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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BURY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1939,

BY

G. M. D. S. B. LOBBAN,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

CHIEF MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE OFFICER,

CHIEF TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER AND CHIEF VENEREAL

DISEASES OFFICER.

BURY :

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DISEASES OFFICER.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1939.

Chairman - His Worship the Mayor
(Councillor W. HARTLEY).

Deputy-Chairman - Councillor HEATON.

Alderman BATTERSBY,	Councillor Mrs. GOODALL,
„ EVANS,	„ HARDMAN,
„ HILL,	„ JONES,
„ LEES,	„ LORD,
„ SMITH (J.),	„ MILBURN,
Councillor ASPINALL,	„ RILEY,
„ CLAPHAM,	„ SMITH (F.),
„ CRAWSHAW,	„ Mrs. TAYLOR,
„ DUCKWORTH,	„ O. L. W. WHITEHEAD.
„ ELLIOTT,	

*Meetings.—The Monday in each month immediately preceding the
16th day before the Council, at 10-0 a.m.*

October, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit the Annual Report on the Health of the County Borough for the year 1939.

The Report is shorter than in previous years in view of the increased pressure of work which has been placed on the Health Department and in the need for economy in paper.

In this preface, the more important facts and incidents are summarised. Suitable arrangements have been made to preserve all records, including statistics, in order that at the termination of the War a fuller Report can be made dealing with the war-time period.

Birth Rate.

The birth rate for 1939 was 12.21 per 1,000 population and is next to the lowest rate recorded during the last twenty-five years.

Death Rate.

The death rate for the year under review was 15.39 per 1,000 population, and this rate compares favourably with the rates obtained in this County Borough during the last five years. Twenty-five years ago the death rate was 17.27 per 1,000 population.

In 1939, as in former years, the causes of death remain much in the same proportion to each other. There has been no increase in the number of deaths due to infectious diseases or to diseases associated with war-time conditions.

Infantile Mortality Rate.

This rate has been ascertained as 50 per 1,000 births in 1939 and is the lowest ever recorded in this County Borough.

Tuberculosis Death Rate.

The death rate from all forms of tuberculosis during 1939 was 0.44 per 1,000 of the population. Bury always had a comparatively low death rate from tuberculosis, and the rate for 1939 is the lowest in the annals of Public Health in this Borough.

Despite the achievement in lowering the death rate from tuberculosis a warning should be sounded here. Even in normal times tuberculosis in young adults is a serious risk. A rise in the incidence of tuberculosis particularly at the susceptible ages between fifteen and twenty-five years, occurs in war time due to conditions bringing about an increase of strains and stresses, overcrowding, etc. Some cases of tuberculosis do not reach the tuberculosis dispensary until the disease is well established and therefore more difficult to treat. To prevent the disease we should take reasonable precautions, such as being well clothed in inclement weather, resting when one can, and obtaining fresh air by walking or cycling in the country on at least one day per week. Plain, wholesome food should be taken in preference to snacks or meals of fancy comestibles. Much more vegetables should be eaten since they contain valuable vitamins and salts which help to combat disease.

Cancer Death Rate.

The Cancer death rate for 1939 was 1.79 per 1,000 population, and this represents the average death rate for the last ten years.

Infectious Diseases.

In 1939 there were eighty cases of scarlet fever notified to this office, of which cases sixty-one were removed to hospital. There were no deaths attributed to scarlet fever during the year.

One hundred and ten cases of diphtheria were notified during 1939, all of which were removed to hospital for treatment. Three deaths were notified during the year as being due to diphtheria. None of the fatal cases was immunised against the disease. The proportion of fatal cases to the number of notified cases was the lowest during the last seven years.

There is only one way to reduce the number of cases and deaths due to diphtheria, and that is by wholesale immunisation of children. The process is practically painless and there is no scarring as in vaccination against smallpox. There is no reason, except for the parents' and guardians' reluctance to have the children under their care immunised, why a great reduction in the number of cases and deaths due to diphtheria should not take place in this County Borough. Immunisation is free and parents and

guardians who wish to have children immunised should apply to the School Clinic or to the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic or to the Public Health Department. Experience in other towns, notably abroad, has shown that after the wholesale immunisation of the child population against diphtheria the number of cases and deaths occasioned by the disease have been reduced almost to vanishing point. In fact, diphtheria in these towns has become a rare disease.

Eighty cases of pneumonia at all ages were notified in 1939. There were 42 deaths from this cause during the year.

Some sporadic cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis, four in number, occurred in the Borough in 1939, and there were no deaths from this disease.

Four cases of measles were notified and with no deaths following on this affection.

There were no cases of enteric fever or smallpox in the County Borough during the year.

From the beginning of September, 1939, a departure from age old custom was introduced. General practitioners were requested to advise mild cases of scarlet fever to be nursed at home where home conditions were satisfactory, the other cases to be sent to hospital, and concerning cases of suspected diphtheria, only those in which true clinical diphtheria was diagnosed should be sent to hospital. So far as experience has gone the arrangements have worked well, and there have been no undue spread or increased mortality due to those diseases.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The total number of attendances at the Welfare Clinics during 1939 was 16,576. It is interesting to compare this figure with the figure for previous years, as it was thought that owing to the black-out conditions imposed and other war-time difficulties there would be a considerable decrease in the attendances in 1939. That there has been no inordinate decrease can be shown, viz., the attendances for 1938, which were 17,105; for 1937, which were 13,944; for 1936, showing 12,994 attendances; and for 1935, showing 12,132 attendances. The clinics then have been well attended in 1939.

Concerning Maternal Mortality for the year, there was only one maternal death, and this represented a figure of 1.39 per 1,000 total births, which is the lowest rate recorded in the borough.

During the last twenty-five years the average number of maternal deaths has been 4.5 per annum, ranging from one death per annum to eight deaths per annum. The problem of maternal deaths has exercised our minds for some years, and it would appear that a welcome decrease is being ushered in when one bears in mind that there were only two maternal deaths in 1938 and one maternal death in 1939. One has to be prudent, however, in assessing a real and continued decrease, which can be done only when a number of successive years is considered.

The work of the municipal midwives during the year has increased. 213 confinements were attended, 1,714 ante-natal examinations were made, and the midwives paid 3,646 lying-in visits. The work of the midwives was much appreciated generally.

The Health Visitors made visits to 673 recently-born children in 1939, and visited 14,390 children ranging from those under one year of age to those up to five years of age. The manifold duties of the Health Visitors do not lack in variety, and a good deal of hard work and tact are necessary to carry them through successfully. Besides the home visiting of mothers and children to give friendly guidance and advice, other duties performed by the Health Visitors are: Visiting in cases of infectious diseases, of boarded-out and nursed-out children, of tuberculosis, of still-births, of infant deaths, and many other visits besides attending Welfare Clinics, light therapy clinics, and tuberculosis clinics. A full list indicating the amount of work performed by the Health Visitors can be found on page 35 of the main Report.

Sanitary Inspectors' Work.

A good deal of extra work was undertaken in connection with Air Raid Precautions and Billeting during 1939 by the Sanitary Inspectors. In common with other members of the staff of the Public Health Department the extra duties often entailed long hours.

Many samples of water, mostly from springs and wells, were taken in 1939 for examination and analysis.

Nearly twice the number of complaints concerning vermin infestation during 1939 were received and dealt with than those in 1938. A total of twenty-six thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine visits were made during the year under review by the Sanitary Inspectors to various premises and places in connection with their

duties under the Public Health Acts. Six Clearance Orders comprising 48 dwelling-houses were the subject of a Public Local Enquiry held by the Ministry of Health on 18th July, 1939. The Orders were later confirmed.

An important branch of the Sanitary Inspectors' work, that of the inspection of meat and other foods, was maintained as in former years, as also was the sampling of Foods and Drugs. It was found that the average percentages of milk fat and solids not fat obtained in samples of milk were well above those prescribed by law.

Work at the Public Abattoirs.

A great deal of alteration was performed at and additional equipment obtained for the Public Abattoir during the year under review in preparation for the use of the premises by the Ministry of Food.

Changes in Staff.

Dr. J. S. B. Mackay, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, left the service of the Department on 30th November in order to take up an appointment with the Lancashire County Council. He was succeeded by Dr. N. A. M. Mackinnon.

To sum up, the Health of the County Borough of Bury during 1939 has been generally satisfactory, when one bears in mind the low death rates obtained in infantile mortality, maternal mortality, and tuberculosis. There has been no undue spread of nor has there been increased mortality from infectious diseases, quite the reverse. Attendances at clinics have been upheld despite difficult conditions. The work of the Sanitary Inspectors has been carried out with zeal. It is just as well, however, not to adopt a too complacent attitude, since the health of the population has to be more carefully guarded in war time than in times of peace.

I wish to express my thanks to the Health Committee and Council for the support extended to me during the year.

I also wish to thank the members of my staff for their assistance and loyal support in the general work of the department and in the many extra duties which have fallen upon the department in recent times.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

G. M. DAVIDSON LOBBAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION 1.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA, 1939.

Area in Acres	7,434
Resident Population (Registrar-General's estimate) 1939...	58,630
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1939	18,849
Rateable Value	£377,266
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,461

In the following summary, extracts from the vital statistics of the year are given:—

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 population
Live Births... ..	376	340	716	12.21
	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births
Still Births	18	16	34	45.3
	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 population
Deaths... ..	430	464	894	15.39
Deaths from Puerperal causes:—				Rate per 1,000 total births
Puerperal Sepsis... ..	0			—
Other Puerperal causes	1			1.39
	1			1.39

Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions, 38.4.
Infantile Mortality Rate 50 per 1,000 births.
Tuberculosis (all forms), Death Rate... 0.44 per 1,000 population
Cancer Death Rate 1.79 „ „
Zymotic Diseases Death Rate... .. 0.14 „ „

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	50
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..	45
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	192

The industrial conditions in the Borough improved during the year.

At the beginning of 1939 there was a total of 5,215 insured persons unemployed. This figure decreased progressively until at the end of the year, when the number of insured persons unemployed was 1,948.

The building industry remained fairly active during 1939, but there were no important new developments in industry as a whole.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for the middle of 1939:—

(a) For Birth Rate	58.630
(b) For Death Rate	58.090

The population at the 1931 census was returned as 56,182 (males 26,150, females 30,032).

Births.—The birth rate for 1939—12.21 per 1,000—is lower than last year. The total number of births recorded during the year was 716. The birth rate for England and Wales for 1939 was 15.0 per 1,000 population.

Deaths.—The death rate per 1,000 of the population for 1939 was 15.39. There were altogether a total of 1,254 deaths registered in the County Borough. Of these deaths, 414 were of persons not usually resident in the Borough. By excluding these deaths of non-residents, the number of deaths is reduced to 840, to which must be added 54 deaths of Bury residents which have occurred in other districts. The number of deaths belonging to the County Borough is thus 894.

Infantile Mortality.—The infantile mortality rate for the year 1939 was 50 per 1,000 births.

The following table shows the number of deaths of infants below one year of age and the rate per 1,000 births in Bury during the past twenty-five years:—

Year.	Number of deaths below one year of age.	Rate per 1,000 births.
1915 ...	118	115
1916 ...	120	133
1917 ...	73	93
1918 ...	80	110
1919 ...	68	92
Average for 5 years...	—	108
1920 ...	102	91
1921 ...	93	85
1922 ...	78	82
1923 ...	88	101
1924 ...	63	71
Average for 5 years...	—	86
1925 ...	63	80
1926 ...	62	76
1927 ...	62	79
1928 ...	67	90
1929 ...	61	79
Average for 5 years...	—	81
1930 ...	51	69
1931 ...	48	71
1932 ...	62	85
1933 ...	40	53
1934 ...	62	84
Average for 5 years...	—	72
1935 ...	47	66
1936 ...	47	56
1937 ...	43	55
1938 ...	51	67
1939 ...	36	50
Average for 5 years...	—	59

It will be seen from the above table that there is a progressive reduction of the Infantile Mortality Rate during the last twenty-five years, when five year periods are considered.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1939.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of Residents, whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-residents in Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All Causes (Certified	886	35	8	10	13	10	68	272	470	656
Uncertified ..	8	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	3	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria	3	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	8
Influenza	19	..	..	..	2	..	5	2	10	5
Encephalitis Lethargica..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of Respirat'ry System	21	..	..	..	..	2	11	8	..	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases	5	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	8
Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis..	6	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease	104	..	..	..	..	..	3	55	46	71
Diabetes	16	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	13	11
Cerebral Hæmorrhage....	37	..	..	..	..	..	2	8	27	57
Heart Disease	273	..	..	..	1	..	6	86	180	147
Aneurysm	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..
Other circulatory Diseases	83	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	74	21
Bronchitis	40	1	..	..	..	..	3	9	27	19
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	42	8	2	2	1	1	4	11	13	38
Other Respir'tory Diseases	10	..	..	3	..	1	1	4	1	10
Peptic Ulcer	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	2	6
Diarrhoea, &c.	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Appendicitis	3	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	8
Cirrhosis of Liver.....	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	2
Other Diseases of Liver, etc	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	4	9
Other Digestive Diseases..	18	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	6	18
Acute & Chronic Nephritis	26	..	..	..	..	..	3	13	10	23
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Puerperal Causes....	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	8
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	24	21	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Senility	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	63
Suicide	11	..	..	..	..	..	3	8	..	6
Other Deaths from Viol'nce	33	1	1	3	..	1	6	8	13	55
Other Defined Causes	61	..	..	1	4	2	12	22	20	23
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	1
	894	36	8	10	13	10	68	274	475	656

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1939 and Previous Years.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		Transfer-able Deaths of Non-residents registered in the District.	Transfer-able Deaths of Residents not registered in the District.	NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.					
		Nett.		Rate				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.			
		Number.	Rate	Number.	Rate per 1000 nett Births.			Number	Rate.				
1933	...	...	59200	748	12.63	1031	17.42	248	46	40	53	829	14.00
1934	...	...	60100	738	12.28	1047	17.42	245	53	62	84	855	14.22
1935	...	...	59800	710	11.87	1125	18.81	280	52	47	66	897	15.00
1936	...	...	59860	833	13.92	1065	17.79	308	55	47	56	812	13.56
1937	...	...	59620	775	13.00	1220	20.46	362	64	43	55	922	15.46
1938	...	...	59880	761	12.82	1081	18.20	322	53	51	67	812	13.80
1939	...	...	58690	716	12.21	1254	21.59	414	54	86	50	894	15.39

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 7245. } Total population at all ages 56,182 } At Census of 1931.
Total families or separate occupiers 15,402 }
Average number of persons per house 3.71 }

SECTION 2.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.—These are provided at the following :

Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

The Laboratory, Bury Infirmary.

Dr. J. S. Pooley, Broadfield Chemical Laboratory, Rochdale.

The examinations carried out at these laboratories are Wasserman reaction tests, biological tests, examination of water, etc.

At the Bury Venereal Diseases Clinic, laboratory facilities are provided, so that many specimens of infective organisms, etc., are examined there.

Chemical investigations are made in the cases of milk and foodstuffs by the Borough Analyst, Mr. T. R. Hodgson.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For Infectious Cases.—There are two motor ambulances owned by the Bury Joint Hospital Board for the transport of cases of infectious disease and tuberculosis.
- (b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.—The Bury Corporation provides three motor ambulances for the removal of accident cases and cases of illnesses requiring hospital treatment.

Nursing in the Home.—Home Nursing is not provided directly by the Council, but is carried out by the Bury Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institution for Nurses. An arrangement has been entered into whereby, at the request of the Medical Officer of Health, one of the Association's Nurses visits and treats cases of certain infectious diseases.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

The following is a list of hospitals used by inhabitants of Bury :—

Name and Situation.	Type.	No. of Available Beds.	Proportion of beds used by persons from Outside Bury Area.
(a) Within the Borough :			
Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury.	Isolation ...	96	Approx. 40%.
Bury Infirmary, Bury. (Voluntary).	General ...	143	Approx. 50%.
Jericho Public Assistance Hospital, Bury.	General ...	670	Approx. 54%.
(b) Outside the Borough :			
Aitken Sanatorium, Holcombe, near Bury.	Tuberculosis Sanatorium.	70	72% by Lancashire County Council Cases.
Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, Ainsworth, near Bolton.	Smallpox ...	28	Cases admitted as required.

Number of beds for Maternity Cases at Bury Infirmary 14
 " " " " " Jericho Public Assistance Hospital... 24

In addition to the above, patients from Bury are admitted to Manchester institutions, principally : Manchester Royal Infirmary (General Medical and Surgical), Manchester and Salford Skin Hospital (Skin Cases), and St. Mary's Hospital (Maternity).

Local Government Act, 1929.—At the Jericho Institution accommodation is available for the sick inhabitants of the area as before.

Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.—The arrangements in operation for the provision of medical assistance to those in poor circumstances remain unchanged. The Borough is divided into two areas for this service, and the Medical Officers in charge are Dr. H. Smith and Dr. E. Smalley.

Institutional Provision for the Care of Mental Defectives.—The Lancashire Mental Hospitals Board, of which the Bury Council is a member, deals with the Lunacy and Mental Deficiency Services.

SECTION 3.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Medical Officer of Health
for the County Borough of Bury.

Sir,

I beg to submit to you, in accordance with Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, my Report on the Sanitary Inspection of the Area for the year 1939. The Report is submitted in an abridged form in accordance with instructions for the need of economy in war-time.

The number of inspections made during the year is, with one notable exception, less than the average for the past five years. This is due to the time spent by the staff on duties in connection with Air Raid Precautions and Billeting. The exception referred to is the greatly increased number of inspections made as a result of complaints received of vermin infestation.

Only one change in the staff has occurred during the year. Inspector F. James obtained an appointment with the Wood Green Council, and Inspector T. Marsh, of Chorley, was appointed to the vacancy in August.

Mr. J. Butterworth, clerk assistant in the Sanitary Inspector's Office, was mobilised with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve on the Declaration of War in September.

Water Supplies.

The total number of samples taken was 78. Of these 63 were taken from spring or well water supplies. Of the latter number 34 were examined bacteriologically and 18 were reported to be unsatisfactory; twenty-nine samples from this latter source were submitted for chemical analysis, and of these 14 were reported to be unsatisfactory for drinking purposes.

In each case of an unsatisfactory report on the supply of water the occupier or the owner of the premises concerned was advised of suitable preventative precautions to be taken in the interests of public health.

The general improvement in the hygienic conditions of the district was continued during the year. There were 377 con-

versions from insanitary types of closet to the fresh water flushing type of closet and 43 additional water closets were provided. In addition 147 portable dustbins were provided in place of insanitary receptacles.

During the year 504 complaints were received and investigated. Of these 72 were referred to other departments of the Corporation for attention.

There were 277 inspections of factories with mechanical power requiring 19 notices to be served, and 131 inspections of factories without mechanical power requiring four notices to be served.

The disinfestation of premises free of cost by the Corporation was continued during the year.

The methods applied follow those reported in detail in the Report for 1938. It is interesting to note that there were nearly twice the number of complaints of vermin infestation received during the year under review than those received in the previous year.

Number of visits on complaint of vermin	526
„ re-visits... ..	246
„ visits for the removal of displaced tenants in Clearance Areas and the disinfestation of their effects	262
Total visits	1,034

Number of houses disinfested	321
-------------------------------------	-----

During the year six Registered Houses Let in Lodgings were removed from the Register due to demolition under the provisions of the Housing Acts. Two hundred and forty-eight visits of inspections were made to the remaining 25 registered premises and 22 notices served involving 65 defects, of which 41 were abated by the end of the year.

The six Registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough were inspected on 187 occasions. Two Common Lodging Houses were included in the Union Square Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister of Health.

Complaints of rat infestation were less numerous than formerly. In most instances repairs to drainage systems were found to be necessary to remedy the nuisance.

The number of premises registered for carrying on an Offensive Trade was increased by one additional rag and bone dealer; there were no complaints received during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Number and Nature of Inspections.

During the year 1939 the following inspections were made by Sanitary Inspectors to the premises detailed:—

Nature of Inspection.	Primary Insp'ns.	Re-ins-pections.	Total Visits.
Houses under Public Health Acts	529	1,358	1,887
Vermis	526	226	752
Water Supply	61	4	65
Tents, Vans, Sheds	34	12	46
Houses Let in Lodgings	248	11	259
Common Lodging Houses	187	—	187
Schools	41	6	47
Entertainment Houses	46	5	51
Ashes Accommodation	299	560	859
Accumulations	17	12	29
Animals or Birds	1	—	1
Stable Premises	90	2	92
Yards, Courts, etc.	17	1	18
Piggeries	64	1	65
Rats and Mice	58	2	60
Drainage—inspected	1,007	205	1,212
tested	80	—	80
Closets—Water	1,576	587	2,163
Pails or Privies	131	69	200
Cesspools	4	1	5
Urinals	159	36	195
Sewers and Street Gullies	22	—	22
Cowsheds	1,046	—	1,046
Milkshops and Dairies	682	—	682
Ice-Cream Premises	58	—	58
Markets	138	—	138
Meat Shops	249	1	250
Abattoirs for Meat Inspection	91	—	91
Food Preparing Premises	271	1	272
General Food Premises	229	4	233
Shops Acts	412	92	504
Merchandise Marks Acts	6,587	4	6,591
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act	11	—	11
Offensive Trades	178	—	178
Billets	145	—	145
A.R.P.	635	—	635
Factories	242	35	277
Workshops	116	15	131
Bakehouses—Factory	184	8	192
Non-Factory	182	7	189
Outworkers	6	—	6
Diseases of Animals Acts	30	1	31
Infectious Diseases	288	22	310
Disinfection	206	—	206
Housing—Section 9	59	1,456	1,515
Section 11	4	3	7
Clearance Areas	75	155	230
Other Visits	2,066	12	2,078
Disinfestation	55	20	75
Overcrowding	77	1	78
Smoke Abatement Observations	648	—	648
Premises visited	40	—	40
Rivers Pollution Acts	6	—	6
Miscellaneous Visits	419	—	419
Interviews—Owners, Tradesmen, etc.	701	—	701
Samples—Food and Drugs—Formal	235	—	235
Informal	95	—	95
Water	84	—	84
Pathological	50	—	50
Other	12	—	12
Clean Milk—Bacteriological	185	—	185
Totals	21,994	4,935	26,929

There were 642 thirty-minute observations made of smoke emissions from factory chimneys during the year. The number of nuisances observed due to excessive black smoke was eight and the total period for all observations during which dense black smoke was emitted was 78 minutes.

There were no samples of rag flock taken during the year.

Disinfection of rooms was carried out in respect of 207 cases of infectious diseases.

The sanitary accommodation at one Elementary School was converted to the fresh water flushing type of closet during the year.

The Ministry of Health held a Public Local Inquiry on the six Clearance Orders submitted by the Council comprising 48 dwelling-houses, and later confirmed the Orders. Inspection for reconditioning of houses was discontinued after War was declared. Demolition of the houses and clearance of the site included in Clearance Orders previously confirmed by the Ministry of Health were accelerated after the declaration of War due apparently to an increase in the demand for building material.

Number of houses built during 1939 by Local Authority	268
„ „ built during 1939 by Private Enterprise	102
„ „ built during 1939 by Local Authority sub- sidised under Housing Acts	268
„ „ built during 1939 by Private Enterprise sub- sidised under Housing Acts	Nil
„ „ demolished during 1939 for Private Im- provement Purposes	3

Clearance Areas.

Date confirmed by Council.	Area.	No. of Premises.	No. of Persons.
6/4/39	Whitelegge and Smethurst Streets.	21	49
6/4/39	Wash Lane	12	20
6/4/39	Ainsworth Road No. 2	3	14
6/4/39	Ainsworth Road No. 1	8	23
6/4/39	Hall o'th' Hill	2	5
6/4/39	Knapps Green	2	3
Total		48	114
Totals for 29 Areas dealt with under the Housing Acts 1925-1936, up to 31st December, 1939			
		786	2296

During the year seven registered cowkeepers were removed from the Register, due to the abandoning of farms situated on the gathering grounds of the Gin Hall Reservoir and to impending building operations in other parts of the Borough.

Two existing cowsheds were reconstructed during the year, and at four others alterations and improvements were in hand but not completed by the end of the year. There were 191 samples of milk taken for cleanliness tests, and 20.94 per cent. of these were reported to be unsatisfactory.

The pasteurising plant was regularly inspected and the milk therefrom was submitted to the Phosphatase Test on four occasions; each test was reported to be satisfactory.

There was a total of 13 licensed producers of accredited milk at the year end.

Reports were received from the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of 150 visits of inspection to dairy herds during the year, resulting in the removal and slaughter of 10 cows suffering from tuberculosis. In addition three cows were removed and slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order following the pathological examination of milk sampled in the streets of the Borough.

The routine inspection of meat and other foods was maintained in accordance with the normal established practice despite the increase of war-time duties. There was a total of 669 food shops recorded in the Registers at the end of the year.

The number of samples obtained under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act for analysis by the Public Analyst was 236, almost equal to the average for the past five years. One commodity—milk—was sampled more frequently than in previous years, and it is interesting to note in this connection that the average percentages per sample of "milk fat" was 3.64 per cent. and of "solids not fat" was 8.86 per cent., in each case a higher percentage than those for the samples taken in 1938, and also higher than the presumptive standard for milk prescribed by law, viz. : 3 per cent. milk fat and 8.5 per cent. solids not fat.

Of the total number of samples analysed 145 were formal samples and 91 informal samples; 12 samples were found to be adulterated.

The Public Analyst examined 190 samples of food for the presence of preservatives. Only one sample contravened the regulations.

Administrative action taken in respect of the samples reported by the Public Analyst not to be genuine, or otherwise irregular.

No. of Sample		Article.	Nature of Adulteration.	Action Taken.
form)	Formal			
10	27	Milk	Deficient in Fat 6%.	"Appeal to cow" samples taken. Nos. 42, 43, 44. No. 42 Genuine. Nos. 43 and 44 Deficient in Fat 10% and 8% respectively. Resolved—That the Town Clerk send letter of warning.
		Damson Jam	Excess of 5 parts of Sulphur Dioxide per million.	Resolved—That the Town Clerk send letter of warning.
	73	Milk	Added Water 3%.	"Appeal to cow" samples taken. Nos. 83 and 84. Genuine. Farmer prosecuted at Police Court and convicted.
	113	Milk	Deficient in Fat 10%.	"Appeal to cow" samples taken. M.D. 133. Genuine. Dairyman prosecuted at Police Court and convicted.
192	142	Milk	Added Water 3%.	Samples taken "in course of delivery" No. 147. Added water 2%. No. 148 genuine. "Appeal to cow" samples taken. Nos. 149 added water 2%. Nos. 150, 151, 152, 153, 154 Genuine. Farmer prosecuted at Police Court and convicted.
		Best Magnesia	Excess 98.5% Hydrated Basic Magnesium Carbonate.	Resolved—That the Town Clerk send letter of warning.
	206	Light Magnesia	Excess 97.9% Hydrated Basic Magnesium Carbonate.	Resolved—That the Town Clerk send letter of warning.
207		Light Magnesia	Excess 25% Hydrated Basic Magnesium Carbonate.	Resolved—That the Town Clerk send letter of warning.

Under the provisions of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Acts six samples of fertilisers and four samples of feeding stuffs were obtained and reported on by the Public Analyst. One sample of feeding stuff was not correctly labelled; the vendor was warned.

During the first half of the year increased attention was paid to the operation of the Shops Acts, resulting in an increase in the total number of inspections for the year. Fourteen notices were served and 17 notices abated, the surplus being notices served but not abated in 1938.

The following table shows the legal proceedings taken and the result of such during the year :—

Acts, Bye-laws, or Regulations under which proceedings were instituted	Default or Offence	Result	Fines	Costs
Food & Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.	Selling milk adulterated by the addition of 2% Added Water	Conviction	£ 2 0 0	£ 1 10 6
do.	Selling milk adulterated by the addition of 2% Added Water	Conviction	5 0 0	1 1 0
do.	Selling Milk deficient of 10% of its "fat"	Conviction	5 0 0	—
Merchandise Marks Act	Failing to label imported meat when exposed for sale	Conviction	2 0 0	—

In concluding this interim Report I wish to express my appreciation to you, Sir, for your advice and support in my ordinary duties and in particular for your confidence and encouragement shown to me during the period following the outbreak of War, when so many extraordinary duties devolved on the Department.

I also wish to record my thanks to the District Inspectors and clerical staff for their uniformly good service.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH ECKERSLEY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION 4.

PUBLIC ABATTOIRS.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT AND MEAT INSPECTOR.

During 1939, a new entrance was made on the east side, the old cooling room was made suitable for storage of imported meat and a new overhead automatic carcase weighing machine was installed in readiness for the Meat and Livestock Control Scheme which came into operation on the 15th January, 1940.

The number of animals slaughtered at the Abattoir during 1939 was as follows:—

	Beasts.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Calves.	Total.	Weight in Tons
1939	3448	23118	3146	726	30438	1712

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	3,099	349	726	23,118	3,146
Number inspected.....	3,099	346	726	23,118	3,146
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	6	9	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	337	22	13	401	42
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	10·8%	6·3%	2·6%	1·7%	1·6%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	6	3	—	—	15
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	83	49	—	—	214
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	2·9%	15·0%	—	—	7·2%

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

Smallpox.—No case of Smallpox occurred in the borough during the year.

The following table gives particulars regarding vaccination during recent years:—

	1933	1934	Year ending December 31st.			1938	1939
			1935	1936	1937		
Number of Births	882	930	929	940	1087	1080	1105
Vaccinated	19.3	19.9	15.2	21.3	14.17	8.05%	12.85%
Con. Objection Certs....	65.2	63.8	70.0	67.9	70.0	76.11%	67.96%
Unaccounted for... ..	2.5	5.3	3.4	6.2	5.9	5.83%	9.41%

Scarlet Fever.—There were 80 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during 1939. None of these cases died. Of the notified cases 61 were removed to hospital for treatment.

In the majority of cases the infection was of a mild type.

Diphtheria.—There were 110 cases of Diphtheria notified during 1939, and all were removed to hospital for treatment. Three patients died, but none of these fatal cases was immunised against the disease.

The number of cases of diphtheria during the last ten years, and the numbers of deaths from the disease during that period, can be seen in the following table:—

	Cases	Deaths.	Case Mortality
1930	46	—	—
1931	20	—	—
1932	31	1	3.2
1933	95	6	6.31
1934	90	10	11.1
1935	135	8	5.9
1936	209	14	6.7
1937	97	6	6.2
1938	154	8	5.2
1939	80	3	3.7

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Pneumonia.—There were 80 cases of pneumonia notified in 1939 and there were 42 deaths from this cause during the year.

Whooping Cough.—There were 49 cases of this disease notified and there were three deaths.

Measles.—Four notifications of measles were received during the year, and this disease caused no deaths. In November, 1939, instructions were received from the Ministry of Health to the effect that measles and whooping cough were to be compulsorily notifiable by medical practitioners.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—There were no deaths out of four notified cases of this disease received during 1939.

Hospital Accommodation.

The hospital accommodation available for cases of infectious diseases, whether notifiable or not notifiable, is sufficient and is utilised to the best advantage.

Bacteriological Examinations.

The following are the particulars of the specimens bacteriologically examined during the year :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Doubtful.	Total.
Swabs for Diphtheria...	21	386	3	410
Blood for Typhoid Fever ...	—	2	—	2
Sputum for Tuberculosis ...	20	114	—	134
Miscellaneous Examinations	2	15	—	17

Table A—Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis), Age Grouping, Ward Distribution, Cases Removed to Hospital and Deaths during the Year 1939.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified in Whole District.													Total Cases Notified in each Ward.					Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths of Notifi'd Cases.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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	At all Ages.													Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5			5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

SECTION 6.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Incidence.

A total of 50 new cases was notified to the Health Department during 1939. Of this number 26 were males and 24 females.

The following table gives the number of cases notified and the death rates per 1,000 for each year for the last twenty-five years:—

TUBERCULOSIS 1915-1939.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Other Tuberculous Diseases	
	No. of cases notified	Death rate per 1,000 pop.	No. of cases notified	Death rate per 1,000 pop.
1915	120	1.39	26	0.33
1916	105	0.91	33	0.39
1917	91	1.44	28	0.17
1918	98	1.27	25	0.31
1919	69	0.89	17	0.37
Average for 5 years...	—96	—1.18	—26	—0.31
1920	68	0.83	28	0.25
1921	52	0.89	40	0.22
1922	43	0.61	36	0.26
1923	53	0.94	18	0.09
1924	72	0.79	26	0.14
Average for 5 years...	—57	—0.81	—29	—0.19
1925	72	0.97	32	0.19
1926	63	0.59	41	0.23
1927	70	0.72	47	0.21
1928	62	0.72	23	0.14
1929	47	0.65	32	0.16
Average for 5 years...	—63	—0.73	—35	—0.18
1930	52	0.60	26	0.23
1931	42	0.76	20	0.13
1932	45	0.45	16	0.18
1933	40	0.51	21	0.15
1934	52	0.63	29	0.20
Average for 5 years...	—46	—0.59	—22	—0.18
1935	34	0.48	25	0.16
1936	48	0.48	22	0.14
1937	41	0.50	30	0.15
1938	41	0.39	20	0.12
1939	31	0.36	19	0.08
Average for 5 years...	—39	—0.44	—23	—0.13

Five year averages are indicated in the table since such periods can be considered fair ones for comparison. On perusal of the table it can be seen that the average death rate for the last five years is the lowest recorded for both Pulmonary Tuberculosis and other tuberculous diseases. The death rates from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis for 1939 are the lowest recorded.

As to how Bury compares with the rest of the country regarding the disease in general can be seen from the following table:—

Year.	Bury.	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 population.	
		England and Wales.	
1935	0.64		0.71
1936	0.62		0.69
1937	0.65		0.69
1938	0.51		0.63
1939	0.44		0.64

The annual death rate is again below that of England and Wales.

Notification Register.

On the Notification Register at the end of 1939 there were 87 males and 72 females suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 56 males and 90 females suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Diagnosis of Tuberculosis.

The diagnosis of tuberculosis is effected at the Tuberculosis Dispensary situated at the joint Clinics, The Wylde. The times of the sessions are Tuesday and Thursday morning at 10-0 o'clock weekly, and Wednesday evenings at 6-30 o'clock when necessary for the convenience of patients who are working during the day. Cases are obtained from reference by the patients' own private practitioner and from other sources. The Dispensary acts as a consultative centre and a sorting house at which patients can be advised to obtain the best possible treatment. The only treatment given at the Dispensary is that administered by artificial light therapy. The important part of the work at the Clinic is the examination of contacts of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, and this work was carried out as usual during the year. Sixty-three X-ray examinations of tuberculous persons and of contacts were made. This branch of the work is most important, since X-rays often reveal the affection in early stages when most good can be done.

Home Visits.

During 1939, 2,484 visits were paid to the homes of patients by the Tuberculosis Officer and by the Health Visitors.

Treatment of Tuberculosis.

Institution treatment is given to cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis at the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board's Institution (the Aitken Sanatorium at Holcombe, near Bury) and at the Jericho Hospital. Children suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis are sent to the Liverpool Open-Air Hospital for Children, Leasowe, and Shelf Sanatorium, Halifax.

Cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis are treated at the Bury Infirmary, the Manchester and Salford Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, and the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopædic Hospital.

The number of patients treated at the various institutions, together with the patient days during 1939, are as follows:—

Institutions.	No. of patients (undischarged at end of 1938 and admitted during 1939).	No of patient days.
Aitken Sanatorium	45	6,934
Bury Infirmary... ..	5	91
Agnes Hunt and Robert Jones Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry	5	978
Jericho Hospital	7	406
Liverpool Open-Air Hospital for Children, Leasowe	8	1,668
Wrightington Hospital, near Wigan... ..	1	75
Halifax Sanatorium, Halifax	2	610
Manchester Royal Infirmary	1	14
Manchester and Salford Hospital for Skin Diseases... ..	2	50
Out-patients... ..	14	
Out-patient attendances ...	138	

After Care.

This is a very important branch of the work. In 1939, twelve patients received extra nourishments. Grants were made, comprising a total of 364 gallons of milk and 1,569 eggs.

Patients discharged from sanatorium are kept in touch by our nurses and the tuberculosis officer by visitation at their homes. The patients also attend the dispensary for regular examinations. Employers were got in touch with regarding finding discharged patients suitable occupation. Various house owners were approached in order to obtain improved accommodation for persons who had completed their sanatorium treatment.

We have to thank the Bury Charity Organisation Society, whose Secretary has supplied the following information:—During 1939 the Society has helped seven tuberculosis patients by grants of food, clothing, etc. In four cases nourishments have been provided free, and in three instances clothing has been given.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No case of Tuberculosis among employers in the milk trade was notified during the year; no action in this respect, therefore, being necessary.

SECTION 7.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Treatment.

During 1939 patients suffering from Venereal Diseases were treated as before at the Joint Clinics, The Wylde. The Clinic sessions are as follows:—

Males.

Tuesday, 7-0 to 8-30 p.m.

Friday, 5-30 to 7-30 p.m.

Saturday, 10-0 a.m. to 1-0 p.m.

Intermediate clinics for males and females are held every week-day.

Females.

Tuesday, 5-30 to 7-0 p.m.

Thursday, 2-0 to 5-0 p.m.

Friday, 7-30 to 8-30 p.m.

Attendances.

During war time it has been found difficult for patients to attend the Clinic, especially when they live at some distance such as in County areas. The Clinic times were altered to try and obviate the black-out and transport difficulties, but since some industries work on late shift this has not solved the problem in the case of a number of patients. After considering the problem of attendances from all points of view it was decided that the Clinic hours were better left at the times at which they were originally arranged for the year.

Incidence.

The number of new cases during 1939 was 356, composed of 62 cases of syphilis, 120 cases of gonorrhœa, and 174 cases diagnosed as non-Venereal Disease. The out-patient attendances for 1939 were 10,556, and were less than those of the previous year owing to the increased use of the new treatment by sulphonamide drugs.

Bury residents accounted for 55.3 per cent. of the cases treated at the Clinic; Lancashire County cases accounted for 42.4 per cent., and other County Borough cases for 2.2 per cent.

The following table shows the number of new cases, consultations, intermediate attendances, and pathological examinations at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, 1935-39:—

Year	New Cases.	Consultations by Medical Officer at Clinic.	Attendances at Clinic for intermediate treatment.	Pathological specimens examined by M.O. at Clinic.
1935	288	7786	3569	618
1936	233	8026	5942	797
1937	274	7995	6711	918
1938	352	9029	5903	1051
1939	356	7505	3051	920

During the year pathological specimens were sent from the Clinic to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for examination as follows:—

For the Wasserman Test...	723
For the Kahn Test ...	3
For Gonococcus ...	375

SECTION 8.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Health Visiting.—During the year the Health Visitors made 14,390 visits to children between the ages under one year and up to five years of age. As mentioned in the preface a full list of the Health Visitors' visits can be seen on page 35.

Infant Welfare Centres.—These were held at the Joint Clinics, The Wylde, and at 166, Tottington Road, Elton. The Wylde Clinics show a diminution in attendances owing to the fact that for some time at the outbreak of War the premises were used as a First Aid Post. The Welfare Clinic at Tottington Road has proved its popularity in that, despite difficult conditions arising during War time, the attendances have been upheld.

The following table gives particulars of Clinic sessions and attendances :—

	The Wylde.	Tottington Road.	Total.
Number of sessions held	142	99	241
Total Attendances made :—			
Infants under 1 year... ..	5129	2336	7465
Children 1 to 5 years... ..	7336	1775	9111
Number of Doctors' Consultations.	4332	2081	6413
Average attendance per session ...	75	42	—

Orthopædic Clinic.—Arrangements are in force for cases to be referred to Lancashire County Council's Orthopædic Clinic at Whitefield. In-patient treatment is provided under the scheme if necessary at the Biddulph Orthopædic Hospital, and at Ancoats Hospital, Manchester.

During 1939, 14 new cases had 18 consultations with the surgeon at the Whitefield Clinic, whilst 24 consultations were also given by the surgeon to old cases.

One child received in-patient treatment at Biddulph Orthopædic Hospital.

Ante-Natal Clinics.—Two ante-natal clinic sessions are held weekly—on Wednesday mornings at The Wylde and on Thursday afternoons at Tottington Road Clinic.

Attendances during 1939 were as follows:—

	The Wylde Clinic.			Tottington Road Clinic.		
	Ante- Natal	Post Natal	Total	Ante- Natal	Post Natal	Total
No. of new cases	71	—	71	26	—	26
No. of attendances	282	10	292	122	7	129

Dr. W. M. Martin, Obstetric Consultant at Bury Infirmary, has continued as Gynæcological Consultant to the Municipal Ante-Natal Clinics, and visits each clinic monthly to deal with special cases. At other times cases are referred to him at Bury Infirmary or Jericho Hospital.

In addition expectant mothers attend the Ante-Natal Clinics at the Bury Infirmary and Jericho Hospital. During 1939 the number of expectant mothers who attended these Clinics was 321 and 1,203 attendances were made. Also 56 mothers made 87 post-natal attendances.

Milk and Meals Assistance Scheme.—The Corporation has arranged for the provision of free milk (fresh and dried) and free meals to expectant mothers in necessitous cases where the family income, according to the number of persons, comes within a prescribed scale. Free milk and meals are only supplied to persons who attend the Welfare Centres, and in all cases careful enquiries are made and statements as to income verified before a grant is made. Malt and Oil, etc., is also supplied free in necessitous cases as extra nourishments recommended by the Clinic Medical Officer.

1. MILK: No. of applications for grants received 211
 " " " refused 25
 " " granted free Cow's Dried
 Milk. Milk.
 supply... 186 ... 84 ... 102
2. MEALS: No. of expectant mothers who received free meals was 17, and a total of 936 dinners were served to them during the year.
3. EXTRA NOURISHMENTS: Malt and oil, cod-liver oil, etc., to the value of £134 was supplied free of cost during the year.

Midwives.—The number of midwives registered as practising at the beginning of 1939 was 14, and of these three were Municipal Midwives.

During the year an additional Municipal Midwife was appointed. Five independent midwives surrendered their Certificates under Section 5 (i) of the Midwives Act, 1936.

In addition to the foregoing, notifications of intention to practice were received from 12 midwives at Jericho Hospital during the year.

Municipal Midwives.—There were three Municipal Midwives employed by the Local Authority at the beginning of 1939, but with the retirement of more independent midwives an additional municipal midwife was appointed, and she commenced duties on 2nd October, 1939. The number of cases attended by municipal midwives in 1939 were :—

As midwives, 181.

As maternity nurses, 32.

Since the municipal midwives have been in the Corporation's employ they have been required to assist at the municipal ante and post natal clinics.

It must, of course, be clearly understood that the services of the salaried midwives are not necessarily free, but payment will be expected in accordance with financial ability. However, a scale of income with appropriate charges is in force, and in fact there have been a number of cases where the services were rendered free of charge.

The four midwives' names, addresses, and telephone numbers are :—

Name.	Address.	Tel. Nos.
Nurse M. H. Cunliffe...	4, Maxwell Street, Bury.	Bury 1706.
„ D. M. Molyneux ...	do. do.	do.
„ M. Boyd ...	68, Heywood Street, Bury.	Bury 1703.
„ V. Page ...	7, Fenton Street, Bury.	Bury 1711.

And the charges are:

£2 5s. 0d. as a midwife.

£2 5s. 0d. as a maternity nurse.

10s. for attention at other cases.

Maternal Mortality.—There was one maternal death out of 750 births in 1939. The maternal mortality rate was 1.39 for 1,000 total births, whilst the corresponding rate for 1938 was 2.48 and for 1937, 7.40. The year under review furnished the lowest maternal mortality rate on record in the Borough.

Complicated Cases of Labour.—An agreement has been in force since June, 1920, under which cases of complicated labour are treated at the Bury Infirmary. Under this agreement during the year 1939, twenty patients were treated at the Infirmary, as compared with seventeen in the previous year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—Fifteen cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified, and there were no deaths. Four cases were removed to the Florence Nightingale Hospital for treatment.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Eight cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year, the rate per 1,000 live births being 11.2, as compared with 21.02 per 1,000 births in 1938. The following table gives further particulars:—

Cases.	Notified.	Treated.		Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths
		At Home.	At Hospital				
8	8	6	2	7	1	..	..

Instruction in Mothercraft.—During school term, two sessions weekly are held at the Wylde Clinic, where instruction is given by the Senior School Nurse of the Education Department. The arrangement with the Education Committee continues, and girls in the last term at school attend in groups of not more than 30 at a time, each group attending for a period of six weeks, and they come from all the senior elementary schools.

Child Life Protection—Public Health Act, 1936.
(Section 206 to 220).

The duties and powers under the above, which make provision for the supervision of children who are nursed for gain apart from their parents, are administered by this department.

There were 11 foster parents on the Register at the end of 1939. The children nursed by these foster parents were visited by the four Health Visitors who are the appointed visitors under the Act.

Boarding-out of Children.—The Council's administrative scheme under the Local Government Act, 1929, made Maternity and Child Welfare a declared service; therefore duties under the Order were imposed upon this department.

There were three children on the Register at the end of 1939, and during the year 16 visits have been paid in connection with these boarded-out children.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS.

VISITS AND ATTENDANCES.

No.

First Visits to notified births	673
Re-visits to infants under one year of age	4664
Re-visits to children over one and under five years	6538
Visits to expectant mothers	118
Re-visits to expectant mothers	235
Visits re deaths of infants under one year of age	31
Re-visits during the summer diarrhoea season	3188
Visits re infectious diseases (school notifications) :—	
Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken-pox, etc.	242
Visits re Ophthalmia Neonatorum	16
Visits re Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia	6
Visits to houses in which cases of Tuberculosis have been notified	50
Re-visits to houses in which cases of Tuberculosis have been notified	2471
Visits to Midwives	17
Visits and enquiries re application under milk and meals assistance scheme	1978
Visits and enquiries re applications for extra nourishments under Tuberculosis Scheme	34
Visits re disinfection	37
Visits to Boarded-out and Nursed-out Children	86
Visits and enquiries re Medical and Hospital Fees	73
Visits re Child Adoption	1
Visits for other causes	155
Attendances at Clinics :—Sunlight Clinics	90
Infant Welfare Centres	425
Tuberculosis, Morning Clinics	47
„ Evening Clinics	2
Total Visits	20613
Total Attendances at Clinics	564

SECTION 9.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

I am indebted to Mr. W. Scott, Sewage Works Manager, for the following information regarding sewage disposal during 1939 :

Nearly the whole of the sewage of the Borough and Tottington is treated at the sewage works at Blackford Bridge. A minor quantity is treated at small works which are situated at Walshaw, Unsworth, Foxley, and Kilner Croft, the latter three being in the added area of Unsworth.

The sewage of Bury is of a complex nature, due to the admittance to the sewers in addition to the ordinary domestic sewage, of trade waste waters from dyers, tanneries, fellmongers, wool-scouring, hatters, breweries, wineries, and crude gas liquor. During the year the sewage has been rendered more difficult to treat due to an increase in flow of trade waste waters.

The treatment of the trade waste waters from the firm of calico printers in a separate purification plant has been continued.

During the year the sludge digestion plant has functioned satisfactorily, and the gas produced has been utilised for heating and laboratory purposes.

The volume of sewage dealt with in the complete plant was 1,265,490,500 gallons, being an average of 3,467,097 gallons per day. In addition to this volume 150,991,000 gallons of storm-water have been treated in the stormwater tanks, making a grand total of 1,416,481,500 gallons. In the final oxidation process 865,580,000 gallons have been treated in the " Simplex " bio-aeration plants which includes 191,982,000 gallons treated in the new plant, whilst the percolating beds have dealt with 399,910,500 gallons.

The Inspectors of the newly-constituted Lancashire Rivers Board have visited the works frequently during the year, and three samples of effluents from the outlying works have been taken, all of which were classed as satisfactory.

