberculous diseases ..	7	11	9	—
<i>Tuberculosis</i>				
(27) Pulmonary—Definite	—	1	—	—
(28) „ Suspected	—	2	4	—
(29) Non-pulmonary—Glands	—	2	—	—
(30) „ Bones and joints.....	—	—	1	—
(31) „ Skin	—	—	—	—
(32) „ Other forms.....	—	—	1	—
<i>Nervous system</i>				
(33) Epilepsy	1	—	2	—
(34) Chorea.....	1	—	4	—
(35) Other conditions	2	1	1	—
<i>Deformities</i>				
(36) Rickets	1	—	1	—
(37) Spinal curvature	—	—	—	—
(38) Other forms	49	55	53	—
(39) Other defects and diseases (excluding Defects of Nutrition, Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases)	144	68	2087	—
TOTAL.....	875	345	3863	—

**CLASSIFICATION OF THE NUTRITION OF CHILDREN
INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE
ROUTINE AGE GROUPS**

(see Administrative Memorandum No. 124, dated 31st December, 1934)

Age groups	Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants.....	2133	60	2·81	1844	86·45	227	10·64	2	·10
Second Age Group ...	1494	78	5·22	1279	85·01	135	9·03	2	·14
Third Age Group ...	1271	42	3·31	1087	85·52	142	11·17	—	—
Other Routine Inspections	1321	88	6·66	1086	82·21	147	11·13	—	—
Total.....	6219	268	4·31	5296	85·16	651	10·47	4	·06

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA

This return is in respect of all exceptional children in the area, and is not confined only to those for whom suitable accommodation is available.

For the purpose of this Table no child is included who has not been examined by the School Medical Officer, by a medical member of the Authority's staff, or by the Tuberculosis Officer.

The table is made up from the list of exceptional children as it stood on the last day of the calendar year.

Children sent by the Authority to Day or Residential Schools outside the area are included in this table; children who are living in Residential Schools in the area, or attend Day Schools in the area, but who come from other areas, are not included.

No child is entered under more than one heading in this form

BLIND CHILDREN

A blind child is defined by Section 69 of the Education Act, 1921, as one who is "too blind to be able to read the ordinary school books used by children." This definition covers some children who are totally, or almost totally, blind and can only be appropriately taught in a school for blind children, and others who have partial sight and can be appropriately taught in a school for partially sighted children. Only the first class is included in this section.

Number at Certified Schools for the Blind 6

PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN

In this section are included only children who, though they cannot read ordinary school books or cannot read them without injury to their eyesight, have such power of vision that they can appropriately be taught in a school for the partially sighted.

Children who are able by means of suitable glasses to read the ordinary school books used by children without fatigue or injury to their vision are not included in this table.

Number on register 29

During the year 5 new cases were added to the register.

Below is a classification of the defects from which these partially sighted children suffer :

Congenital cataract and nystagmus	1
Cataract and congenital absence of iris	1
Coloboma choroid and nystagmus	1
Congenital cataract	4
Myopia	16
Hypermetropia	3
Coloboma of the iris and choroid	1
Coloboma of the iris with leucoma	1
Nystagmus	1
	—
	29
	—

DEAF CHILDREN

A deaf child is defined by Section 69 of the Education Act, 1921, as one who is "too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school." This definition covers some children who are totally, or almost totally, deaf and can only be appropriately taught in a school for deaf children, and others who have partial hearing and can be appropriately taught in a school for partially deaf children. Only the first class is included in this section.

Number at Certified Schools for the Deaf 18

PARTIALLY DEAF CHILDREN

In this section are included children who can appropriately be taught only in a school for the partially deaf.

Number on register 11

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

Mentally defective children are children who, not being imbecile and not being merely dull or backward, are incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools, but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in special schools for mentally defective children.

The following table includes all such children except those who have been notified to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Acts in accordance with Article 3 of the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928. Particulars relating to these children are entered in the return of notified children (see following page).

Number on register 98

Cloughton Road Council School.—In accordance with the arrangements for ascertainment, examinations of children suspected to be mentally defective were held at various schools and clinics during the year by the Assistant Medical Officers.

The results of these examinations are set out below:

Total number examined—Boys	28	
Girls	18	
	—	46
Number certified as mentally defective—Boys	18	
Girls	8	
	—	26*

* Four of these were recommended for admission to a residential special school and three were notified to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

Number recommended to continue in attendance at ordinary elementary schools—Boys	10	
Girls	10	
	—	20

During the year Dr. Williams re-examined a number of children who were in attendance at Cloughton Road School.

The results of the examinations are set out below :

Total number examined—Boys	33	
Girls	19	
	—	
	Total	52
	—	
Number recommended for admission to an ordinary elementary school—Boys	1	
Girls	—	
	—	
	Total	1
	—	
Number recommended for admission to the Class for Partially Sighted Children—Boys	1	
Girls	—	
	—	
	Total	1
	—	
Number recommended to continue in attendance at Cloughton Road School—Boys	23	
Girls	17	
	—	
	Total	40
	—	
Number notified to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Acts—Boys	8	
Girls	2	
	—	
	Total	10
	—	

A total of 22 children left school during the year

(a) on reaching the age of 16 years	6
(b) before reaching the age of 16 years	16*

* Ten of these were notified to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Acts, two were granted leave of absence, one was transferred to the Class for Partially Sighted Children, one was transferred to an ordinary elementary school and two who were evacuees, returned to London.

In addition to the above examinations which were carried out by the Assistant School Medical Officers 14 difficult or maladjusted children were referred to Mrs. Barton Hall, the Consultant Psychiatrist, at the request of teachers, parents and general medical practitioners.

After the examination of each child the parent, or guardian, was interviewed and advised with regard to the treatment and to the method of training, both at home and at school, which would prove most beneficial to the child.

Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928.—

Statement of the number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1944, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority.

Total number of children notified 13

Analysis of the above total

Diagnosis	Boys	Girls
1. (i) Children incapable of receiving benefit or further benefit from instruction in a Special School		
(a) Idiots	—	—
(b) Imbeciles	11	2
(c) Others	—	—
(ii) Children unable to be instructed in a Special School without detriment to the interests of other children:		
(a) Moral defectives.....	—	—
(b) Others	—	—
2. Feeble-minded children notified on leaving a Special School on or before attaining the age of 16	—	—
3. Feeble-minded children notified under Article 3, i.e. "special circumstances" cases	—	—
4. Children who in addition to being mentally defective were blind or deaf	—	—
Total.....	11	2

EPILEPTIC CHILDREN

In this part of the table only those children are included who are epileptic within the meaning of the Act, i.e., children who, not being idiots or imbeciles, are unfit by reason of severe epilepsy to attend the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

(For practical purposes the Board are of opinion that children who are subject to attacks of major epilepsy in school should be recorded as "severe" cases and excluded from ordinary Public Elementary Schools.)

Number on register 6

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN**A.—TUBERCULOUS CHILDREN**

Only children diagnosed as tuberculous and requiring treatment for tuberculosis at a sanatorium, a dispensary, or elsewhere are recorded in this category. Children suffering from crippling due to tuberculosis which is regarded as being no longer in need of treatment are recorded as crippled children, provided that the degree of crippling conforms to the description of a crippled child given at the head of Section C below. All other tuberculous children who are regarded as being no longer in need of treatment are recorded as delicate children provided the Medical Officer is prepared to certify under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

**I.—CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS
(Including pleura and intra-thoracic glands)**

Number on register 35

**II.—CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS
(This category includes tuberculosis of all sites other than those shown in (I) above)**

Number on register 183

B.—DELICATE CHILDREN

This section is confined to children (except those included in other groups) whose general health renders it urgently desirable that they should be specially selected for admission to an Open Air School. Such children are included irrespective of the actual provision of Open Air Schools in the area, or of the practicability in present circumstances of sending the children to Residential Schools. Children are not classed as suitable for admission to an Open Air School unless the Medical Officer is prepared to certify under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

Number on register 2

The impression must not be conveyed that there are only two children of school age who would benefit from instruction in an Open Air School. There would be no difficulty in selecting hundreds of children who would benefit both physically and mentally from the special environment and special instruction which such a school would provide.

C.—CRIPPLED CHILDREN

This section is confined to children (other than those diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis and in need of treatment for that disease) who are suffering from a degree of crippling sufficiently severe to interfere materially with a child's normal mode of life, i.e., children who generally speaking are unable to take part, in any complete sense, in physical exercises or games or such activities of the school curriculum as gardening or forms of handwork usually engaged in by other children, and in whose case the Medical Officer is prepared to certify under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of such physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

Number on register 9

D.—CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE

This section is confined to children in whose case the Medical Officer is prepared to certify, under Section 55 of the Education Act, 1921, that they are incapable by reason of such physical defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

Number on register 14

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE DEFECTS

Mental Defect (Feeble-minded and Partially Blind)...	1
Mental Defect (Feeble-minded and Epileptic)	2
Mental Defect (Feeble-minded and Heart Disease)	1
Hearing Defect (Epileptic and Deaf)	1
Sight Defect (Partially Blind and Partially Deaf) ...	1

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR
(see note *a*)

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which
see Page 51.)

Disease or defect (1)	Number of defects treated, or under treatment, during the year.		
	Under the Authority's scheme (see note <i>b</i>) (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
<i>Skin</i> —Ringworm—scalp—			
(i.) X-Ray treatment	2	—	2
(ii.) Other treatment	5	—	5
Ringworm—body	11	—	14
Scabies	39	—	39
Impetigo.....	71	—	71
Other skin disease	136	—	136
<i>Minor eye defects</i>	199	1	200
(external and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)			
<i>Minor ear defects</i>	207	—	207
<i>Minor nose and throat defects</i>	156	2	158
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	1195	4	1199
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chil- blains, &c.)			
Total ..	2024	7	2031

The number of children who received treatment at the General School Clinic was 1,985. The total attendances numbered 9,301.

During the past year the Health Visitors paid 608 visits to the homes of children with defects in connection with "following up"—560 first visits, 48 re-visits.

GROUP II.—SCABIES AND OTHER SKIN DISEASES (excluding defects
treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics)

Disease or defect.	Number of defects treated at the Skin Clinic during the year.
<i>Scabies</i> :	
(<i>a</i>) uncomplicated	542
(<i>b</i>) complicated	328
Scabies contacts (found to be free from scabies).....	189
Secondary dermatitis (following scabies)	39
Diseases of the scalp (due to lice and nits)	367
Other skin diseases.....	206
Total.....	1671

The total attendances made to the Clinic during the year numbered 5,477.

An average of 1.82 treatments only were required to effect a cure for each case of uncomplicated scabies.

GROUP III.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group 1.)

Defect or disease (1)	Number of defects dealt with		
	Under the Authority's scheme (see note b) (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
Errors of refraction (including squint)	577	19	596
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	10	—	10
Total... ..	587	19	606

	Under the Authority's scheme	Otherwise	Total
No of children for whom spectacles were			
(a) Prescribed	562	19	581
(b) Obtained	466	19	485

Dr. Williams continued in charge of the Eye Clinic.

Care is taken to secure that, so far as can be judged without any elaborate system of investigation, only those parents who are not in a position to obtain private attention to their children's eyes are allowed to avail themselves of the facilities provided at the clinic.

During the year 385 new cases were examined. Spectacles were prescribed for 207 of these, the remainder being found to be emmetropic or cases for whom spectacles were of no benefit. 585 children attended for re-examination and 466 pairs of spectacles (new or replaced) were supplied.

Included in these totals is a small number of pre-school children who were referred from Toddler Clinics by the Assistant Medical Officers. 26 new cases were examined and 14 children attended for re-examination. 24 of the 30 pairs of spectacles which were prescribed were obtained before the end of the year.

The total cost of all the spectacles which were ordered during the year (including those ordered for secondary school and pre-school children) was £252. 0. 8d., of which the parents were required to pay £250. 0. 10d. The total sum collected during the year (including arrears from previous years) was £247. 11. 3d.

42 new cases were examined and 79 re-examinations were carried out by Dr. Berkson, the consultant ophthalmic surgeon, at the Birkenhead Municipal Hospital.

The new cases of strabismus noted during the year were as follows :

Convergent : Right eye 20, left eye 39, alternating 2.
Divergent : Right eye 2.

GROUP IV.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT

Number of defects													
Received operative treatment											Received other forms of treatment (4)	Total number treated (5)	
Under the Authority's scheme in clinic or hospital, (see note b) (1)				By private practitioner or hospital, apart from the Authority's scheme (2)				Total (3)					
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)			(iv)
36	9	5	3	4	-	-	-	40	9	5	3	98	155

(i) Tonsils only, (ii) Adenoids only. (iii) Tonsils and adenoids.
(iv) Other defects of the nose and throat.

A total of 180 children referred to the Consultant Aurist and Laryngologist was examined during the year.

GROUP V.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS (see note c)

	Under the Authority's Scheme (see note b) (1)	Otherwise (2)	Total (3)
	Non-residential treatment at an Orthopædic Clinic	Non-residential treatment at an Orthopædic Clinic	
Number of children treated	264	7	271

1. *Examinations carried out at the clinic by the orthopædic surgeon.*—At the Clinic the Orthopædic Surgeon attended on 27 occasions during the year. The after-care sister also made 27 attendances.

234 new cases were dealt with, as compared with 226 in the previous year.

Tuberculous cases	4
Non-tuberculous cases—	
Under school age	95
Of school age	135
Over school age	—
	234

There were 320 re-examinations made, as compared with 554 in 1943 :—

Tuberculous cases	19
Non-tuberculous cases—	
Under school age	51
Of school age	250
Over school age	—
	320

The average number of cases seen by the surgeon per session was 21.

In the following table Mr. Horace Davies sets out a classification of cases dealt with and shows the results of treatment :

Disease Categories	New Cases				Re-Examinations				Discharged during 1944				
	Under 5		School Age		Under 5		School Age		Cured	Relieved	Left district	Refused treatment	Died
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.					
Congenital Deformities :													
Trunk	1	2	...	1	...	...	2	3	1	...	...	...	...
Upper Limb	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lower Limb	3	3	1	3	3	2	8	6	5	...	1	...	...
Acquired Deformities :													
Flat Foot	16	21	40	25	9	8	62	66	42	...	3	2	...
Hallux Valgus .....	...	1	2	1	...	...	4	2	1	...	...	...	...
Postural Kyphosis & Scoliosis .....	...	...	5	3	...	...	6	17	6	...	...	...	...
Knock Knee	13	12	...	1	8	8	3	5	9	...	...	...	...
Bow Leg	5	8	...	...	2	...	...	2	6	...	...	...	...
Other Conditions .....	...	1	2	1	...	...	4	2	1	...	...	...	...
Affections of Skeleton :													
Rickets .....	...	1	...	2	3	1	3	3	4	...	...	...	...
Other Conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Affections of Nervous System :													
Spastic Paralysis	1	2	...	...	1	...	6	7	...	...	...	...	...
Infantile .....	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	13	...	2	...	...	...
Peripheral Nerve Lesions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	...
Other Conditions	1	2	...	...	2	...	4	3	...	...	...	...	...
Affections of Bone :													
Osteomyelitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Tuberculous .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	...
Affections of Joints :													
Tuberculous .....	...	...	2	2	...	...	5	4	5	2	...	...	...
Non-Tuberculous .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Affections of Spine :													
Tuberculous .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	2	1	...	...	...
Non-Tuberculous .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Affections of Epiphyses .....	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	3	...	2	...	...	...
Affections of Soft Tissues .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Complications of Trauma .....	...	...	1	3	...	...	2	2	4	2	...	...	...
No Abnormal Defect .....	...	...	19	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.....	42	53	73	66	31	20	119	150	88	13	4	2	—

2. *Massage and remedial exercises.*—Massage and remedial exercises as prescribed by the Orthopædic Surgeon were provided by the Invalid Children's Association. (There is one whole-time and one part-time masseuse on the Association's staff.)

Attendance for massage and remedial exercises were made by clinic cases as follows :

Tuberculous cases	—
Non-tuberculous cases—	
Under school age	1205
Of school age	4359
Over school age	9
	—
	5573
	—

In addition to the above, 83 attendances were made by non-clinic cases (that is to say, cases sent to the Association by orthopædic surgeons attached to voluntary hospitals, etc.) as follows:—

Under school age	—
Of school age	83

3. *Surgical apparatus—splints, etc.*—These are provided by the Association, the number of cases dealt with during the past year being as follows :

	Under School Age	Of School Age	Over School Age
Tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	—	9	3
Non-clinic cases	—	2	—
Non-tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	102	165	11
Non-clinic cases	48	118	16

4. *Milk, tonics, convalescence, after-care.*—Most useful work is also done by the Association in providing milk, tonics, etc., for patients for whom these have been prescribed by the orthopædic surgeon and other doctors, and in following up and helping patients who have passed through the stage of active treatment :

	Under School Age	Of School Age	Over School Age
Children supplied with milk—			
Tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	—	2	—
Non-clinic cases	—	1	—
Non-tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	—	2	—
Non-clinic cases	—	3	2
Children supplied with tonics—			
Tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	—	10	—
Non-clinic cases	—	1	—
Non-tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	7	37	—
Non-clinic cases	5	13	1

Children sent to Convalescent Homes and Country Hospitals—

	Under School Age	Of School Age	Over School Age
Tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	—	1	—
Non-clinic cases	—	1	—
Non-tuberculous cases—			
Clinic cases	37	122	8
Non-clinic cases	14	37	7

5. *Birkenhead Orthopaedic Hospital.*—At this institution children suffering from orthopaedic defects of tuberculous origin are treated. Many are cases who have passed through a course of treatment at Leasowe Hospital, or are awaiting admission to that institution.

6. *Treatment by Ultra-Violet Rays.*—At the North Clinic a total of 14 children of school age made 174 attendances during the year.

	Improved	Not Improved	Died	Still under treatment at end of year
Debility	4	—	—	2
Tuberculosis	1	—	1	—
Anæmia	2	—	—	—
Bronchitis	2	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—	—
Other conditions ...	2	—	—	—
	11	—	1	2

In addition 233 attendances were made by children below and above school age.

At the South Clinic a total of 3 children of school age made 33 attendances during the year.

	Improved	Not Improved	Died	Still under treatment at end of year
Debility	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	1
Anæmia	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	1
Rickets	1	—	—	—
Other conditions...	—	—	—	—
	1	—	—	2

In addition 820 attendances were made by children below and above school age.

At the premises of the Invalid Children's Association a total of 84 children of school age made 1,505 attendances during the year.

	Improved	Not Improved	Died	Still under treatment at end of year
Debility	41	1	—	31
Tuberculosis	3	2	—	2
Anæmia	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—
Rickets	3	—	—	1
Other conditions...	—	—	—	—
	47	3	—	34

In addition 781 attendances were made by children below and above school age.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Number of children who were:—		
(a) Inspected by the Dentist :		
Routine age groups—		
aged 5	651	
aged 6	1177	
aged 7	1079	
aged 8	1110	
aged 9	1101	
aged 10	1072	
aged 11	997	
aged 12	938	
aged 13	788	
aged 14	88	
		<hr/>
		9001
		<hr/>
(b) Specials (see note e)	2045	
		<hr/>
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials)	11046	
		<hr/>
(2) Number found to require treatment	7585	
(3) Number actually treated	5423	
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	6371	
(5) Half-days devoted to :—		
Inspection	129	
Treatment	1079	
		<hr/>
	Total	1208
(6) Fillings (see note f):—		
Permanent Teeth	2758	
Temporary Teeth	58	
		<hr/>
	Total	2816
(7) Extractions :—		
Permanent Teeth	1387	
Temporary Teeth	6078	
		<hr/>
	Total	7465
(8) Administrations of general anaesthetic for extractions ...	2382	
(9) Other Operations :—		
Permanent Teeth	2025	
Temporary Teeth	314	
		<hr/>
	Total	2339

Cleanliness of teeth.—The children examined were classified according to cleanliness of teeth as follows :

Clean	4497
Fairly clean	3594
Dirty	910
	<hr/>
	9001
	<hr/>

Condition of gums.—The following figures show the condition of the gums of the children examined :

Gums healthy	7167
Gums inflamed	953
Gums septic	881
	<hr/>
	9001
	<hr/>

Condition of bite.—This was found to be as set out below :

Bite good	6838
Bite fair	2007
Bite bad	156
	<hr/>
	9001
	<hr/>

Notices were sent to the parents of the 7,585 children found to require dental treatment, with the following results:—

Refused to have treatment done or did not reply ...	426
Stated that treatment would be obtained privately ...	510
Requested treatment at the Dental Clinic	6649
	<hr/>
	7585
	<hr/>

Of the 6,649 children for whom treatment at the clinic was requested :

5094 were treated before the end of the year
922 did not attend when sent for
633 were awaiting treatment at the end of the year
<hr/>
6649
<hr/>

The total number of children treated at the clinic during 1944 was :

Following on 1943 inspections	329
Following on 1944 inspections	5094
	<hr/>
	5423
	<hr/>

5,077 treatments were completed during the year.

3,639 parents paid 1s. each and 26 parents 6d. each for treatment for their children, the total amount paid being £182. 12. 0d. 2,007 children were treated free of charge.

UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the Health Visitors and Nurses' Assistants ...	20
(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the schools by Health Visitors and Nurses' Assistants	62381
(iii) Number of <i>individual</i> children found unclean (<i>see note g</i>)	2245
(iv) Number of <i>individual</i> children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	—
(v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	—
(b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws	—

The Health Visitors paid 138 visits to the homes of children in regard to uncleanliness and verminous disease (117 first visits, 21 re-visits).

In accordance with a scheme to assist mothers engaged on war work to keep their children's heads free from infectious skin disease, 377 children made 1,199 attendances to the Skin Clinic for treatment during the year.

NOTES ON TABLES (pages 44-51)

(a) The Table deals with all defects treated during the year, however they were brought to the Authority's notice, i.e., whether by routine inspection, special inspection, or otherwise, during the year in question or previously.

(b) This heading includes all cases that received treatment under definite arrangements or agreements for treatment made by the Local Education Authority and sanctioned by the Board of Education under Section 80 of the Education Act, 1921. Cases which, after being recommended for treatment or advised to obtain it, actually received treatment by private practitioners, or by means of direct application to hospitals, or by the use of hospital tickets supplied by private persons, etc., are entered under other headings.

(c) Postural defects which received non-residential treatment otherwise than at an orthopædic clinic are not recorded in this Table.

(d) A child may be recorded in more than one category and therefore the total number of children treated will not necessarily be the same as the sum of the figures in the separate categories.

(e) The heading "Specials" in this Table relates to all children inspected by the School Dentist otherwise than in the course of the routine inspection of children in one of the age groups covered by the Authority's approved scheme, namely, to children specially selected by him, or referred by Medical Officers, Parents, Teachers, etc., on account of urgency.

(f) Temporary fillings, whether in permanent or temporary teeth, are recorded as other operations.

(g) (i) All cases of uncleanliness, however slight, are recorded.

(ii) The return relates to individual children and not to instances of uncleanliness.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The powers and duties of local education authorities with regard to medical inspection and treatment in secondary schools and continuation schools are set out in Section 80 of the Education Act, 1921.

There are no continuation schools provided by the local education authority.

MEDICAL INSPECTION

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of inspections	887
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B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	54
In schools	—
In clinics	54
Number of Re-Inspections	1352
In schools	1333
In clinics	19

The following schools were inspected, the totals and numbers found defective being shown :

	No. Inspected	No. found defective*
Girls' Secondary School	241	37
The Convent Secondary School	177	13
Rock Ferry High School	169	15
Park High School	136	7
Birkenhead Institute	164	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	887	86
	<hr/>	<hr/>

* Excluding those with defective teeth and defects of nutrition.

Included in the total are 570 who were inspected as entrants to these schools.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION

Defect or disease (1)	Routine Inspection		Special Inspections	
	No. of Defects		No. of Defects	
	Requiring treatment (2)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment (3)	Requiring treatment (4)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment (5)
Skin : Ringworm—Scalp	—	—	—	—
Body	—	—	—	—
Scabies	1	—	4	—
Impetigo	—	—	—	—
Other diseases (non-tuberculous)	—	—	5	—
Eye : Blepharitis	5	3	3	—
Conjunctivitis	2	—	—	—
Other conditions (excluding defective vision and squint)	1	1	2	—
Defective vision (excluding squint)	37	19	—	—
Squint	—	—	—	—
Ear : Otitis media	—	—	—	—
Defective hearing	—	—	2	—
Other ear diseases	2	—	4	—
Nose and throat : Chronic tonsillitis only	2	5	3	—
Adenoids only	—	—	—	—
Other conditions	2	3	3	—
Enlarged cervical glands (non tuberculous)	—	1	1	—
Defective speech	—	—	—	—
Heart and circulation :				
Functional	3	7	—	—
Organic	—	—	—	—
Anæmia	4	4	2	—
Lungs—Bronchitis	1	2	—	—
Other non-tuberculous diseases	1	1	1	—
Tuberculosis — Non-pulmonary — Bones, Joints	—	1	—	—
Nervous system—Chorea	—	—	1	—
Epilepsy	—	—	—	—
Other conditions	—	—	—	—
Deformities : Spinal curvature	2	1	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—	—
Other forms	7	22	3	—
Other defects and diseases (excluding defects of nutrition, uncleanliness and dental diseases) ...	5	6	20	—
 Total number of defects	 75	 76	 54	 —

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR

TREATMENT TABLES

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS

Defect or disease.	Number of defects treated or under treatment during the year, under the Authority scheme.
Skin : Ringworm—Scalp	—
Body	—
Scabies	—
Other skin diseases	3
Minor eye defects	3
Minor ear defects	4
Minor nose and throat defects	3
Miscellaneous (e.g. minor injuries, bruises, etc.)	6
Total	19

19 children made 57 attendances for treatment during the year.

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects)

Defect or disease	No. of defects dealt with			
	Under the Authority's scheme	By private practitioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's scheme	Otherwise	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	92	6	—	98

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed under the Authority's Scheme

88

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles—

(a) under the Authority's Scheme

70

(b) otherwise

6

134 children were submitted to refraction at the Eye Clinic.

52 new cases were examined. Spectacles were prescribed for 24 of them, the remainder being found to be emmetropic or cases for whom spectacles were of no benefit. 82 children attended for re-examination.

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT

Number of children who received operative treatment

—

Number of children who received treatment other than by operation ...

3

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

	Under the Authority's Scheme non-residential treatment at an orthopædic clinic.
Number of children treated	27

DENTAL TREATMENT

(1) Treated	249
(2) Attendances made by children for treatment	504
(3) Fillings—Permanent Teeth	318
Temporary Teeth	—
	318
(4) Extractions—Permanent Teeth	111
Temporary Teeth	27
	138
(5) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions	58
(6) Other Operations—Permanent Teeth	2
Temporary Teeth	92
	94

MISCELLANEOUS

Children and Young Persons Act, 1933.—9 children summoned to appear before the Police Court were examined in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Employment of Children Byelaws.—26 children were medically examined as to fitness for work under these byelaws. Certificates were granted in all cases.

Past Infectious Diseases.—Enquiry was made at each routine medical inspection as to the infectious diseases from which the children might have suffered.

(1) Children aged 3—9

	No. of Cases	Percentage
No Infectious Disease	356	9.72
Measles	2773	75.70
Whooping Cough	1811	49.44
Scarlet Fever	329	8.98
Diphtheria	170	4.64
Chicken Pox	1543	42.12
Mumps	819	22.36

(2) Children aged 10—14

	No. of Cases	Percentage
No Infectious Disease	192	7.51
Measles	1993	77.97
Whooping Cough	1372	53.68
Scarlet Fever	324	12.68
Diphtheria	296	11.58
Chicken Pox	1108	43.35
Mumps	885	34.66

Note.—The same child may have had more than one of these diseases.

Co-operation of Parents.—Parents attended at the examination of 3,645 (58.61%) of the 6,219 children dealt with at routine inspections.

Group	Parents Present
Nursery Classes	88.89%
Entrants	85.98%
2nd age group	71.89%
3rd age group	32.18%
4th age group	23.04%

Vaccination.—In the ordinary inspections children were examined as to vaccination marks. Of the 6,219 children examined

3053 (49.09%)	showed no marks
2975 (47.84%)	showed one mark
127 (2.04%)	showed two marks
12 (.19%)	showed three marks
52 (.84%)	showed four or more marks

Height and weight.—Below are set out the average heights and weights (measured without footwear) of children who were examined during the course of routine inspections.

Age	Height					
	Boys			Girls		
	No.	Ft.	Ins.	No.	Ft.	Ins.
3 years	7	3	3.58	5	3	1.20
4 years	81	3	5.38	83	3	4.95
5 years	543	3	7.10	543	3	7.54
6 years	301	3	10.06	263	3	9.60
7 years	103	4	0.22	87	3	11.82
8 years	502	4	2.92	493	4	2.72
9 years	246	4	3.90	225	4	3.80
12 years	359	4	9.04	461	4	10.68
13 years	499	4	11.60	449	5	0.96
14 years	334	5	1.14	292	5	2.36

Age	Weight					
	Boys			Girl		
	No.	St.	Lbs.	No.	St.	Lbs.
3 years	7	2	12.57	5	2	9.60
4 years	82	3	0.48	83	2	11.04
5 years	585	3	3.04	571	3	1.02
6 years	312	3	6.32	270	3	4.80
7 years	109	3	11.40	90	3	9.20
8 years	506	4	2.82	500	4	1.46
9 years	246	4	5.82	225	4	4.44
12 years	409	5	8.14	460	5	13.18
13 years	501	6	2.02	452	6	11.40
14 years	335	6	9.02	292	7	3.00