#### Contributors

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# Cambridgeshire County Council

# ANNUAL REPORT

# OF THE

# Medical Officer of Health

# FOR THE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE

FOR THE YEAR 1955



# Cambridgeshire County Council

# ANNUAL REPORT

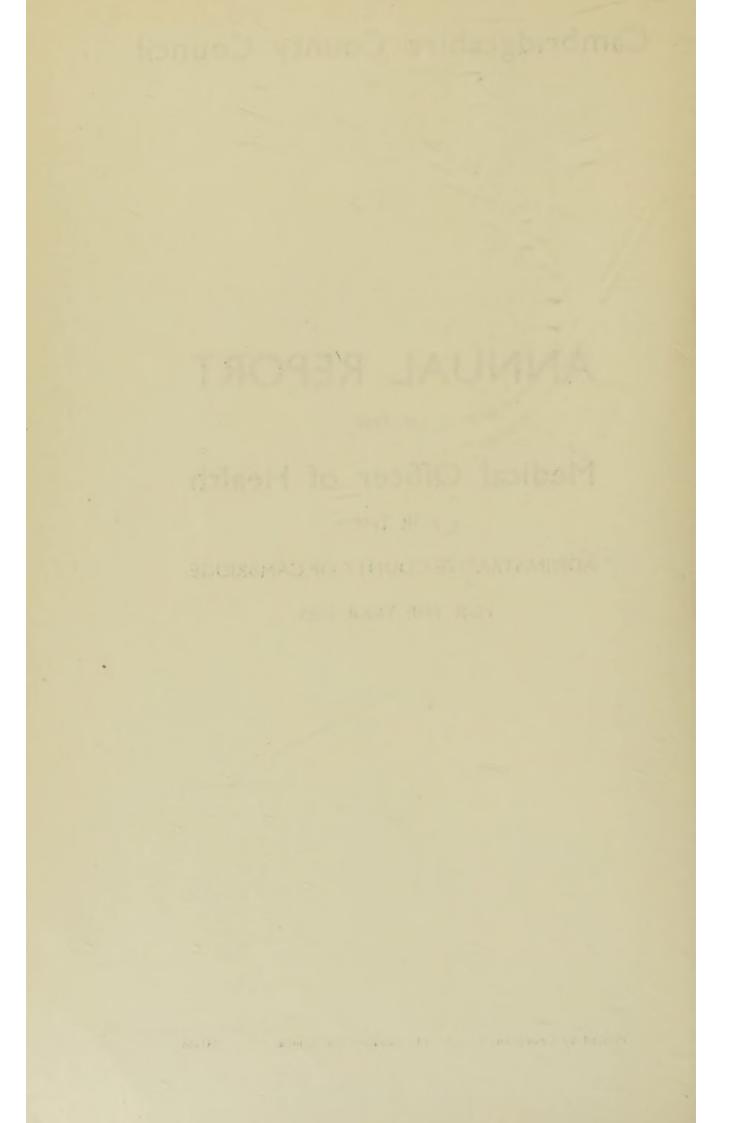
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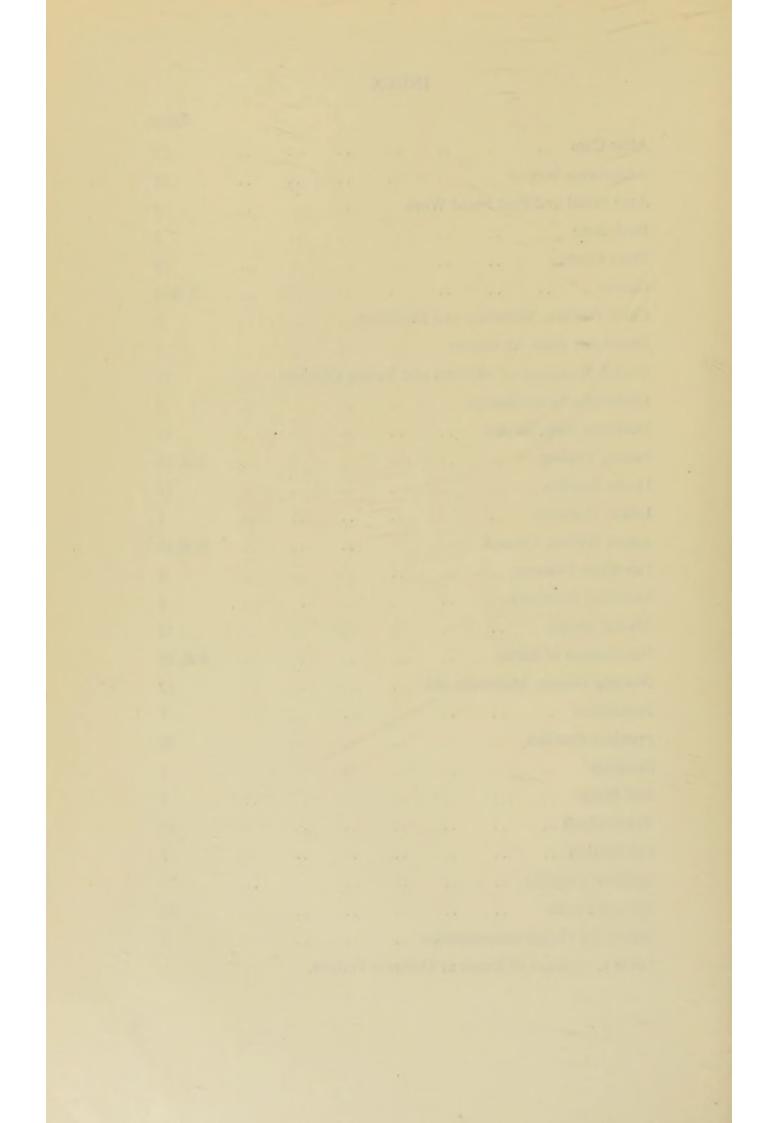
#### FOR THE YEAR 1955



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# HEALTH COMMITTEE as at December 31st, 1955

#### Chairman-Councillor H. R. Mallett\*†§

Alderman	S. T. Bull <sup>†</sup>	Councillor	F. Bunnett <sup>†</sup>
"	M. Carter *†§	,,	P. F. Dennard <sup>†</sup>
,,	L. M. H. Clark*†§	,,	H. Hartley*
"	E. G. G. Frost*†	,,	E. Hepher*†§
,,	E. W. Parsons†	,,	F. H. Jeeps*†
"	C. D. Rackham*§	,,	R. E. Way
Councillor	A. B. Amey*†	,,	C. Webb*
,,	R. Briggs†	,,	E. Whitehead <sup>†</sup>

Chairman of the City M.C.W. Sub-Committee.

Vice-Chairman of the City M.C.W. Sub-Committee.

Dr. A. Brown\* Nominated by the Cambridgeshire Local Medical Dr. D. Cameron<sup>†</sup> Committee.

Miss D. K. Bell\* Nominated by the Royal College of Nursing.

\*Member of Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee. †Member of Mental Health Sub-Committee. §Member of Home Help Service Sub-Committee.

Lady Adrian, Mrs. E. Blackman, Mrs. E. Rawdon Briggs, Mrs. R. Rootham, Mrs. H. Wilson.

The following constituted the City Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee:—

Appointed by the City Council:--

Mr. F. Bailey, Mrs. G. Y. Burn, Mr. E. H. Cherry§, Mr. W. Balfour Gourlay, Mrs. M. E. Henn, Mr. H. R. Mallett (Chairman)\*†§, Mrs. F. E. Roden, Mrs. L. A. Thompson (Vice-Chairman)§, Mrs. C. E. Traylen.

Appointed by the County Health Committee:-

Alderman M. Carter, Alderman C. D. Rackham, Councillor E. Hepher.

Co-opted Members:---

Mrs. G. Greaves, Mrs. E. Patterson§, Dr. M. G. P. Reed. •

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# VITAL STATISTICS AND INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following figures set out the principal facts relating to the Administrative County for the year 1955 and for the two previous years.

Population (Registrar General's Estimates):

Fopulation (Registrar	General s	Latimates	1953		1954	1055
Administrative C	ounty		177,10		79,700	1955
						179,800
Cambridge Rural Districts			90,91		91,460	91,140
	•• •		86,19		88,240	88,660
Chesterton	•• •		39,45		40,290	40,490
Newmarket	chiro		20,11		20,180	20,190
South Cambridge	esnire .	• ••	26,63		27,770	27, 980
Births (live):						
Administrative C	ounty	Number		2,771	2,506	2,541
	ounty	Rate per	1.000	15.6	13.9	14.1
Cambridge .		Number	1,000	1,314	1,171	1,170
cumonago .		Rate per	1.000	14.5	12.8	12.8
Rural Districts .		Number		1,457	1,335	1,371
rearen Districto .		Rate per		16.9	15.1	15.5
Chesterton .		Number		623	594	622
chrone i		Rate per		15.8	14.7	15.4
Newmarket .		Number		334	314	294
riemander .		Rate per		16.6	15.6	14.6
South Cambridge	eshire	Number		500	427	455
bouin cumoringe		Rate per		18.8	15.4	16.3
		itute per	1,000	10.0	10.1	10.5
Illegitimate Births:						
Administrative	Number			128	128	107
C		cent live	hirthe	4.6	5.1	4.2
County Cambridge	Number		Untilis	80	77	72
Camonage		cent live	hirthe	6.1	6.6	6.2
Rural Districts	Number		ontins	48	51	35
Rulai Districts		cent live	hirthe	3.3	3.8	2.6
	Rate per	cent nye	Untilis	5.5	5.0	2.0
Still Births:						
Administrative	Number			58	66	53
County		1,000 tota	al births	20.5	25.7	20.4
Cambridge	Number			25	29	31
cumonage		1,000 tota			24.2	25.8
Rural Districts				22	37	22
A COLORIDA DI	Rate per	1,000 tot	al births	22.1	27.0	16.5
	rune per	1,000 101				1010
Deaths:						
Administrative	Number			1,807	1,970	1,915
County	Rate per	1,000 pop	oulation	10.2	11.0	10.7
Cambridge	Number			887	946	919
		1,000 pop	oulation	9.8	10.3	10.1
Rural Districts	Number			920	1,024	996
	Rate per	: 1,000 pop	pulation	10.7	11.6	11.2
Infant Deaths:						
Administrative	Number			54	61	54
County		: 1,000 liv	e births	19.5	24.3	21.6
Cambridge	Number			31	25	30
		r 1,000 liv	e births	23.6	21.3	25.6
Rural Districts	Number			23	36	24
	Rate per	r 1,000 liv	e births	15.8	27.0	17.5

Maternal Deaths: Administrative County Cambridge Rural Districts	Number Rate per 1,000 total births Number Rate per 1,000 total births Number Rate per 1,000 total births	1 0.35 Nil Nil 1 0.67	2 0.78 1 0.83 1 0.73	NII NNII NNII NNII NNII N
Tuberculosis Deaths: Pulmonary:	Nula	25	13	15
Administrative County	Number Rate per 1,000 population	25 0.14	0.07	0.08
Cambridge	Number	10 0.11	7 0.08	6 0.07
Rural Districts	Number	15 0.17	6 0.07	9 0.10
Non-pulmonary: Administrative	Number	3	4	2
County	Rate per 1,000 population	0.02	0.02	0.01
Cambridge	Rate per 1,000 population	0.02	0.02	0.02
Rural Districts	Number	0.01	0.02	Nil Nil
All forms:		-	17	17
Administrative County	Number	28 0.16	17 0.09	17 0.09
Cambridge	Number	12 0.13	9 0.10	8 0.09
Rural Districts	Number	16	8	9
	Rate per 1,000 population	0.18	0.09	0.10
Cancer Deaths:	Marchan	224	240	317
Administrative County	Number Rate per 1,000 population	324 1.8	349 1.9	1.8
Cambridge	Number Rate per 1,000 population	161 1.8	178 1.9	167 1.8
Rural Districts	Number	163	171	150
	Rate per 1,000 population	1.9	1.9	1.7

In contrast to the large rise in the total population which took place between 1953 and 1954, the rise taking place between 1954 and 1955 was almost negligible. In the City of Cambridge there was actually a fall of approximately 300 counterbalanced by a rise of 420 in the rural area more or less evenly distributed between Chesterton and South Cambridgeshire.

The birth rate in the Administrative County rose slightly, the whole of the rise having taken place in the rural area. South Cambridgeshire showed a rise of 0.9 per thousand and Chesterton 0.7 per thousand but there was a fall in Newmarket of 1.0 per thousand.

The illegitimate birth rate in the County as a whole showed a marked fall, the figure of 4.2 per cent being even lower than that of 1953 and offsetting the considerable rise which had taken place between 1953 and 1954. Once again the fall was most marked in the rural area, the very low figure of 2.6 per cent being recorded but there was also a slight fall in Cambridge from 6.6 to 6.2 per cent.

The stillbirth rate in the Administrative County showed a fall of approximately the same extent as the rise of the previous year. This fall took place entirely in the rural area and there was a slight rise in the City of Cambridge.

The general death rate fell in the County as a whole. Both the City and the rural area participated, the fall being somewhat greater in the latter. It has been pointed out in previous Reports that the crude death rate is not necessarily a very satisfactory measure of health conditions in the area and there is a likelihood that with an ageing population it will eventually rise to considerably higher levels than those of the present time. The use of the comparability factor provided by the Registrar General produces a standard rate of 9.8 in Cambridge and 9.3 in the rural area, an almost complete reversal of the position which existed in the previous year. This fact and many others to which reference is made in this section of the Report show the inadvisability of placing too much reliance on figures for an individual year. Especially when the figures to be considered are small, the rates are apt to vary in a marked way because of very small variations in the actual figures.

The infant mortality rate for the Administrative County fell from the rather high figure of the previous year but not quite to the very low level of 1953. The fall was confined to the rural area only where once again a very low mortality rate was recorded although it did not constitute a record. There was a rise in the City of Cambridge. There were no deaths from diarrhoea in either the City or the rural area. One death was attributed to pneumonia in the rural area and five to bronchitis in the City of Cambridge, making a total of six deaths in the Administrative County from respiratory disease, so that it may be said that the number of deaths of an infective nature represented a very low incidence. Two deaths were attributed to accidents. Once again the two classifications showing the largest number of deaths were "congenital malformations" and "other defined and ill defined diseases". There were 20 deaths in the former category and 25 in the latter. How far any of these deaths may have been preventable is problematical.

Of the total of 54 infant deaths, 38 took place in children less than four weeks old divided equally between the City and the rural area.

There were no maternal deaths in any part of the Administrative County, a state of affairs which is by no means unprecedented but which has not occurred for a number of years now.

The death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis was slightly higher than that of the previous year in the Administrative County, the whole of the rise being accounted for by an increase in the rural area. There was a slight fall in the City of Cambridge. As the rate in all areas was the lowest on record in the previous year, it follows that the rate in the City in 1955 repeated this state of affairs. The rise in the rural area is not surprising considering the very low figure in the previous year.

The death rate from non-pulmonary tuberculosis in the Administrative County was half that of the previous year constituting a record low figure. The rate has been constant in the City for the last three years but in the rural area the unprecedented position of there being no deaths from this condition was established in 1955.

The record low rate of 1954 for deaths from all forms of tuberculosis in the Administrative County was repeated and in the City of Cambridge the figure was slightly lower than the previous best. In spite of the fact that there were no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis in the rural area however, the figure for all forms was slightly higher than that of the previous year in that part of the County.

The death rate from cancer in the Administrative County fell slightly as compared with that of the previous year and was the same as that of 1953. Each part of the County participated in the fall but it was greatest in the rural area where the figure was lower than it has been for many years. Of the total of 317 cancer deaths, 18 took place at ages below 45, 8 less than in the previous year, and 132 at ages below 65 as against 140 in 1954. The number of deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus fell from 64 to 50, a figure of 1 less than that recorded in 1953.

The incidence of the principal infectious diseases in the year 1955 and the two previous years is shown below:—

Scarlet Fever		1953 219	1954 183	1955 173
Diphtheria		_	-	1
Enteric Fever				
(including paratyphoid)			2	11
Smallpox	• •	_	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	• •	3	5	1
Pneumonia		94	63	56

The slight decline in the incidence of scarlet fever continued.

Once again it cannot be said that there were no cases of diphtheria but the single case reported was of an unusual nature. It occurred in a man aged 22 living in the City of Cambridge and was a skin infection which was alleged to have been acquired abroad. It is still possible to say therefore that there were no cases of the usual type but nevertheless it does indicate that even in Cambridgeshire the disease cannot be regarded as having ceased to constitute a danger. It is likely that the abandonment of immunisation against the disease would be followed by an increased incidence. There is no evidence as to the state of immunisation of the young man mentioned. As it seems certain that he had not been immunised in the 10 years previous to contracting his infection, there is some reason to think that he had never been immunised at all.

The number of cases of enteric fever is unusual. Actually all but one were cases of para-typhoid fever and the great majority were connected with an outbreak in which Soham Grammar School was concerned. Prompt measures were taken by the Medical Officer of Health of the rural district acting in conjunction with the Principal School Medical Officer and the close co-operation of the school staff was secured to bring the outbreak under control. It is fortunate that it did not attain higher proportions. There was a possibility that the origin of the infection was a groundsman at the school who had access to the kitchen but as it cannot be said that he did not acquire his infection from some source common to all the cases, no categorical statement with regard to the matter can be made

There was a considerable rise in the incidence of poliomyelitis, 17 cases having occurred in 1955 but this number is still well below the number of 45 recorded in 1953 and, in view of the very high incidence in the country as a whole, it may be considered that Cambridgeshire escaped relatively lightly. Of the 17 cases, 11 occurred in the City of Cambridge (8 with paralysis and 3 without) and 6 occurred in Chesterton Rural District (3 with paralysis and 3 without). The Rural Districts of Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire escaped completely.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.—The introduction of immunisation against whooping cough constituted a change in the arrangements as compared with those of previous years. Not only did this involve dealing with another disease but the financial side of the matter was less straightforward. The medical practitioners of the area, whether working in infant welfare centres or otherwise, were still able to procure the antigen for immunisation against diphtheria alone from the Public Health Laboratory and no charge fell on the County Council in respect of its cost. For children being immunised against whooping cough or against both diseases at the same time however, this was not possible and it became necessary for the County Council actually to purchase the two antigens used for one process or the other. The return of records to the County Council proceeded on exactly the same basis as before and the practitioner concerned received a fee of five shillings for each completed record in respect of one or both diseases.

It should be emphasised that the Council has no means of knowing whether immunisation was carried out in the case of any child for whom a record was not submitted and the figures appearing hereunder relate to records received rather than to actual numbers of children immunised.

The following figures show the work done in the infant welfare centres of the rural area:—

-	PRIMAR	Combined		" BOOSTERS " Combined		
CENTRE		Diph/	Whooping	D1 1.1 1	Diph/	Whooping
	Diphtheria	Wh.Cough	Cough	Diphtheria	Wh.Cough	Cough
Balsham	17	1	-	1		-
Barrington	2	5		5	-	-
Bassingbourn	15	5		9	1	
Bottisham	1	21	4	3	-	-
Bourn		_	_	-		-
Burwell	3	31	2	2	14	1
Castle Camps	5	1		5		
Cheveley	<u> </u>	1	_	—	-	-
Chippenham	2	2	-	1	_	-
Coton	-	1		_	-	-
Cottenham	-			_	_	-
Croydon	1	-	-	_	-	-
Dullingham	1/ -	19		_	1	-
Duxford	_	1	_	1	-	-

Elsworth	5	1	_	4	-	-
Fordham	_		_			-
Fowlmere	9	5	1	6	-	-
Fulbourn	17	_	9	3	_	
Gamlingay				-	_	-
Girton	6	3	_	3		-
Gt. Abington	9	1		4	-	-
Gt. Shelford	11	14		8	-	-
Gt. Wilbraham	-	1				-
Harston	3	7	1	_	-	_
Histon	_	_				_
Isleham	7	7				-
Linton	9	14		3		-
Longstanton	9	1	_	5		_
Melbourn	7	5	2	1		-
Sawston	4	47	_	1	1	
Soham	_			_		
Steeple Morden	7	7	6	5	2	
Swavesey	3	14	12	11	_	_
Waterbeach	2	17		7	2	
Wicken	-			_	_	_
Willingham	11	7		7		_
winningham	11	,				

In the City of Cambridge separate figures for the work done in infant welfare centres do not exist and the total number of immunisations (records received) is shown hereunder:—

Age	Primary Immunisations			" Boosters "			
Group	Diphtheria	Combined Diph/ Wh. Cough	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Combined Diph/ Wh. Cough	Whooping Cough	
Under 1 year	122	335	9	_	_	_	
1 year	58	175	22	_	-	_	
2 years	9	22	4	-	1	_	
3 years	6	4	5	1	2	_	
4 years	9	5	4	22	8	_	
5-9 years	24	8	10	447	38		
10-14 years	_	_		127	3	•	
Total	228	549	54	597	52		

City of Cambridge

A similar table is appended for the rural area in which the work carried out in the infant welfare centres is also included. Rural Area

4.00	Primary Immunisations			" Boosters "		
Age Group	Diphtheria	Combined Diph/ Wh. Cough	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Combined Diph/ Wh. Cough	Whooping Cough
Under 1 year	173	473	20	_		
1 year	110	258	21	1	6	-
2 years	13	19	18	2	5	-
3 years	2	10	12	3	1	1
4 years	5	5	10	89	36	1
5-9 years	5	19	20	163	49	4
10-14 years	3		3	1		1
Total	311	784	104	259	97	7

Vaccination against Smallpox.—Records were received as shown hereunder for the year 1955:—

		Vaccinated	Re-vaccinatea
Under 1 year	 	1,160	
1 year	 	52	2
Age 2-4 years	 	40	21
Age 5-14 years	 	43	45
Over 15 years	 	112	562
		1,407	630

The total number of vaccinations shows a considerable fall as compared with the figures of the previous year, most marked in the case of children under one year of age. The number of births has risen slightly and this has the effect of reducing the percentage of children vaccinated from the satisfactory figure of 59.5 recorded in the previous year to 45.6. This is extremely regrettable as the County has recently stood rather high in this matter as compared with many others in the country. Once again the number of re-vaccinations has risen, almost all of the rise having occurred in adults.

# MIDWIFERY, MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The following paragraphs give the details separately for the City of Cambridge and the rural area of the County. City of Cambridge

During 1955 four whole time midwives notified their intention to practise outside hospitals of whom three were employed by the Authority and one was in domiciliary private practice.

The midwives employed by the Authority attended 121 confinements as midwives, 1 more than in the previous year, and 70 confinements as maternity nurses under the direction of medical practitioners, 17 less than in the previous year. The midwife in private practice attended 43 confinements as a midwife and 46 as a maternity nurse, 1 more in the former category than in the previous year and 7 more in the latter.

All four midwives were qualified to administer inhalation analgesics and during the year "Trilene" was used by the midwives in the employ of the Authority in addition to gas and air analgesia. Gas and air was administered in 169 cases and "Trilene" in 20. The total number of cases in which inhalation analgesics were administered, 189, is 18 less than the figure for the previous year.

Pethidine was used as an analgesic in labour in 130 cases as against 138 in the previous year.

Midwives working outside hospitals found it necessary to summon medical aid in 34 cases, in 33 of which the practitioner concerned had already arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service Act. The corresponding figures for 1954 were 34 and 31 respectively.

The total number of births notified in the City during the year was 2,105 including 58 stillbirths but when these numbers are adjusted by the subtraction of births to women normally resident outside the City of Cambridge and the addition of births taking place outside Cambridge in the case of women normally resident there, the figures relating to Cambridge women are 1,390 including 30 stillbirths.

At the combined ante-natal and post-natal clinic 71 women made 197 attendances in 1955. Seven women attended for post-natal examination involving 8 attendances. Once again these figures show a decline over those of the previous year.

Premature Infants.—There were 8 live births of children with a birth weight of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lb. or less taking place in their own homes during 1955. The total number of premature births in the area was 50, the remainder having taken place in hospital. One of the children born at home weighed between 3 lb. 4 oz. and 4 lb. 6 oz., three weighed between 4 lb. 6 oz. and 5 lb. 15 oz. and four weighed between 4 lb. 15 oz. and 5 lb. 8 oz. All survived more than 28 days but three were transferred to hospital at some time during the period.

In addition there were 14 premature stillbirths of which only 1 took place at home.

Illegitimate Infants.—The Council continued its contribution of £150 per annum to the funds of the Cambridge Association for Social Welfare for work in the City of Cambridge during 1955.

Health Visiting.—The number of visits paid by Health Visitors in the City of Cambridge during 1955 was as follows:—

To children under 1 year	 1st visits	1,216
A DECEMBER OF BRIDE STATES	Total visits	6,635
To children aged 1-5	 Total visits	6,767
To expectant mothers	 1st visits	129
accounted to be found to be to	Total visits	226

Infant Welfare Centres.—Apart from the fact that the number of sessions at one infant welfare centre was reduced to two per month at the beginning of 1955, the nine centres continued their work as in the previous year. A total of 50 sessions per month was held and 3,082, children attended. At the end of the year 804 children attending were still under one year of age and 894 children made their first attendance at a centre during the year and were under one year of age at that attendance. The total attendances by children of all ages was 18,707.

Day Nurseries.—As will be remembered only one day nursery in the City of Cambridge was operating at the end of 1954. This position continued throughout 1955, the nursery providing 14 places for children under the age of two years and 26 places for children aged two to five years. The average daily attendance during the year was 13 children under the age of two years, 26 children between the ages of two and five years attending full time and 1 such child attending part time.

#### **Rural Area**

In the rural area notification of intention to practise was received from 44 midwives or maternity nurses of whom 30, all in the employ of the Local Authority, were known to be in practice at the end of the year.

Midwives attended 416 confinements during the year, 32 more than in the previous year, acting as midwives only in 272 cases and as maternity nurses under medical direction in 144. All the confinements were attended by midwives employed by the Authority.

In addition to attendance at confinement, midwives attended 561 cases which had been confined in hospital and discharged before the 14th day. This figure is 55 more than the corresponding figure for 1954.

At the end of the year all 30 midwives mentioned above were qualified to administer gas and air analgesia. The number of cases in which the method was used was 372, or 80 more than in the previous year.

Pethidine was administered in 217 cases during the year, a figure 87 in excess of that of 1954.

Midwives found it necessary to summon medical aid in 94 cases, in 91 of which the practitioner concerned had arranged to provide the patient with maternity services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act. The corresponding figures for 1954 were 83 and 64 respectively.

The total number of births belonging to the rural area which were notified during 1955 was 1,370 including 19 stillbirths. This figure includes transferred notifications of which the bulk comprised babies born in hospitals or nursing homes in Cambridge and Newmarket.

The arrangement whereby women engaging midwives can be examined ante-natally by medical practitioners of their own choice at the County Council's expense has almost lapsed owing to the fact that so many women engage medical practitioners under Part IV of the National Health Service Act. There were in fact only three such examinations carried out in 1955 including two post-natal examinations.

Premature Infants.—The total number of infants born at home in the rural area with a birth weight of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lb. or less was 14. Four of these had a birth weight of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lb. or less, all being transferred to hospital and all dying within 24 hours of birth. Two had birth weights of between 3 lb. 4 oz. and 4 lb. 6 oz. Of these, one was transferred to hospital and died within 24 hours of birth but the other remained at home and survived more than 28 days. Two had birth weights of between 4 lb. 6 oz. All remained at home and all survived more than 28 days.

There were no premature births in nursing homes but the rural area is credited with 66 premature live births which took place in hospital of which 58 survived for 28 days and 5 died within 24 hours.

There were 4 premature stillbirths credited to the rural area, all taking place in hospital.

*Illegitimate Infants.*—No change in the arrangements for the care of illegitimate infants has to be reported.

Health Visiting.—The following are the numbers of visits paid by Health Visitors in the rural part of the County during 1955:—

To children under 1 year	 1st visits	1,367
	Total visits	13,744
To children aged 1-5 years	 Total visits	12,627

Infant Welfare Centres.—The 36 infant welfare centres in existence during 1954 continued to operate throughout 1955. Two thousand, seven hundred and eighty children attended during the year of whom 752 were still under the age of 1 year at the end of the year. One thousand and thirty nine new children who were under the age of 1 year at the date of their first attendances visited the centres. The total number of attendances made by children under the age of 1 year was 6,160 and by children over the age of 1 year, 6,726.

The following figures give details of the work done at individual centres:-

		New Cases	Total in
		under 1 year	attendance
Balsham		 10	54
Barrington		 21	26
Bassingbourn		 85	143
Bottisham		 32	99
Bourn		 27	61
Burwell		 35	99
Castle Camps		 8	22
Cheveley		 12	36
Chippenham		 17	32
Coton		 27	77
Cottenham		 29	68
Croydon		 3	8
Dullingham		 12	70
Duxford		 63	132
Elsworth		 17	53
Fordham		 20	58
Fowlmere		 28	83
Fulbourn		 39	77
Gamlingay		 14	54
Girton		 39	113
Gt. Abington		 21	71
Gt. Shelford		 69	130
Gt. Wilbraham		 8	27
Harston		 23	91
Histon		 32	93
Isleham		15	37
Linton		 34	44
Longstanton		 35	102
Melbourn		 19	66
Sawston		 56	185
Soham		17	38
Steeple Morden		28	117
Swavesey	1	60	167
Waterbeach		56	155
Wicken		2	22
Willingham		26	70
Britting	• •	 20	, •

#### The Details which follow apply to both the City of Cambridge and the Rural Area

Dental Treatment of Mothers and Young Children.—It will be remembered that in the 1954 Report, mention was made of the departure from the rural area early in 1955 of the third full time Dental Surgeon after a comparatively short period of service. As a result no extension of the work of dental treatment for mothers and young children was possible in that part of the County especially as efforts to secure the services of another Dental Surgeon were unsuccessful. Towards the end of the year, however, the part time Dental Surgeon found it possible to undertake an additional session of work to be devoted to the treatment of children of under school age.

Work in the City of Cambridge continued on the same lines as in previous years and the following table sets out the figures for the County as a whole:—

	Examined	Needing treatment	Treated	Made Dentally fit
Expectant and Nursing mothers	92	92	92	92
Children under Five	267	213	201	183

#### (a) Numbers provided with dental care:

#### (b) Forms of dental treatment provided:

							Dentures Provided			
	Scalings and Gum Treat- ment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treat- ment	Crowns or Inlays	Extrac- tions	General Anaes- thetics	Full Upper or Lower	Partial Upper or Lower	Radio- graphs	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	-	68	-	-	161	50	21 (Rep	15 airs 12)	37	
Children under five	_	204	222	_	92	-	_	_	_	

Distribution of Welfare Foods.—The work of the distribution of welfare foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin A. & D. Tablets) to expectant and nursing mothers and to children of under school age which became the responsibility of the County Council on the 28th June, 1954, continued throughout 1955. Details of the arrangements were set out in the 1954 Report and remained virtually unchanged during the year under review.

The following figures indicate the quantities of welfare foods distributed during the year:-

National Dried N	Ailk	 	 58,299 tins	
Orange Juice		 	 140,408 bottle	es
Cod Liver Oil		 	 24,541 bottle	es
A. & D. Tablets		 	 9,588 pack	ets

When compared with the figures for the second half of 1954, no significant variation as to the amount or proportion of each of the commodities distributed is revealed.

Problem Families.—The Health Committee has given consideration to Circular 27/54 of the Ministry of Health with regard to the prevention of the break up of families and did not feel able to effect any major reorganisation of the work of health visitors nor was it considered appropriate to appoint a special social worker to deal with the matter. The various agencies concerned with it have co-operated to the full during the year and in particular a few meetings have been held between the Medical Officers, the County Nursing Officer, the Childrens' Officer, the County Welfare Officer and Housing Officers of the various Sanitary Authorities. It cannot be said, however, that a great deal more has resulted from these meetings over and above the procedures which the day to day co-operation of the various agencies mentioned normally achieve.

# **REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES**

There was no change in the position as to registered nursing homes in the County during 1955. It will be recalled that at the end of 1954 there were four nursing homes in the City of Cambridge and onein the rural area providing between them 3 maternity beds and 34 medical and surgical beds. This state of affairs continued throughout 1955.

# HOME NURSING

There was no change in the arrangements for home nursing during 1955. The details are set out fairly fully in the appended tables and it is not possible to amplify them in any way. In particular the request of the Ministry of Health to be supplied with information as to special visits made for the purpose of giving injections only cannot be satisfied so far as 1955 is concerned but arrangements are in hand to make this information available for the year 1956. There are no special arrangements for the nursing of sick children at home.

The figures representing the position at the end of the year show a slight improvement in the staffing in the City of Cambridge as compared with the corresponding date in the previous year since the total staff consisted of ten whole-time nurses and one part-time nurse giving the equivalent of half time service. It should be emphasised however, that the position changes from day to day and comparisons between corresponding dates in different years are not of great value. One of the wholetime nurses devoted a considerable proportion of her time to administrative work.

In the rural area at the end of the year there were 31 nurses engaged in home nursing as compared with 33 at the end of the previous year but what has been said above with regard to the position in the City of Cambridge is true also for the rural area. All the 31 nurses gave part-time service so far as home nursing alone was concerned since they combined their duties with midwifery or health visiting. There was a separate superntendent doing administrative work only.

				Ci	ty					
(1)	(2) Medical	(E) Surgical	Definition Diseases	(G) Tuberculosis	(9) Maternal Complications	(2) Others	© Totals	$ \widehat{\bigcirc} \begin{array}{l} \text{Patients included (2)-(7) who} \\ \widehat{\bigcirc} & \text{were 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year} \end{array} $	Children included in (2)-(7) who were under 5 at the time of the first visit during the year	<ul> <li>Patients included in (2)-(7)</li> <li>Who have had more than</li> <li>24 visits during the year.</li> </ul>
Number of cases atten- ded by Home Nurses dur- ing the year	1135	335	_	25	11		1506	795	30	242
Number of visits paid by Home Nurses dur- ing the year	24805	6783	_	1552	.69	_	33209	16898	265	19837
				Rural	Area					
(1)	(C) Medical	(E) Surgical	(b) Infectious Diseases	(c) Tuberculosis	(9) Maternal Complications	(L) Others	(3) Totals	The first visit during the year $(0, 1)$ ( $(0, 1)$ ) (	Children included in (2)-(7) who were under 5 at the time of the first visit during the year	<ul> <li>Patients included in (2)-(7)</li> <li>who have had more than</li> <li>24 visits during the year.</li> </ul>
Number of cases atten- ded by Home	-									

2351 59483 32887

1203 33215

Nurses during the year

Number of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year 40826 14112

Once again the domiciliary nurses of the City and the rural area gave such assistance as was necessary with the nursing of patients discharged from Addenbrooke's Hospital under the Home Care and Nursing Service scheme. It is not possible to say how many of the patients discharged under the scheme were Cambridgeshire patients but there seems to have been a steady decline from 1953 onwards in the number of patients from all areas so discharged, the figures for the years 1953, 1954 and 1955 respectively being 303, 254 and 241.

As in former years cases of appendicectomy and herniorraphy formed the largest part of the total but actual figures are not available.

# THE DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The operation of the domestic help service continued during 1955 in much the same way as in 1954 but the financial basis of the scheme was altered to some extent. The scale of contributions from householders was drastically revised. Amongst other things the maximum amount payable was advanced to 3/- per hour and a minimum charge of 5/- per week was imposed, that is to say there was no point in the scale at which it was provided that no contribution was payable. In the case of households where the need arose as a result of the presence of a case of tuberculosis, however, the help continued to be provided free of charge. Cases in which it seemed that the financial position of the applicant made payment of the minimum charge difficult were referred to the National Assistance Board, prior agreement that they would deal sympathetically with them having been obtained. In addition the Chairman of the Home Help Service Sub-Committee was given authority to modify the charges in exceptional cases. After a few initial difficulties the system appears to have worked well and no-one has been deprived of home help by reason of inability to pay. It is estimated that these alterations will increase the contributions obtained from householders in a full year by about £3,000.

At the end of the year there were 33 whole-time domestic helps as against 30 on the corresponding date in the previous year and 154 part-time helps as against 160 at the end of the previous year.

The following figures set out the numbers and types of cases in which home help was provided:—

Maternity (including expectant mothers)	 248
Tuberculosis	 49
Chronic sick including aged and infirm	 524
Others	 508

These show a small fall in the number of maternity cases receiving it but a considerable rise in the number of cases of tuberculosis and of chronic sick. Other types of case show a small decrease.

The number of hours worked in 1954 was 164,767 and in 1955, 182,560.

# TUBERCULOSIS

The following figures relate to new cases of tuberculosis coming to the notice of the Medical Officers of Health by formal notification or otherwise but not including transfers from other areas during 1955:—

Age Periods	Pulmo	onary	Non-Pulmonary		
	М.	F.	М.	F.	
0	_	—	1	-	
1	1	—	-	-	
2	1	_	1	-	
5	—	2	1	1	
10	_	1	1	1	
15	. 6	5	2	1	
20	16	4	1	-	
25	11	10	- 1	1	
35	5	57	1	1	
45 55	3	1	1	1	
65	1	1		_	
75 and upwards	_	2		—	
	51	38	10	5	

In five of these cases, information was derived from sources other than formal notification, namely one each from posthumous notification and transferable deaths notified by the Registrar General and three from death returns of local registrars. These figures represent failures to notify during the year and though they are two higher than those of the previous year are very much lower than in 1953 when there were 16 such failures.

All the figures relating to primary notifications together with the five cases just mentioned are lower than those of the previous year except in the case of non-pulmonary male cases where the figure remains at exactly the same level. The total number of cases coming to light in this way was 104 as against 125 in the previous year.

In addition to the cases so far set out however, cases were added to the notification registers as a result of transfers to Cambridgeshire from other areas. When these cases are taken into account, it is found that the number of pulmonary male cases placed on the notification registers in 1955 was 66 as against 112 in 1954. The number of pulmonary female cases was 51 as against 78 in 1954 making the total of pulmonary cases 117 as against 190 in 1954. Transfers made no difference to the number of non-pulmonary male cases so that there was a total of 10 in 1955 as against 11 in 1954. There was one additional non-pulmonary female case to be taken into consideration making a total of 6 as against 16 in 1954.

The total number of ascertained cases of tuberculosis was therefore 133, or 84 less than the figure for the previous year.

Only one new case commenced a course of rehabilitation at Papworth during 1955 making the total since the arrangement started 39.

The Chest Physician and his staff vaccinated 44 persons with B.C.G. under the Council's scheme approved by the Minister of Health in accordance with the terms of Section 28 of the National Health Service Act of 1946.

At this point it may be pertinent to mention the retirement from office of Dr. Paton Philip who had served the Council since 1919, first in the capacity of Tuberculosis Officer and later as Chest Physician giving part-time service in relation to the care and after-care of tuberculosis patients. His retirement was the more regrettable because it was brought about by ill-health and it is impossible to speak too highly of the conscientious and painstaking service which he had always given.

The number of visits paid by health visitors during the year to tuberculous households was 421 in the City and 1,108 in the rural area, a total of 1,529 as against 1,877 in 1954.

Assistance was given by the After-Care Committee to 45 patients (25 men and 20 women). Of these 33 returned to work, while 7 remained under treatment at home, 2 were still in hospital and 3 had died at the end of the year. Grants varied in value from 8/2 to 28/2 weekly.

As will be seen earlier in the Report the Council was able to assist through its Domestic Help Service 49 families where a case of tuberculosis was the cause of the need.

## VENEREAL DISEASES

The following figures as to attendances at the clinic at Addenbrooke's Hospital have been supplied by the Physician in Charge:—

00	264
00	264
2	-
-	5
17	389
21	666
2	8
91	1,444
	$\frac{21}{2}$

There has been a further rise in the number of new patients, both sexes being concerned.

There were 21 cases of syphilis in Cambridgeshire patients, 3 more than in the previous year but it should be emphasised that these figures relate to syphilis in all its stages and there were in fact no cases of primary syphilis and only one of secondary syphilis from all of the areas served by the Clinic. There were no such cases in the previous year but nevertheless it does appear that the amount of new syphilis in the strict sense of the word is very small.

There were 60 new cases of gonorrhoea in Cambridgeshire patients as against 30 in the previous year. Out of 93 cases of gonorrhoea for the whole of the area served by the Clinic, 38 were in women. The percentage of women is somewhat less than that of the previous year but nevertheless it does seem that the remarks made in the Report on the previous year as to the increasing appreciation of the importance of investigating and treating abnormal discharges in women still hold good in the main.

There were 5 new cases of congenital syphilis in 1955 as compared with 4 in 1954. All were over the age of five years and all but one were in males in contrast to the position of the previous year when all were in females.

Twenty three contacts attended for examination during the year, 4 more than in 1954. All are said to have been referred by patients themselves and no details are given as to the possibility that some may have attended as a result of efforts by social workers. In any event the total number is disappointingly small.

### MENTAL HEALTH

During 1955 there was no change in the arrangements described in the Report for the previous year.

The following figures set out details of the work of the Duly Authorised Officer and his Deputy:—

Cases certified	 	76
Urgency Orders	 	
Admitted under Sec. 20	 	14
Admitted under Sec. 21 (1)	 	69
Voluntary patients	 	230
Temporary patients	 	1
Other cases	 	29

Once again there has been a reversal of the position of the previous year so far as Orders under Sec. 20 and the admission of voluntary patients is concerned. The admissions under Sec. 20 have dropped markedly while those of voluntary patients have increased to an even greater extent. It was pointed out in the Report of the previous year that these two procedures were to a large extent reciprocal and that the restriction of the admission of voluntary patients had the effect of encouraging the improper use of Sec. 20 of the Lunacy Act. It is satisfactory to be able to report this improvement in 1955 and it may be hoped that accommodation for voluntary patients will continue to be made available to the maximum possible extent.

A very full description of the work of dealing with mental instability and mental defect in the home was given in the Report for 1954 and it is not necessary to repeat it here. So far as the former category is concerned the two workers appointed by the Cambridgeshire Mental Welfare Association on the County Council's behalf dealt with 159 cases during the year of which 75 were new and 84 remained on the register from previous years.

The supervision of mental defectives continued on the same lines as have been in force for many years now. While no doubt it does impress upon parents and other relatives the point of view that an interest is being taken in the welfare of the defectives, it has to be confessed that owing to the shortage of institutional accommodation and the difficulty of obtaining suitable guardians its preventive value is very much lowered by the difficulty of dealing promptly with any unsatisfactory eventualities which may arise.

In 1955, 30 new cases of mental deficiency were considered by the Mental Health Sub-Committee of which 14 were notified by the County Education Committee, 11 by the City Committee for Education, 3 by the Police and 2 by other Local Authorities.

The method of dealing with them was:-

Admitted to Certified Institution	by Order	of C	ourt	3
Petition for Certified Institution				3
Statutory Supervision				17
Voluntary supervision				7

Of the three cases in which the presentation of a petition was recommended, one was actually admitted to a Certified Institution during the year making a total of 4 with the cases admitted by Order of the Court under Sec. 8 of the Mental Deficiency Act.

The number of cases still awaiting admission at the end of 1955 was 33, or 3 less than at the end of 1954 of which 4 were in Linton Hospital and 1 in the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn. Although the reduction in the waiting list is in itself satisfactory it may be noted that several of the cases concerned were transferred either from Linton Hospital or the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn which implies that the relief given to the waiting list relating to the outside community was not great.

At the end of the year there were 18 cases on licence from institutions.

The number of cases under Guardianship was 6 of whom only 1 had a Guardian in Cambridgeshire. Of the remaining 5 the Brighton Guardianship Society had placed 3, 1 was in a home in Surrey and 1 was in a home in Oxfordshire.

There were 59 cases on the roll of the Occupation Centre at the end of the year and no changes in the method of work took place. There was however a reversion to the old practice of holding an annual summer camp. By the kindness of the Governors, Bassingbourn Village College was made available as the place for the Camp and the defectives stayed there for 10 days in August. The parents of most of them paid the full calculated cost, but remissions were made in the case of those whose financial circumstances did not allow of it.

### BLIND WELFARE

The nature of the work carried out by the Home Teachers in the City of Cambridge and the rural area was much the same as in previous years but there was a change in staff. Mrs. Findlay who had been with the Council for some six years was obliged to leave owing to ill health and was replaced by Miss Lanyon but apart from the break caused by Mrs. Findlay's ill health, there was no actual gap in the service.

The increase in the number of registered blind persons which has been evident for some years now continued during 1955, the number on the register at the end of the year being 378 as against 359 at the end of the previous year. The following table sets out their distribution as to area and age periods:---

City Rural Area	0-5 1	5-16 6 1	Over 16 191 179	Total 198 180
	1	7	370	378

Of the 370 cases of blindness over the age of 16, 322 were regarded as unemployable. There were 5 home workers and 37 employed elsewhere as well as 1 employed in a workship for the blind. Four more were regarded as trainable and 1 was trained but unemployed. The number of home workers remained unchanged in 1955.

The Home Teachers paid 1,552 visits to blind persons during the year (City 867, Rural area 685).

Once again it was decided that it would be better to hold the Party for blind persons in the Spring rather than round about Christmas time and accordingly it took place at Coleridge Secondary School in Cambridge on April 14th and included blind persons from both the City and the rural area.

The single outing which had been customary in previous years was divided into two in 1955 as such an arrangement was considered to be more convenient. The place chosen was Felixstowe and 156 blind persons and guides from the City and rural area respectively made the journey there on two separate days in July.

The following table shows the number of cases newly certified on Form B.D.8 during 1955 together with the action taken with regard to them:—

Number of cases registered	Cause of disability					
during the year in respect of which Form B.D.8 recommends:	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others		
(a) No treatment	5	4	-	22		
(b) Treatment (medical surgical or optical)	4	2	-	6		
Number of cases at (b) above which on follow up action have received treatment	4	2	_	6		

There were again no cases of retrolental fibroplasia reported in premature infants but a total of four people blinded by glaucoma who were unsuitable for treatment has to be recorded.

Out of a total of nine people blind as a result of cataract, four were recommended for treatment and all agreed to receive it.

No cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified during the year under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations 1926-1937.

# AMBULANCE SERVICE

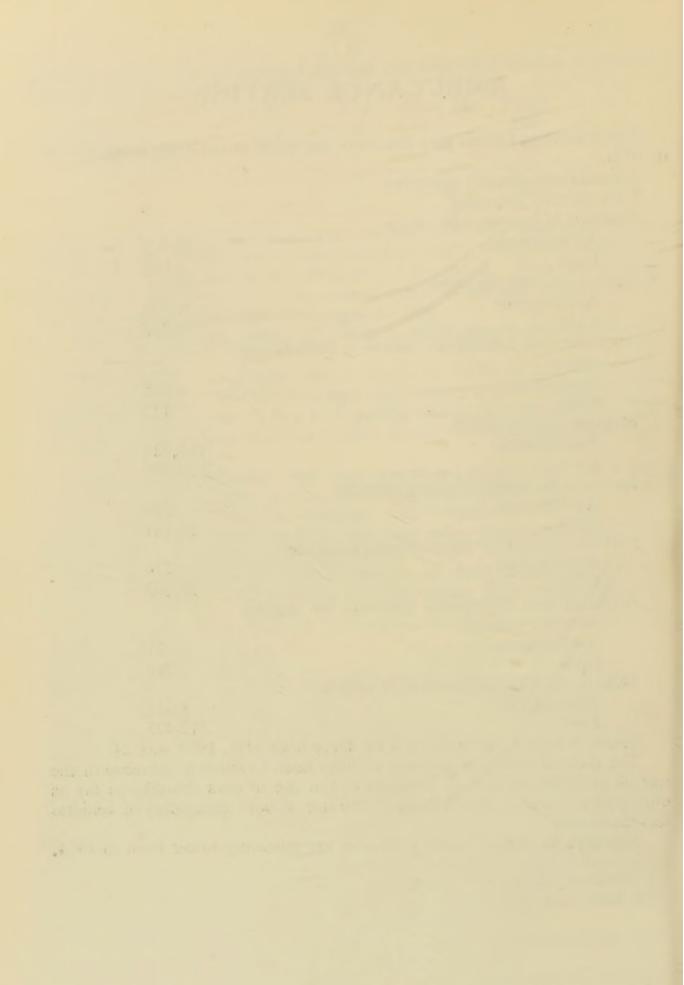
The following figures give details of the work of the ambulance service in 1955:—

 1755.						
Ambulances directly p	rovided				- 7	
Cars directly provided					6	
Number of journeys by	y above					
Ambulances					8,243	
Cars					4,942	
Patients carried by abo	ove					
Ambulances					9,539	
Cars					8,282	
Accident and emergen	icy jour	rneys	include	d in		
above		-				
Ambulances					938	
Cars					135	
Mileage run by above						
Ambulances					115,924	
Cars					120,955	
Journeys by supplement	ntary ve	ehicles	l internet			
Ambulances					298	
Cars					14,161	
Patients carried by sup						
Ambulances					276	
Cars					23,603	
Accident and emerger	ncy jou	rneys	by sur	pple-		
mentary vehicles		-				
Ambulances					21	
Cars					Nil	
Mileage run by supple	mentar	y vehi	cles			
Ambulances					8,457	
Cars						
The number of full the	and and a	D	in a second here	- 21 at		2

The number of full time staff on December 31st, 1955 was 24.

The general tendency appears to have been towards a decrease in the use of ambulances and an increase in the use of cars though, so far as emergency journeys are concerned, the use of both categories of vehicles has increased.

Journeys by supplementary vehicles are generally lower than in 1954.



		AGGREGATE OF URBAN DISTRICTS							AGGREGATE OF RURAL DISTRICTS										
		All	~								All	0							
	Sex	Ages	0—	1_	5-1	15	25- 4	45- 0		75-	Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	25- 4	45-	65-7	15
ALL CAUSES	м	488	19	1	1	4	25	92	148	198	507	16	5	2	22	20	101	123	218
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	F M	431 4	11	2			14	70 2	89 2	243	489 7	8	2		4	13 4	76 1	111	275
2 Tuberculosis, other	F M	2	_	_	Ξ	_	=	1	=	1	2	=	Ξ	_	_	2	=	=	
3 Syphilitic disease	FM	23	_	_	Ξ	=	1		-1	2	1	Ξ	Ξ		_	=	_	=	_
4 Diphtheria	F M		_	-	_	-	Ξ	=	=	1	1	=	=	_	-	Ξ	1	Ξ	
5 Whooping Cough	FM	_	_	Ξ	=	-	Ξ	Ξ	=	Ξ	Ξ	_	=	=	Ξ	=	-	-	_
6 Meningococcal infections	F	_	_	_	=	-	-	_	-	_	=	-	-	_	_	=	Ξ	Ξ	_
7 Acute poliomyelitis	FM	=	=	_	=	-	-	_	Ξ	-	Ξ	_	_	=	_	=	_	Ξ	Ξ
8 Measles	F	2	_	-	=	_		-	=		1	_	_	1	_	_	_	_	_
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	F		_	_	-	Ξ	=	_	=	Ξ	1	-	-	-	-	_	1	=	
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	F M	10	=	=	-	Ξ	Ξ	4	4	2	19		-	-	-	_	5	3	11
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	F M	8 27	_	-	-	-	1	3 12	11	43	9 17	-	-	_	-	-	12	1 5	6
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	, F	4	=	_	=	=	-	2	2	-		_	_	=	_	=	2	-	-
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F M	15	=	_	=	_	2	6	5	2	15	=	=	=	=	-	6	3	5
14 Other malignant and lumphatic neoplasm	F M	4 59	=	-	=	_	4	3 15	13	27	6 43	=	_	Ξ	-	22	2 13	14	14
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	F M	40	Ξ	=	=	1	42	11	14	11	39	_	Ξ	=	-	2	16	13	8
16 Diabetes	. F	1	=	_	=	-	_	-	-	1	52	Ξ	_	=	=	2	2	1	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system		2 86	Ξ	-	=	-	-	5	1 29	52	4 60	=	=	=	-	1	11	16	32
18 Coronary disease, angina	. F	124 80	=	1	Ξ	=	35	12 22	22 25	86 28	72 80	Ξ	=	Ξ	=	1	11 21	12 28	49 30
19 Hypertension with heart disease .	. F	48	-	-	-	Ξ	-		12	31	51	Ξ	_	Ξ	_	=	83	15	28 2 9
20 Other heart disease	. <u>F</u>	45 45	-	_	_	1	2	4	11	27	14 98	1	_	=	-	-	10	5 14	73
21 Other circulatory disease	. F	54 23	=	-	_	=	1	64	9 12	39 6	95 15	_	_	_	_		4	16 3	74 11
22 Influenza	. F	19 6	=	_	_	_	_	4	2	13	25	_	_	_	=	-	1	6	18 1
23 Pneumonia	. F	5 13		-	_	-	_	2	2	4 9	12 12	=	1	=	Ξ	-	2	6 5	64
24 Bronchitis	. F	13 33	4	_		Ξ	-	1 4	10	11 15	23 21		_	-	1	-	25	8 10	11 6
25 Other diseases of respiratory system .	. F	13 4		-		-	-	3	1	9	6	_	_	_	-	1	1	3	7
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .	. M	26	Ξ	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	6	_	_	=	-	-		4 3	33
. 27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .	. M	4	_	1	-	=	-	-		1-	237	-	_	-	-	-	-	3	
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	. M	4	-	-	-	-	-		3	1	75	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	328
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	. M	3	=	Ξ	-	=	-	2	2	1	9	-	=	-	-	-	-	1	8
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .	. M	=	=	-	-	=	-	=	-	-	Ξ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 Congenital malformations	. M	10	8	=	-	-	2	-	-	T	93	6		-	-	2	1	-	-
32 Other defined and ill defined diseases .	. M	6 40 34	57	-	-	1	3	4	9	4.02	36 60	8 6	ĩ	-	2	1	5	7	12 30
33 Motor vehicle accidents	. M	34	4	=	-	-	2	6	6 1	-	14	_	-	1	6	3	4	-	
34 All other accidents	. M	9 10		-	1	-	2	2	3	1 6	26 19	1	2	-	13	4		1	5
35 Suicide	. M		-	-	-	1	1	4 2	32		5 3	_	_	-	-	i	3	1	-
36 Homicide and operations of war .	. M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	_	-	-	-	-	-	_
	1																		

# TABLE I.—Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life in the Administrative County of Cambridge, 1955.



