

[Report 1933] / Medical Officer of Health, Chatham Borough.

Contributors

Chatham (Kent, England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1933

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BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

Medical Officer's
REPORT

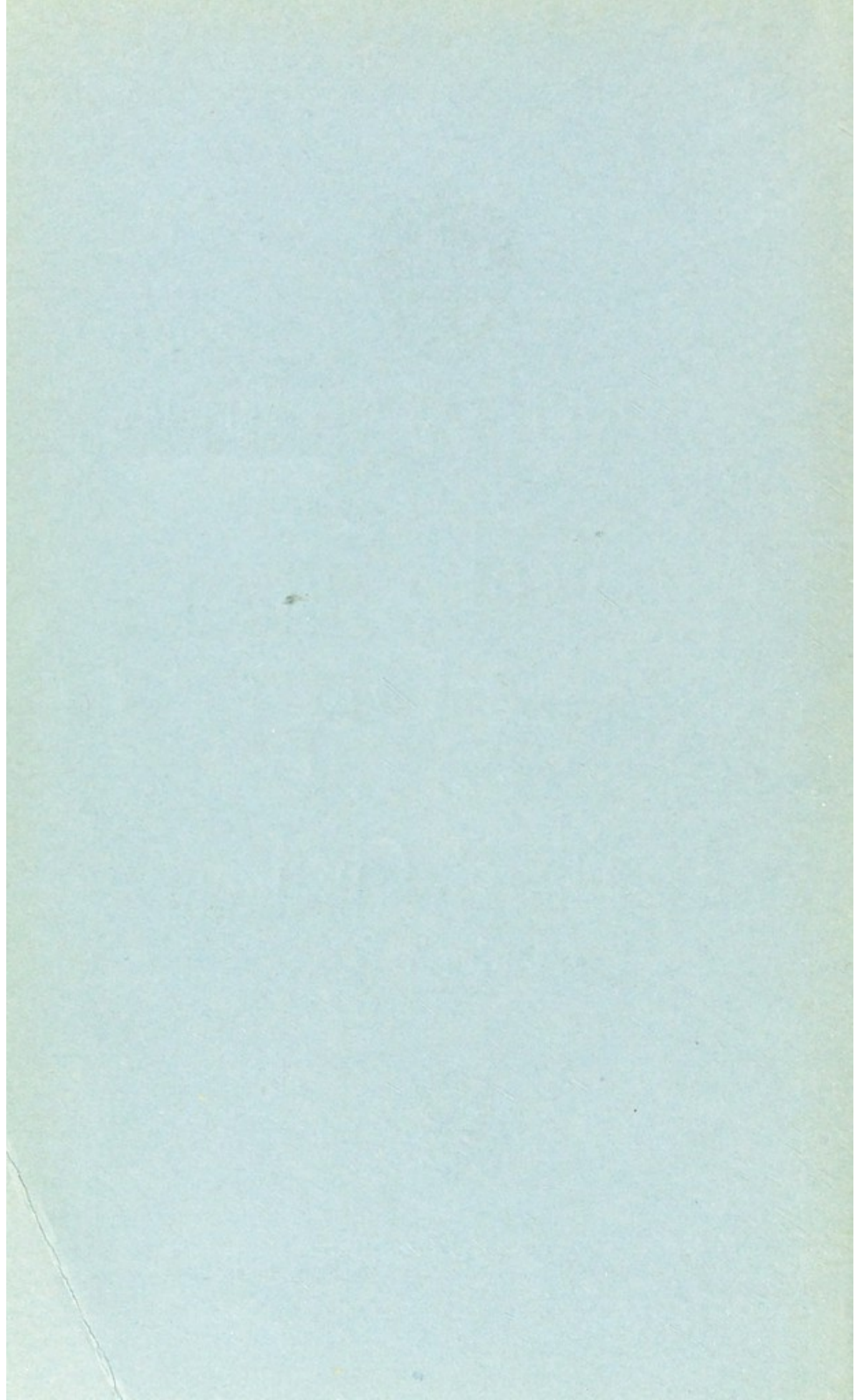
ON THE

Health of Chatham

During 1933.



F. A. CLEMENTS (CHATHAM) LTD., MEETING HOUSE LANE





BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

Medical Officer's
REPORT

ON THE

Health of Chatham

During 1933



INDEX

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	5
STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS	8
Population, Physical Features, Social Conditions, Vital Statistics.	
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES	14
Hospital Provision, Ambulance Facilities, Clinics and Treatment Centres, Nursing Services, Public Health Officers, Midwives, Chemical Work, Adoptive Acts, Local Acts, Bye-Laws and Regulations.	
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE	14
Expectant and Nursing Mothers, Maternity Home, Ante Natal Work, Home Visiting, Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Provision of Food, Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children, Puerperal Mortality, Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES	20
Water Supply, Analysis, Rivers and Streams, Drainage and Sewerage, Closet Accommodation, Scavenging, Sanitary Inspection of District, Other Sanitary Conditions, Schools, Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.	
FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS	22
HOUSING	31
New Dwellings, Unfit Dwellings, Action under Statutory Powers.	
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD	35
Milk, Meat, Food and Drugs Acts.	
INFECTIOUS DISEASES	38
Prevalence of, Bacteriological Work, Tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, Vaccination, Measles and Whooping Cough, Cleansing and Disinfection, Smallpox, Vaccination, Cancer, etc.	
OTHER DISEASES	47
TUBERCULOSIS	48
Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary, Dispensary, Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925. Public Health Act 1925-(26).	
RAINFALL	51

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

His Worship the Mayor—Councillor M. PACKER.

Aldermen :

H. J. CLOAKE (Chairman).	A. B. WALKER.
F. G. LUFF.	W. J. WEBB.
O. TAYLOR.	H. F. WHYMAN.

Councillors :

P. ANSELL.	W. J. HEDGE.
W. BLACKMORE.	W. F. HOLLANDS.
R. F. BRAIN.	F. H. LAWRENCE.
J. BRAY.	E. G. MAYNARD.
Mrs. F. M. FREEMAN.	J. PRESNAIL.
A. GURR.	Revd. T. RYAN.
F. O. HARRIS.	G. B. SILVER.
J. T. HAWES.	H. J. STEARNE.
W. HEATH.	


MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs. F. M. FREEMAN (Chairman).

Members of the Public Health Committee with the following

Co-opted Members :

Mesdames LEWIS, MACMILLAN, PEARSON, STEARNE, WHYMAN
and WOOLLETT.



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Borough of Chatham

To the Mayor Aldermen and Councillors.

MR. MAYOR, MADAM, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Report on the Sanitary Circumstances, Sickness and Mortality of the Borough for the year 1933.

The matters falling within the purview of a Public Health Department are very numerous, and include the various social, economic and environmental factors which are attendant on modern civilization. Constant vigilance on the part of Public Health Authorities is necessary, and to make this vigilance effective the co-operation and help of every individual is requisite. The primary function of public health work is the prevention of disease, to which all else is subsidiary.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The chief features are (a) the lowest Birth Rate yet recorded, (b) a low Death Rate, and (c) a low rate of Infant Mortality.

The continued decrease of the Birth Rate will have a profound influence on future policy—especially in regard to the provision of educational facilities. Fewer children being born, combined with the increased expectation of life means two things, a diminution of population at productive ages, and an increased proportion of elderly people in the population.

The probability is that there will be a further fall in Birth Rates, but not in Death Rates.

INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

Cases of Scarlet Fever of a mild type continue to occur, but the disease has not been markedly prevalent. During the last four years there has only been one death from this disease.

Diphtheria has not prevailed, and only a few sporadic cases have been reported.

There was only one death reported from Diphtheria, but the patient had had the disease some months before, and another cause was associated.

The work of immunisation against Diphtheria continues to make satisfactory progress.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This phase of work is an acknowledged success, as proved by the remarkable diminution of infant mortality. Not all the credit is due to Maternity Centres, but is largely the result of well organised health visiting, to which they are supplementary. It is difficult to assign a relative value to the many influences which are directly or indirectly contributory. The great fact remains that there has been an enormous saving of infant lives. It is inevitable that amongst the saved there are some who will never become strong and healthy citizens. Their upbringing will require more supervision, and a proportion will always be delicate.

HOUSING.

The removal of insanitary property is making steady progress, and unfit houses are being eliminated either by the making of Clearance orders for insanitary areas, or as individual houses.

The number of houses erected by private enterprise is larger than in any previous year.

Careful consideration is being given to the question of houses let in lodgings. The tendency to subdivide houses only intended for one family into multiple and imperfectly equipped tenements is an increasing one, and may necessitate new Bye-Laws.

Comments on the general housing conditions of the Borough will be found in the Section of the Report dealing with Housing.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation of the loyal and zealous manner in which the Staff of the department have carried out their duties, and I am deeply sensible of the courtesy and consideration I have received from the Council.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. HOLROYDE,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1933

(a) Medical.

J. Holroyde, F.R.C.S., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

H. A. Barnes, M.B., Oxon, Assistant School Medical Officer, and Officer in charge of Immunisation Clinic (part-time).

(b) Veterinary Surgeon.

E. Ebbetts, M.R.C.V.S.

(c) Sanitary Inspectors.

W. Hughes, Senior Inspector.

T. Howard, Assistant Inspector.

G. Newman, Assistant Inspector.

The above are holders of the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificates and Meat Certificates.

(d) Health Visitors.

A. Potter, C.M.B., H.V.'s Certificate, S.R. Nurse.

M. A. Bell, C.M.B., S.R. Nurse.

F. E. Gaffney, C.M.B., Nursing Certificates.

(e) Senior Clerk.

H. Kelly.

(f) Junior Clerks.

H. L. Clark.

Miss R. Lawrence.

G. A. Pearson.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)	4,356
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	44,810
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books	10,755
Rateable Value	£220,807
Sum represented by a penny rate	£930

The social conditions, and topography of the District have been described in previous reports. Beyond the spread of building on the outskirts of the Borough there is no alteration.

The Dockyard remains the chief source of industry in Chatham. The building trades are active, and there is less unemployment.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	Males	Females
Live Births	{ Legitimate ...	699	368	331
	{ Illegitimate ...	19	9	10
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.1				
Still Births 28				
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births 16.6				

		Males	Females	Total
Deaths ... ..	...	276	241	517
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 11.5				

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES :—

Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	none
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	...	...	none

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	61
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	55
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births... ..	263
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	none
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	4

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has required comment, nor has there been any specially noteworthy sickness or invalidity, there is no special occupation or environment which has prejudiced the public health, nor is there any evidence that unemployment has had any significant influence on the health or the physical condition of children or adults.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of population up to the middle of 1933 is 44,810, a *decrease* of 60.

During the last few years, the local distribution of population has been changing. There has been a decrease in St. Mary's, Christ Church and Luton Wards, and an increase in St. Paul's, St. John's and St. Michael's Wards, the greatest increase being in St. Paul's Ward.

BIRTHS.

The number of live births credited to Chatham by the Registrar General is 718. Of this total, 583 were born in the Borough and 135 outside.

DEATHS.

The corrected number of deaths is 517.

The figures for the previous 5 years were:—

1928	...	...	...	492
1929	...	...	...	593
1930	...	...	...	453
1931	...	...	...	598
1932	...	...	...	558

From the local Registrar of Births and Deaths 457 Certificates were received. The number of residents of Chatham whose deaths occurred outside the Area was 62—making a total of 519 as compared with the Registrar General's 517—the corrected figures.

The number of deaths occurring at different ages was as follows:—

				1933	1932	Difference + or —
Under 1 year	...	...	...	44	48	— 4
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	16	16	
5 „ 15 „	...	...	...	8	20	— 12
15 „ 25 „	...	...	...	16	38	— 22
25 „ 45 „	...	...	...	43	54	— 11
45 „ 65 „	...	...	...	151	127	+ 24
65 upwards	...	...	...	239	245	— 6
				—	—	—
				517	548	— 31

A very marked diminution of Mortality under the age of 45 years, and a slight increase in the two older groups. This is what one would expect from the present age grouping of the population.

Table showing Deaths for each month in each Ward of the Borough.

Month	St. Mary's Ward	Christ Church Ward	Luton Ward	St. Paul's Ward	St. Michael's Ward	St. John's Ward	Medway Institution	Totals
January	11	11	7	5	7	6	9	56
February	8	2	6	4	6	4	10	40
March	10	6	6	5	5	5	15	52
April	9	4	3	2	4	4	16	42
May	3	2	2	5	3	5	12	32
June	2	5	1	5	2	2	14	31
July	4	4	4	3	0	4	12	31
August	1	1	3	2	1	4	10	22
September	3	0	2	3	2	1	11	22
October	4	2	4	4	3	6	11	34
November	4	4	9	4	6	7	12	46
December	10	5	4	3	8	3	16	49
	69	46	51	45	47	51	148	457
Add Transfers	11	4	11	7	11	14	4	62
Totals	80	50	62	52	58	65	152	519

The deaths occurring in the Medway Institution are apportioned as follows:—

St. Mary's	Ward	...	...	53
Christ Church	"	...	...	17
Luton	"	...	...	18
St. Paul's	"	...	...	15
St. Michael's	"	...	...	21
St. John's	"	...	...	24

Thus the total deaths belonging to each Ward are:—

St. Mary's	Ward	133	or 26 per cent.
Christ Church	"	67	" 12.5 "
Luton	"	80	" 16 "
St. Paul's	"	67	" 12.5 "
St. Michael's	"	79	" 16 "
St. John's	"	89	" 17 "

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

There were 7 as compared with 3 in the previous year.

CORONERS' INQUIRIES AND INQUESTS.

The number of inquiries concerned with Chatham residents was 18, and inquests 32. Total 50.

Inquiry or Inquest was held respecting 12 non residents.

TOTAL DEATHS. Causes of Death in Chatham M.B. 1933						S.D.30	Males.	Females.
	All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	276	241
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...					...
2.	Measles ...					...
3.	Scarlet Fever... ..					...
4.	Whooping Cough ...					...		1
5.	Diphtheria ...					...	1	
6.	Influenza ...					...	3	6
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica ...					...
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever ...					...		1
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...					...	19	11
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...					...	3	1
11.	Syphilis ...					...	1	
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis							1
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease ...					...	31	37
14.	Diabetes ...					...	2	9
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ...					...	13	16
16.	Heart Disease ...					...	68	64
17.	Aneurysm ...					...	4	1
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases ...					...	10	13
19.	Bronchitis ...					...	8	5
20.	Pneumonia (all forms) ...					...	18	9
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases ...					...	4	1
22.	Peptic Ulcer ...					...	3	1
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...					...	4	
24.	Appendicitis ...					...	1	1
25.	Cirrhosis of liver ...					...
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ...					...		2
27.	Other Digestive Diseases ...					...	7	7
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...					...	4	7
29.	Puerperal Sepsis ...					...
30.	Other Puerperal Causes ...					...
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. ...					...	11	8
32.	Senility ...					...	8	11
33.	Suicide ...					...	6	3
34.	Other Violence ...					...	21	7
35.	Other Defined Diseases ...					...	26	17
36.	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ...					...		1
	Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)—							
	Smallpox ...					...
	Poliomyelitis ...					...
	Polioencephalitis ...					...
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{ Total ... Legitimate ... Illegitimate ...		...	...	28	16	
	Live Births	{ Total ... Legitimate ... Illegitimate ...		...	...	377	341	
		{ Legitimate ... Illegitimate ...		...	...	368	331	
		{ Illegitimate ...		...	...	9	10	
	Stillbirths	{ Total ... Legitimate ... Illegitimate ...		...	...	19	9	
		{ Legitimate ... Illegitimate ...		...	...	18	9	
		{ Illegitimate ...		...	...	1		
	POPULATION						44,810	

The next two Tables show Deaths from certain groups of Diseases and their proportional mortality during the years 1924-1933.

Year	Infectious Diseases	Tuberculosis	Respiratory Diseases including Influenza	Cancer	Diarrhoea	Heart & Circulation	Total Deaths from all causes
1924	22	50	104	65	8	85	560
1925	8	51	65	49	0	93	489
1926	45	48	90	45	11	98	536
1927	31	35	87	70	5	133	570
1928	36	33	65	53	3	143	489
1929	30	45	116	54	13	148	593
1930	4	43	56	55	4	136	453
1931	23	54	85	80	5	176	598
1932	17	48	75	53	8	191	558
1933	3	34	54	68	4	189	517

Percentage of Total Deaths (proportionate mortality).

Year	Infectious Diseases	Tuberculosis	Respiratory Diseases including Influenza	Cancer	Diarrhoea	Heart & Circulation	Total
1924	4.	9.	18.6	11.6	1.4	15.1	100
1925	1.6	10.4	13.3	10.	—	19.	100
1926	8.5	9.	16.8	8.4	2.	18.3	100
1927	5.4	6.1	15.2	12.2	0.8	23.3	100
1928	7.3	6.9	13.3	10.8	0.6	29.2	100
1929	5.	7.6	19.4	9.	2.3	25.	100
1930	0.9	9.5	12.3	12.1	0.9	30.	100
1931	3.8	9.	14.2	13.3	0.8	29.4	100
1932	3.	8.6	13.4	9.5	1.4	34.2	100
1933	0.6	6.6	10.4	13.1	0.8	36.5	100

Average percentage of total deaths for two 5-year periods.

	Infectious Diseases.	Tuberculosis.	Respiratory Diseases.	Cancer.	Diarrhoea.	Heart and Circulation.
1924-28	5.3	8.3	15.4	10.6	0.9	21.0
1929-33	2.3	8.3	14.0	11.4	1.2	31.0

There is a marked decrease in deaths from Infectious diseases, a slight increase in Cancer, and a very considerable increase in Diseases of the Heart and Circulation. Many of the latter deaths were formerly attributed to old age, but of late years have been certified as due to myocardial degeneration, and so come under a different classification.

Inserted for comparative purposes

TABLE IX.—BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN THE YEAR 1933
England and Wales, 118 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 132 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales and for London have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1933, but those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1932.)

	Rate per 1,000 Population		Annual Death rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 Live Births		Percentage of Total Deaths			
	Live Births	Still-Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years)	Total Deaths (under One year)	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Certified by Coroner after Inquest	Uncertified causes of Death	
England and Wales	14.4	0.62	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.57	0.54	7.1	64	90.9	6.3	1.9	0.9	
118 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14.4	0.67	12.2	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.55	0.49	9.4	67	91.0	6.0	2.5	0.5	
132 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	14.5	0.63	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.53	0.44	4.9	56	91.7	5.8	1.5	1.0	
London	13.2	0.45	12.2	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.08	0.08	0.51	0.58	11.6	59	88.3	6.3	5.4	0.0	
Chatham	15.1	0.6	11.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.2	0.8	7.7	44	89.1	6.1	3.5	1.3	

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows:—

	per 1,000 Live Births	Total Births	Puerperal Sepsis	Others	Total
	{		1.79	2.63	4.42
	{		1.71	2.52	4.23

Section B.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangements remain as described in previous Reports. All the Council's work is done at the County Council Laboratory at Maidstone, and is in every respect satisfactory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Cases requiring removal to the Joint Hospital for Infectious Diseases are taken by the Hospitals' Ambulance.

The Ambulance belonging to the Borough is used for the removal of infected bedding and clothing to the Council's Disinfecting Station.

There are two Ambulances for general use. The service is very efficient, and operates widely outside the District.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

General Nursing is provided by the District Nursing Association, which has a staff of 3 nurses.

By arrangement the services of these nurses are available for the home nursing of Measles, Whooping Cough or Diphtheria, if the latter is unduly prevalent, and Hospital accommodation cannot be secured.

Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and Puerperal Sepsis are visited by the Health Visitors, who give such assistance as may be necessary.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(1) Maternity and Child Welfare,

Elm House, New Road.

- (a) Ante-Natal—once a month.
- (b) Children under 5 years of age—
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays 2.30 p.m.
 - Fridays 2.30 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation—

Wednesdays ... 2 p.m.

School Clinics—

Minor Ailments ... daily 9.15 a.m.
 Dental ... Wednesdays and Fridays
 9.30 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 4.30.

Tuberculosis Dispensary—13 New Road, Rochester.
Tuesday afternoon and evening and Friday morning.

Venereal Diseases Clinic—36 New Road, Rochester.
Daily.

Hospitals, Voluntary—St. Bartholomews' Hospital, Rochester.
A general Hospital with Special Ophthalmic, Throat, Aural and Orthopædic Departments, and a well equipped Laboratory.
There are 126 beds, 14 of which in an annexe are reserved for paying patients.
There are 65 surgical beds, 26 medical, 23 children, 8 ophthalmic and 4 orthopædic.

MEDWAY HOSPITAL.

This is a Public Assistance Hospital.

The number of beds is 455. They are utilised as follows :—

General Medical and Surgical	...	...	...	152
Children	...	...	...	26
Maternity	...	...	...	6
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	26
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	124
Mental	...	...	...	113
Other	...	...	...	8

It is proposed to erect New Wards for 90 beds, and an Operating Theatre. This will materially improve the bed accommodation in the District, and should render possible an increase in the Surgical work, which is at present restricted to emergencies.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(i). Midwives.

The Number registered is	...	8
„ practising is	...	9

The supervision of Midwives is in the hands of the Kent County Council.

No midwives are subsidised by the Local Authority.

Maternal Mortality.

All notified cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia are visited, inquiries made, and advice offered.

A personal investigation of Maternal Deaths is made by the Medical Officer of Health.

(ii). Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.

Cases needing treatment are admitted to the Medway Hospital, or to the Voluntary Hospital if suitable, and if accommodation is available.

The Rochester Diocesan Society and the Salvation Army have homes in the Borough, and take in a few unmarried mothers and children.

There is a Maternity Ward at the Medway Hospital, and cases are sent at reduced fees to the Royal Naval and Marine Maternity Home.

(iii). Health Visitors.

The Council employs three Health Visitors, each having a special district.

Their duties are confined to the care of children under School age, and include home visiting, and attendance at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

They act as Infant Protection Visitors, and pay special visits to cases of Measles, Whooping Cough, Puerperal Sepsis, and Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

All the duties are directed and supervised by the Medical Officer of Health.

(iv). Infant Life Protection.

CHILDREN ACT 1908—AMENDED 1932.

The number of children on the Register is 25.

The Act applies to children under 9 years of age, who are maintained for reward.

105 visits have been made to the homes, and several of the younger children are brought to the Child Welfare Centre.

(v). Orthopædic Treatment.

Children brought to the Infant Welfare Centre, who are found to be suffering from congenital or acquired deformities, are sent to the Orthopædic Department at the General Hospital.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

There is only one Registered Home in Chatham,
Medical, Surgical and Maternity Cases are admitted.

There are 12 beds, and the general arrangements and equipment are very satisfactory.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1933.

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (Non-Tubercular)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Convulsions	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Bronchitis.....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	5
Diarrhoeal Diseases	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation (overlaying)	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	4
Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformation	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Premature Birth	7	2	1	—	10	—	—	—	—	10
Atrophy, Debility	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus	—	—	3	1	4	3	2	—	—	9
Other Causes	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Totals	11	6	4	2	23	6	7	3	5	44

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The scheme in operation includes home visiting of children up to the age of 5 years, a well equipped Child Welfare Centre, an Ante Natal Centre for expectant mothers, maternity beds at the Royal Naval and Marine Maternity Home (patients being charged according to their means), the supply of dried milk to expectant and nursing mothers, the provision of dental treatment, and treatment for certain minor ailments, visiting and supervision of boarded out children, and a Mothercraft Class, the latter being a voluntary organisation.

The inspection of Womens' Sanitary Conveniences is carried out by one of the Health Visitors.

The arrangements for health visiting are framed, so that the infant is visited 10 days after birth, and at frequent intervals during the first year—as a rule 8 visits, then at increasing intervals until the age of 5 years is attained.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACTS, 1907-1915.

Live Births Notified	...	...	736
Still Births	...	...	24
By Midwives	...	...	669
By Doctors	...	...	91

After correcting for inward and outward transfers the notified births were 696 or 96 per cent. of the total registered.

106 births took place in the R.N. & M. Home, 8 in the Military Families Hospital, and 14 in private Maternity Homes.

A total of 17.4 per cent. in Institutions.

HOME VISITING.

Children under 1 year of age.

Primary Visits	...	...	771
Subsequent Visits	...	...	773 ¹

Children 1 to 5 years.

4936 Visits.

Expectant Mothers.

Primary Visits	...	...	107
Subsequent Visits	...	...	158

FEEDING OF INFANTS.

The method of feeding indicated is that in operation at the Health Visitors' first call.

Breast fed only	...	...	338
Breast and Bottle	...	...	342
Bottle only	...	...	90

By far the largest number of bottle fed infants are given some brand of dried or condensed milk.

A satisfactory feature of health visiting is the improvement which takes place in some of the dirty homes. 53 of these definitely improved.

WORKING MOTHERS.

There were 74. Most of them were Hawkers or Charwomen.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Held at Elm House, New Road on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. An extra session for weighing only and for the issue of dried milk is held on Fridays.

New Cases	...	...	...	462
Under 1 year	...	...	...	305
1 to 5 years	...	...	...	85
Expectant Mothers	...	...	...	72

Attendances.

Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	2867
1 to 5 years	...	...	...	877
Total	...	...	...	3744

ANTE NATAL CLINIC.

This is held once a month.

72 expectant mothers attended, making 213 attendances.

It is a rule of the Central Midwives' Board that all practising midwives must carry out certain ante natal examinations, with a view of detecting abnormalities.

Fortunately serious abnormalities are not frequent, and the majority of pregnancies run a normal and uninterrupted course.

At the Clinic advice is given regarding the general hygiene of pregnancy, the management of minor defects, and pelvic measurements and the examination of urine are undertaken.

Should any serious abnormality be discovered, the midwife or doctor is notified and the patient is advised to secure treatment.

30 cases were admitted to the R.N. & M. Maternity Home at reduced fees.

73 children under 5 years were referred for Hospital treatment, including Talipes, Phimosis, Nævi, Squint and Hernia, and 41 children were given dental treatment.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER.

This is obtained from deep borings into the Chalk, supplemented by a small quantity from the lower greensand.

It is abundant in quantity, and excellent in quality.

There are 4 pumping stations, and 4 storage reservoirs, and extensions at Nashenden are contemplated.

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations have been made during the year.

The chemical analyses are satisfactory. The water has a high degree of temporary hardness, and is very suitable for drinking purposes.

Bacteriological analyses of 16 samples taken at different periods of the year show a satisfactory condition of the supply.

The following is a summary of the analyses.

Organisms per C.C. at 20° C.	...	...	5
Organisms per C.C. at 20° C. R.L.	less than		1
Organisms per C.C. at 37° C.	...	...	2

Coliform organisms—absent from 50 C.C. of the water.

The Chlorination of one of the sources of supply is being continued.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Borough of Gillingham is now a constituent of the Joint Sewerage Board.

Houses are still being connected to the system, but the rate of progress has for various reasons slowed down, such as want of money, and doubts as to the fitness of certain dwellings.

Between 70 and 80 per cent. of the houses in Chatham are now linked up with the Main Drainage System, resulting in a great diminution of cesspool emptying, and its attendant nuisance.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Medway is a large tidal river, and except for factories, and farm lands higher up stream, the chief source of pollution is from vessels in the tideway.

No action has been taken.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A detailed list will be found under the Sanitary Inspector's Statement.

The chief feature is the considerable increase in the number of Closets provided with flushing cisterns, and a decrease in the number of open privies. These latter have no place in an urban area. There should be none.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

With the exception of the removal of fish offal, which is effected by the Public Health Department, all public cleansing such as the removal of household and trade refuse, and the cleansing of streets and gullies is carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Staff.

The methods of removal, types of receptacle, and place of deposit have been described in previous reports. There has been no alteration during the year.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

In Chatham this very necessary and valuable work is continued throughout the year, and not for one week only, as in the Annual Rat Weeks.

The following is a statement of the work accomplished during 1933.

Number of Rats caught in Dwellinghouses	...	...	84
Number of Rats caught in Shops, Stores, etc.	...	...	811
Number of Rats caught at Street End Shoot, Luton	...	...	3192
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	4087
			<hr/>
Number of Baits laid in Dwellinghouses	...	...	694
Number of Baits laid in Shops, Stores, etc.	...	...	646
Number of Baits laid at Street End Shoot	...	...	—
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	1340
			<hr/>
Number of Varnish Boards laid	...	..	4
Number of Days worked by Rat Catcher	...	...	221
Number of new applications	...	...	76

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, Laundries and Homework.

1.—Inspection.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	46	1	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	135	3	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises in Part 3 of this Report)	—	—	—
Total	181	4	—

2.—Defects Found.

Particulars.	No. of Defects.			Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	3	2	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation { insufficient	—	—	—	—
{ unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
{ not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Act :				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	—	—	—	—
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are not included in Part 3 of this report)	—	—	—	—
Total	4	3	—	—

3.—Homework.

Wearing Apparel making, etc.	Outworkers' Lists						Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists	Outwork in Unwhole- some Premises		Outwork in infected premises	
	Sending once in the year.			Sending twice in the year.				Instances	Notices Served	Instances	Notices Served.
	Lists.	Contractors.	Workmen.	Lists.	Contractors.	Workmen.					
	-	-	-	15	8	267	13	-	-	-	-
Total ...	-	-	-	15	8	267	13	-	-	-	-

4.—Registered Workshops.

Class.	Number.
Tenement Workshops	-
Workshop Bakehouses	8
Domestic Workshops	49
Laundries (Workshops)	2
Other Workshops	55
Total number of Workshops on Register	114

5.—Other Matters.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshops Acts	-
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	-
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...	-
Other Matters	-
Underground bakehouses :—	
Certificates granted during the year	-
In use at the end of the year	2

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

This is a question which rarely affects this area, but during 1933, several complaints have been received respecting one business undertaking, not so much as regards dense smoke, as the deposit on premises in the vicinity, of grit and sooty particles.

The complaints were well grounded and numerous inspections and observations have been carried out. The owners agreed to the erection of new plant, and this work is now in progress, and is expected to bring about an abatement of the nuisance.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition and water supply of public elementary schools is satisfactory and the action taken in relation to the health of the scholars, and for preventing the spread of infectious disease is based on the advice given in the Memorandum on Closure and Exclusion from School, 1927.

The following Statement has been received from the Senior Sanitary Inspector :—

Dear Sir,

I herewith append my report of the work carried out in the Public Health Department during the year ending, 31st December, 1933.

CESSPOOL WORK.

1,078 applications were made during the year to empty cesspools, this being 601 less than in the preceding year. 376 of these applications were found to be choked drains. The reduction in the cost of this work is now approximately £10,000 per annum.

DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS TO THE CORPORATION SEWERS.

During the past year, 827 house drains were connected to the Corporation Sewers. The total number of house drains connected to the Sewer is 8,275 or 75% of the houses in the Borough. There has been a slight falling off in the number of connections made during the past year, this has been chiefly due to the tenant owners being unable to find the money to do the work, but where a Building Society have been interested in the property, in many cases I have been able to get the Society to extend further money to cover the cost of the work.

WORK EXECUTED IN CONNECTING HOUSE DRAINS TO THE CORPORATION SEWERS.

Covers to existing Inspection Chambers provided...	1
Drains of old buildings relaid	492
Drains of old buildings part relaid	73
Inspection Chambers and Covers provided ...	647
Inspection Chambers reconstructed	42
New W.C. pans provided	510
New Flushing Cisterns	357
New Sinks	205
New Sink Waste pipes	536
New W.C. Structures	77
New W.C. Floors	336
New Yards	218
New yard gullies	527
Privies converted to water closets	13
Sink wastes repaired	5
Vent shafts provided	249
Vent shafts repaired, highered, etc.	32
W.C. structures repaired	92
W.C. floors repaired	123
Yards repaired	282
Miscellaneous (rain water pipes, gutters, flushing cisterns, etc. repaired)	476

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The several kinds of closet accommodation in the Borough are :

Closets with flushing cisterns	10,181
Closets without flushing cisterns	461
Open privies	64
Pail closets	49

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are nine private slaughterhouses in the Borough, eight are registered and one is licenced, to which 2,446 visits were made for the purpose of meat inspection. It was only found necessary to serve two Notices to repair.

One of the registered slaughterhouses was rebuilt during the year. The internal walls were built of white glazed bricks to a height of 6 feet, and above this to the roof the walls are lined with white glazed tiles.

There is an overhead carriageway to convey the dressed carcasses clear of the slaughtering of other animals.

UNSOUD FOOD SURRENDERED.

Bovine	Carcases and Offals	Tuberculosis	...	...	13
"	Hindquarters	"	...	...	1
"	Forequarters	"	...	...	1
"	Lungs	"	...	...	36
"	Livers	"	...	...	9
"	Heads and Tongues	"	...	...	5
"	Stomachs	"	...	...	1
"	Diaphragms	"	...	...	3
"	Mesenteries...	"	...	...	4
"	Intestines	"	...	...	3
"	Udder	"	...	...	1
"	Heart	"	...	...	1
"	Kidneys	"	...	...	4
Pig	Carcases and Offal	"	...	...	6
"	Heads	"	...	...	100
"	Lungs	"	...	...	20
"	Livers	"	...	...	16
"	Stomachs	"	...	...	1
"	Intestines	"	...	...	7
"	Spleen	"	...	...	1
"	Forequarters	"	...	...	2
Bovine	Carcases & Offals	Emaciation and Dropsy	...	...	3
Calf	Carcase and Offal	Immaturity	...	...	1
Sheep	Carcases and Offals	Emaciation	...	...	26
"	"	Fevered	...	...	4
Bovine	Hindquarters (chilled)	Fibrous	...	...	2
"	"	Abscess	...	...	1
"	"	Bruised	...	...	1
"	Livers	Distomatosis	...	...	4
"	"	Cirrhosis	...	...	28
"	"	Abscess	...	...	4
"	"	Cavernous Angioma	...	...	4
"	"	Echinococcus Cysts	...	...	2
"	Head and Tongue	Abscess	...	...	1
"	"	Actinomycosis	...	...	1
"	Udders	Abscess	...	...	3
Bovine	Udders	Mammitis	...	...	4
"	Kidney	Echinococcus Cysts	...	...	1
"	"	Nephritis	...	...	1
"	Lungs	Abscess	...	...	1
Pig	Livers	Cirrhosis	...	...	43
"	Lungs	Pneumonia	...	...	8
"	Hindquarters	Bruised	...	...	1
Sheep	Livers	Distomatosis	...	...	41
"	"	Cirrhosis	...	...	18
"	Plucks	Strongylosis	...	...	6
"	"	Echinococcus Cysts	...	...	9
"	Kidney	Cystic	...	...	1

Decomposition.

Forequarters Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hindquarters	„	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bovine Livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Parcels of Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Sheep Livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Pig Plucks	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Bovine Kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pig	„	...	...	...	...	...	74
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Corned Beef (6lb. tins)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fish (Boxes)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Winkles	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Peaches (Boxes)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Total weight : 7 tons, 9 cwts, 1 qr. 2 lbs.

COLD STORAGE.

There are within the Borough two Cold Stores, Messrs. Swift, Nelson Road, and Messrs. Gamman's Ltd., Medway Street. These two Cold Stores supply foreign meat to butchers over a wide area. The practice of cutting sheep carcasses for the detection of Caseous Lymphadenitis has been discontinued.

REGISTERED COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are 8 Common Lodging Houses on the Register to which 28 visits were made, 1 Notice was served to repair and 2 to cleanse.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

33 Houses let in lodgings are on the register to which 43 visits were made. Nos. 3, 5, and 5a Cannon Street are the principal houses. New wash-houses and sanitary accommodation were provided, 2 Notices were served to repair and 3 to cleanse.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 21 registered Cowsheds and 10 Registered Cow-keepers, 4 wholesale producers, 1 Purveyor of Pasteurised Milk, 1 Purveyor of Certified Milk, 24 Registered Milkshops, 113 Purveyors of Sterilised Milk. 190 visits were made to these places. 3 Notices were served to cleanse and 2 Notices to repair.

Mixed samples of milk are taken each half year from the Dairyfarms at the time of milking and submitted to the County Medical Officer, Sessions House, Maidstone, for T.B. Test.

FISH OFFAL COLLECTION.

There are 12 Fish Shops and 1 Market Stall taking the Corporation Bins for Fish Offal. The offal is collected daily and there has been no change in the charge for collection. The charge for the bins is 2/- per week and the offal is sold to a local farmer, the purchase price being £26 per annum.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 26 fish fryers, 1 gut scraper, 4 marine store dealers, and 3 knacker yards in the Borough—very little flaying is done here, the dead carcasses being taken direct to London and there flayed. 133 visits were made to the several premises, 3 Notices being served to repair and 8 to cleanse.

BAKEHOUSES.

18 Bakehouses are on the Register, 10 Factory and 8 Workshop Bakehouses—2 of the latter are underground. 72 visits were made to the bakehouses, 1 Notice was served to repair.

Periodical notices are served calling attention to the time for limewashing, this tends to keep in a clean condition.

MORTUARY.

The number of bodies removed to the Mortuary was :—

Males	...	...	...	...	...	13
Females	...	...	...	...	...	4
Children	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Post Mortem Examinations						25
Bodies buried at the cost of the parish						4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital :— Enteric Fever, 2, Diphtheria, 24, Scarlet Fever, 110—263 loads of infected bedding were removed and disinfected, 53 library books from the Public Library, 25 from Private Circulating Libraries, and 18 School Books were disinfected. A request was received from the Circle Private Library that all of their books found on infected premises, should be given to the Isolation Hospital—this is being done. Visits paid, 203. Notices to repair, 26, to cleanse 10.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT AND CATTLE TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

I am pleased to state that no cases of either the Contagious Diseases of Animals Act, or the Cattle Tuberculosis Order have occurred within the Borough during the year. This is the first time this has occurred for many years.

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

Preliminary Notices	...	...	...	333
Statutory Notices, Sec.	94	P.H.A. 1875		71
„	17	H.T.P.A. 1930		3
„	19	„	„	1
„	20	„	„	1
„	98	Chatham Corporation Act		2

NUISANCES ABATED AND OTHER REPAIRS.

Accumulation of refuse, etc., removed	33
Broken W.C. Pans replaced	8
Ceilings whitened	57
Ceilings repaired	36
Cesspool covers repaired, renewed or sealed	1
Chimney pots replaced	2
Chimney stacks repaired	7
Choked drains cleared	6
Coppers repaired, provided or rebuilt	20
Doors or frames repaired	17
Doors provided or renewed	2
Drainage of old buildings relaid	1
Drains repaired	12
Drains ventilated	2
Firegrates repaired or renewed	13
Firegrates repaired	6
Floors repaired or cleansed	59
Flues repaired	1
Flushing cisterns repaired	15
Flushing cisterns provided	3
Gutters or downpipes cleared	14
Gutters or downpipes repaired or re-hung	41
Gutters or downpipes provided	2
Inspection pits provided	1
Interiors cleansed	57
Keeping animals in an unfit state	8
Doors, locks or fasteners mended	2
Manure pits provided	2
Overcrowding abated	3
Privy structures repaired	5
Roofs repaired	92
Sashcords repaired	37
Sash fasteners repaired	1
Sinks provided or renewed	7
Sink waste pipes provided	11
Sink waste pipes repaired	3
Stairs or treads repaired	8
Walls repaired	78
W.C. Pans re-set	5
Wash-houses repaired or limewashed	1
W.C. structures limewashed	2
W.C. seats or risers repaired	2
Weatherboarding or external walls repaired	14
Windows re-glazed	5

Window frames and sashes repaired	...	...	...	33
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	18
Yard gullies renewed	...	...	...	2
Grills provided to yard gullies	...	...	...	2
W.C. structures re-built	...	...	...	2
Verminous bedding or premises cleansed	...	...	...	5
W.C. structures repaired	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	III
Drains connected to sewer	...	see work executed	in connecting house drains to Corporation Sewer.	

W. HUGHES,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Section D.

HOUSING

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses <i>inspected</i> for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	674
(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose	992
(2) (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under the preceding heading) which were <i>inspected</i> and <i>recorded</i> under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	143
(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose	764
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	92
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	51

II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of <i>Informal</i> action by the Local Authority or their officers	239
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III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		3
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices		
(a) By owners		2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		—
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		71
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners		65
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		—
C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—		
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...		1
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...		1
D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made		1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined—the tenement or room having been rendered fit		—
Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority		390

There has been considerable housing activity during 1933, and an effort to get rid of the insanitary dwellings which have disfigured parts of the town is in progress.

A few of the worst spots on and in the vicinity of the Brook were demolished prior to the war. Since the end of the war progress has been slow. Demolition entails displacement of occupants, and alternative accommodation was not available, chiefly because building was retarded by high costs.

Under the Act of 1930, it is now possible to secure the clearance of insanitary groups of houses, and of individual houses which are not fit for habitation.

A programme of work for the five years, 1931-1935 has been drawn up, and in May, 1931, a Representation with regard to what is known as the Brook Area was made. This included an area comprising King Street, Queen Street, part of Cross Street, and the Brook, with the various courts and alleys adjoining. After consideration it was decided to deal with the area in two portions. No. 1 Clearance Area included the whole of Queen Street, and a portion of Cross Street. In all there were 36 separate dwellings. As the result of appeals an inquiry was held by the Ministry in January, 1933, and with the exception of one dwelling, the Clearance order was confirmed, and the Area is now cleared, accommodation for the displaced tenants having been provided elsewhere. During 1933 I made a Representation with regard to the second part of the Brook Area (No. 2 Clearance Area), and the Council being satisfied as to the representation declared the area to be a Clearance Area. This is now being dealt with. In my Report for 1932, I drew attention to the need for dealing drastically with some of the old and insanitary property in the town, and intimated that nothing but radical measures will be of any avail. There are houses which are so dilapidated and worn out, so saturated with filth, and so devoid of necessary conveniences and amenities, defectively lighted and ventilated, often damp and verminous, that the attempt to patch them up would be a waste of money, as no one could guarantee anything but a short life for them.

In pursuance of this policy, several houses have been reported as unfit individual houses, and in other cases arrangements for reconditioning have been made with the owners, without having recourse to official notices.

There is still much to be done, but before very long Chatham should be reasonably free from reproach as to its housing. In all cases where demolition is ordered, alternative accommodation is provided. Houses can now be built to let at a rental within the means of the majority of working class people, and there is very little difference in the cost of a three and two bedroomed house, so little that the three bedrooms type should be the rule, together with a very limited number of small dwellings for aged couples.

An important aspect of the housing question, apart from the condition of the dwelling is overcrowding. Several cases have

been reported to the Council, and I hope that provision will be made for the relief of this very serious condition.

Overcrowding is of three kinds.

- (a) Where the accommodation is inadequate for the size of the family.
- (b) Sex overcrowding.
- (c) Too many families in one house.

All forms of overcrowding are prejudicial to health, and as regards sex overcrowding, there is the addition of moral danger, and offence against decency.

There is much subletting of dwellings when more than one family occupy a house not constructed or adapted for joint occupation, and where the cooking arrangements, storage of food, washing and sanitary conveniences are inadequate. The census returns of 1931 showed an excess of 800 separate families over the number of structurally separate dwellings.

An aspect of overcrowding not often realised is that some tenants connive at it by retaining adult children, who are earning wages, and contributing to the maintenance of the household, as members of the family. They argue that as they have been at the expense of rearing these children, now that they are able to earn wages, they should make some return in the shape of contribution to household expenses.

The connection between bad housing and bad health has been fully demonstrated, and the substitution of clean, light, and airy dwellings complete with all necessary conveniences, for the old insanitary, damp, dark, overcongested, places which are now disappearing should produce a marked improvement in the health and personal habits of the people concerned. Such is my hope and my belief. In the future, Local Authorities will have to exercise vigilant supervision in regard to houses, because if supervision is neglected, and dirt and disrepair are unchecked, sooner or later a future slum problem will arise.

During the year, 272 plans for new dwellinghouses were approved, and 221 were completed.

32 houses were erected with State Assistance by the Local Authority.

There are many back to back houses which can only be rendered fit for habitation by conversion into through dwellings, but this entails dispossession of families for which the grant per head is not available. Unless Local Authorities can secure grant it is not possible to build houses which could be let at a rent the people would be able to pay, and the only alternative is to condemn this type of dwelling as unfit for habitation.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This is one of the most important duties of a Sanitary Authority and constant vigilance, and frequent inspections are necessary. A list of places so supervised is given in the Sanitary Inspectors Statement, together with a record of the visits paid by the Inspectors.

MILK.

All farms and dairies are the subject of frequent visits, and this leads to a much greater degree of cleanliness than would be otherwise obtainable. In addition, quarterly visits are paid by the Veterinary Surgeon and animals examined for any signs of disease, and for cleanliness.

If any breach of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926 is discovered, a warning notice is sent to the owner.

There have been no legal proceedings during 1933. In two instances the Committee was advised of infringements of the order respecting the filling of bottles in an unauthorised place, and of the absence of identification marks on a vehicle used for the transport of milk. Communications were sent warning against a repetition of the offence.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923.

There is one licensed retailer of Certified Milk, and of Pasteurised Milk. The firm's premises are in Rochester, but they operate largely through the Medway Towns.

Year by year deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis occur, and it is proved that the majority of the victims have been infected by Milk containing tubercle bacilli.

The plain fact is that many animals are suffering from tubercular infection, and that the bacilli from even one infected animal becoming distributed in the mixed milk of a herd is a source of danger.

Short of eliminating all tubercular animals—an impracticable step, the only remedy is to pasteurise all milk. This process does not destroy the nutritive value of the fluid, but it does kill disease producing organisms.

It is essential that the process is carried out in an efficient manner.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES OF MILK.

Seven samples of mixed milk were examined for Tubercle Bacilli. In one instance a positive result was obtained. A veterinary examination of the herd was made, and subsequently an inoculation test took place with negative results.

In three of the animals examined the udders were indurated, and pus was present. The sale of milk from these animals was discontinued.

INSPECTIONS OF MILCH COWS.

The average number of cows giving milk is 180.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Slaughter of Animals' Act, passed in 1933, is a humanitarian rather than a Hygienic Act. Its intention is to abolish cruelty, but if Authorities who for some years have had Bye-Laws regulating humane slaughtering in operation, do not by resolution add sheep and goats to the list of animals coming within the provisions of the Act, their then Bye-Laws lapse. The inference of the Act is that unless an animal is previously rendered unconscious the act of killing is cruel—but on account of religious scruples, Jews and Mahomedans may practise cruelty—but the Gentile is forbidden to do so.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT REGULATIONS), 1924.

A statement of the number of slaughterhouses, and the visits paid by Inspectors will be found in the Sanitary Inspectors' Statement.

The provisions of the Regulations with regard to notice of intended slaughtering are well observed, and facilitate the inspection of carcasses, and the discovery of disease.

POTTED AND PRESERVED MEAT.

All premises where any kind of potted or preserved meats are prepared are visited at frequent and irregular intervals. There are 8 on the Register.

RESTAURANTS, ICE CREAM.

Kitchens of restaurants and eating houses, and places where Ice Cream is made or stored are under constant supervision. The method of distribution of ice cream is greatly improved, and the

street barrow where it was ladled out with a dirty spoon into a dirty glass by individuals not conspicuous for personal cleanliness is rarely seen.

Of the 53 sellers of ice cream on the Register, the majority make and sell very small quantities on the premises.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1928.

Samples are taken by the County Police, and I am indebted to Superintendent Hickmott for the following particulars of samples taken in Chatham, during 1933.

New Milk	...	...	66	Cocoa Essence	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	15	Cocoa	...	...	1
Margarine	...	...	10	Baking Powder	...	...	1
Lard	...	...	2	Tea	...	...	1
Fresh Cream	...	...	2	Cornflour	...	...	1
Sterilised Milk	...	...	3	Whiskey	...	...	5
Castor Sugar	...	...	1	Brandy	...	...	1
Cooking Sugar	...	...	1	Rum	...	...	1
Jam	...	...	1	Citric Acid	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	1	Mercury Ointment	...	...	1
Mustard	...	...	1	Camphor Liniment	...	...	1
			Total	...	...	...	118

With the exception of two samples, all were genuine.

Two prosecutions were made.

- (1) Selling New Milk deficient in fat to the extent of over 15%. Fined 20/-.
- (2) Selling New Milk deficient in fat to the extent of over 15%. Fined 40/-.

If any bacteriological examination of suspected food is required, the Laboratory of the Kent County Council at Maidstone is available.

NUTRITION.

No special measures in regard to the dissemination of knowledge on this subject have been taken.

In regard to Health Education generally—the Empire Marketing Board Frames have been taken over by the Council, and are used for the exhibition of posters dealing with Health, and supplied monthly by the Health and Cleanliness Council.

The periodical "Better Health" has been discontinued owing to lack of advertising support.

Section F.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

Of the common acute infectious diseases there has been no great prevalence, and there have been no deaths.

The number of Scarlet Fever Cases was approximately the same as in 1932, and Diphtheria rather more.

The following Tables give particulars of:—

- (a) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified, admitted to Hospital, and Deaths during 1933.
- (b) Infectious Diseases during 1933, including Tuberculosis, classified according to ages.
- (c) Ward Distribution of Infectious Diseases, including Tuberculosis during 1933.
- (d) The number of cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases, from 1924 to 1933.

(a) **Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
and Deaths during the year 1933.**

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	25	24	—
Scarlet Fever	146	110	—
Pneumonia	29	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—
Erysipelas	10	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	2	2	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	1	—

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1933. (AGES.)

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysip- elas	Ophthalmia Neon- atorum	Pneumonia	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Enteric Fever	Cerebro- Spinal Meningi- tis	Tuberculosis	
										Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary
Under 1 year	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1-2 years	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
2-3 years	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3-4 years	12	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
4-5 years	12	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10 years	60	12	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	1	1
10-15 years	37	6	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	1
15-20 years	6	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	8	1
20-25 years	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	8	1
25-35 years	4	1	1	-	4	1	-	-	-	12	2
35-45 years	3	-	2	-	6	-	-	-	-	7	1
45-65 years	1	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	10	-
65 years up	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-
Totals	146	25	10	2	29	1	1	2	2	50	9

(c) INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1933.
WARDS.

Ward	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Pneu- monia	Ophthalmia Neon- atorum	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Enteric Fever	Cerebro- Spinal Menin- gitis	Erysipelas	Tuberculosis	
										Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary
St. Mary's	22	-	9	1	1	-	-	-	1	9	2
St. John's	20	4	3	-	-	-	-	1	3	10	1
St. Michael's	28	5	5	-	-	-	-	1	2	9	1
St. Paul's	30	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	-
Luton	26	9	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	10	2
Christchurch	20	6	6	-	-	-	2	-	1	7	3
Totals	146	25	29	2	1	1	2	2	10	50	9

(d) TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
1924—33.

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Malaria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Cerebro- Spinal Fever	Acute Polio- myelitis	Encephalitis Lethargica	Dysentery
1924	44	14	17	1	0	7	1	9	11	0	1	3	0
1925	53	47	4	4	0	20	2	6	12	0	0	1	0
1926	73	222	12	2	0	19	0	8	9	1	1	1	0
1927	123	252	6	2	7	17	0	8	24	0	0	0	0
1928	223	447	0	2	7	12	0	7	29	0	1	2	0
1929	61	98	6	3	4	13	1	14	24	5	0	2	0
1930	84	44	2	1	2	21	0	4	7	2	0	1	0
1931	58	26	2	2	6	11	0	1	20	0	1	0	0
1932	149	11	16	2	4	11	0	4	21	6	0	0	0
1933	146	25	2	1	1	10	0	2	29	2	0	0	0

LABORATORY WORK.

The specimens sent to Maidstone for bacteriological examination and the results are as follows :—

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Total</i>
Diphtheria Swabs ...	21	115	136
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	111	228	339
Blood Tests for Typhoid Fever	2	6	8
Hairs for Ringworm Para- site	1	3	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid ...	1	1	2
Swabs for Streptococci ...	—	3	3
	136	356	492

SCARLET FEVER.

Cases notified ...	146
Households affected...	137
Removed to Hospital	110
Deaths	none

33 cases were under 5 years of age, 97 between 5 and 15, and 16 over these ages.

For many years Scarlet Fever has been of a very mild type, and in my opinion the majority of the uncomplicated cases could very well be kept and supervised at home. Whenever accommodation is suitable I adopt this practice.

The real reason why so many cases desire to go to Hospital is an economic one.

Measles and Whooping Cough are both more serious than Scarlet Fever, and when they are complicated with severe Bronchitis or Pneumonia are certainly more in need of Hospital treatment than mild cases of Scarlet Fever.

IMMUNISATION FOR SCARLET FEVER.

The Dick test and subsequent active immunisation is not practised. It takes a long time, its results are somewhat uncertain, and it is not known with certainty how long immunity lasts.

In the subjoined Table are particulars of Scarlet Fever from 1916 to 1932.

Year	Cases Notified	Number Under 5 Years	Deaths	Treated in Hospital	Attack Rate per 1000 Population	Mortality per 1000	Percentage Removed to Hospital
1916	88	13	2	70	2.	.004	79
1917	52	8	—	43	1.2	—	83
1918	93	7	2	81	2.1	.004	87
1919	56	7	1	49	1.2	.002	88
1920	110	16	1	87	1.8	.002	80
1921	145	19	2	118	3.4	.004	81
1922	78	8	—	72	1.8	—	91
1923	60	9	1	58	1.3	.002	96
1924	44	12	—	32	1.0	—	70
1925	53	10	1	48	1.2	.002	90
1926	73	8	2	55	1.7	.004	75
1927	123	22	—	94	2.9	—	76
1928	223	29	1	93	5.	.002	42
1929	61	10	2	52	—	.004	85
1930	84	16	—	71	1.9	—	84
1931	58	8	1	48	1.3	.002	82
1932	149	21	—	103	3.4	—	69
1933	146	33	None	110	—	—	74

DIPHTHERIA.

Cases notified	...	...	...	25
Households affected	...	...	...	23
Removed to Hospital	...	...	...	24
Deaths	...	...	...	none

It will be seen from the following Table that the incidence of Diphtheria in Chatham has tended to increase every 4 or 5 years. If this rule holds good we may expect an increase of cases within the next year or two, but I trust that owing to the immunisation of a considerable proportion of children during the past three years, this periodical incidence will no longer occur.

SUPPLY OF ANTITOXIN.

Antitoxin is always available at the Town Hall, or at the Chief Fire Station.

It is issued to medical men free of charge.

Particulars of Diphtheria from 1916 to 1933.

Year	Cases notified	Deaths	Death Rate per cent. of those attacked
1916	76	3	4
1917	34	2	6
1918	31	1	3
1919	27	2	7
1920	261	13	5
1921	176	16	9
1922	61	6	10
1923	27	—	—
1924	14	—	—
1925	47	2	4
1926	222	17	7
1927	252	19	7
1928	447	30	6.7
1929	98	11	11.2
1930	44	1	2.3
1931	26	—	—
1932	11	—	—
1933	25	—	—

IMMUNISATION FOR DIPHTHERIA.

For the purpose of protecting young children against Diphtheria a special session is held once weekly.

The process, if the preliminary Schick test is omitted, entails three attendances at intervals of 14 days, and a final test three months after the last injection. This last test is of great importance, as without it, one cannot say whether immunity is or is not established.

There is considerable apathy and reluctance on the part of many parents to have their children immunised, and it is only by advocating its advantages on every possible opportunity, that this apathy can be overcome.

The numbers attending during 1933 are rather less than in the two previous years.

		1933	1932	1931
Total new cases	... ..	459	575	614
„ immunised	... ..	405	561	560
„ Schick negative	... ..	26	15	54
„ „ positive	... ..	28	17	119
„ attendances	... ..	2295	2819	2716
Average attendance per session		45	55.27	52

The following Table shows the new cases attending during 1933.

6 months to 12 months	One to Two years	Two to Three years	Three to Four Years	Four to Five years	Five to Six years	Six to Seven years	Seven to Eight years	Eight to Nine years	Nine to Ten years	Ten to Eleven years	Eleven to Twelve years	Twelve to Thirteen years	Thirteen to Fifteen years	Total
0	17	22	30	28	106	36	20	60	25	29	18	44	24	459

Of the total there were 259 under the age of 8 years, and 200 between 8 and 15 years.

430 had a Schick retest three months after the last immunising dose. 418 attended for inspection of which 17 gave a positive test; and received two or three subsequent injections before a negative result was obtained.

The prevention of Diphtheria should have the hearty support of all ratepayers. When prevalent the disease has a very disturbing effect on school attendance, whilst the cost of Hospital treatment is a very large item of expenditure. For £20, which is about the average cost of each patient treated in Hospital, 50 children can be protected against the disease, a signal example of economical public health work.

Diphtheria immunisation on this ground alone should be welcomed. It is quite harmless, practically painless, is founded on well reasoned and scientific principles, and I feel confident that future results will amply justify its continued practice.

Constitutional disturbance is almost unknown, and only occasionally is there any local reaction.

Toxoid Antitoxin Mixture (T.A.M.) is the prophylactic in general use, but should any local reaction occur after the first injection, Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules are substituted. The latter is more costly. Both preparations have a high immunising efficiency.

In children below eight years the preliminary Schick test is never used. I am inclined to dispense with it entirely in all cases, because even amongst the older children there is always a large proportion of non-immunes, varying from 50 to 80 per cent., and again if not used it diminishes the number of attendances, an important matter from the parents point of view.

Of course, absolute permanent immunity is not guaranteed, but the protection given is almost complete, and in all but a very small proportion lasts many years, and even if a child is attacked the disease is of a comparatively trivial character.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Two cases were reported during the year, both of which were treated in hospital.

No deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

The only diseases of this type were 2 cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. Both received hospital treatment. One case proved fatal. Particulars of the Serum treatment given were sent to the Ministry.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever cases are admitted to St. Williams' Hospital, situated in Rochester, containing 100 beds including 8 cubicles.

Cases are not admitted without the Sanction of the Medical Officer of Health.

Provision exists for the treatment of Cerebro-Spinal Fever, but there is no accommodation for Measles or Whooping Cough.

SMALL POX.

No cases.

VACCINATION.

The Vaccination Officer has kindly supplied particulars of Vaccination in the Medway Area, comprising Rochester and Chatham.

Birth lists from Registrar	...	810
Successfully vaccinated	...	512
Declarations of objection	...	311
Postponements	... ..	43
Insusceptible	... ..	1

ANTHRAX.

One case of Anthrax was reported, but the diagnosis was not confirmed by bacteriological examination.

There were no other diseases of unusual character reported.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**MEASLES.**

Every week intimations of cases are received from the elementary schools. During the spring of 1933, several cases were so reported, and all were visited by the school Nurses. In the majority of instances a medical man was in attendance.

There were no deaths.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

One death was registered.

INFLUENZA.

There was no serious prevalence of this disease. 7 deaths occurred in January and February, and doubtless many deaths from Bronchitis or Pneumonia were the result of Influenza.

OTHER DISEASES**CANCER.**

The number of deaths from Cancer was 68, as compared with 53 during 1932, and 80 during 1931.

In the majority of cases the seat of disease was in organs where it is not easily recognised in the early stages.

There is a Radium Clinic for the treatment of Cancer of the skin, tongue, mouth and uterus, held once a week at the West Kent General Hospital at Maidstone.

Much of the general increase of Cancer is attributable to the age grouping of the population. It is essentially a disease of later life. A vast amount of research is taking place with regard to the causation of the disease, and its possible prevention. At present, early discovery and surgical interference offers the best hope of success.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Treatment Centre for this Area is administered by the County Council. It is situated at 36 New Road, Rochester.

The Medical Officer H. Nicol, Esq., F.R.C.S., has kindly supplied the following particulars :—

	1933	1932	1931
Total new patients ...	613	624	733
Total attendances ...	25,344	32,975	32,578
Discharged cured	489	319	444
Transferred to other areas	156	104	95
Ceased attendance before cure	19	25	70

The Chatham Cases numbered 171 or 27.8 of the total new cases. Of the last 200 recently infected cases 78 or 39 per cent were contracted in Chatham. The attendances made by Chatham patients were 10,427. It is satisfactory to note a diminution of new cases, and an increase of cases discharged. This is partly due to stricter police supervision over prostitutes, and to educational measures respecting the dangers of this class of disease.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

There has been no action under Section 66 of the Public Health Act 1925.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Notified	Cases		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
2	2	1	2	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

There has been no necessity to exercise the powers contained in Section 62 of the Public Health Act of 1925. Similar powers exist in the Chatham Corporation Act of 1923.

Table showing new cases and mortality during 1933.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10 years	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
10 to 15 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20 years	2	5	-	1	2	1	-	1
20 to 25 years	4	3	1	-	1	-	-	-
25 to 35 years	6	7	1	1	2	1	-	-
35 to 45 years	3	4	-	1	3	1	-	-
45 to 55 years	5	1	-	-	5	1	-	-
55 to 65 years	3	2	-	-	3	1	-	-
65 years up.	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	25	25	4	5	17	5	-	1

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

Pulmonary.

Total Notifications	...	...	50
By Private Practitioners	...	...	32
Hospitals	...	...	2
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	12
Poor Law Institutions	...	...	—
Transferred from other districts			4

Non-Pulmonary.

Total Notifications	...	...	9
By Private Practitioners	...	...	5
Hospitals	...	...	1
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	3
Poor Law Institutions	...	...	—
Transferred from other districts			—

CLASSIFICATION OF NON-PULMONARY CASES.

Glandular	...	...	3
Bones and Joints	...	...	3
Peritoneum, etc.	...	...	3

DELAY IN NOTIFICATION.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Notification Received.</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>
H.C. ...	29/4/33	28/4/33
E.F. ...	4/8/33	4/8/33
P.H. ...	26/10/33	26/10/33
G.B. ...	29/12/33	28/12/33

On January 1st, 1933 there were on the Register :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	63	51	114
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	28	20	48

On December 31st, 1933, the numbers were :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	64	59	123
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	27	20	47

The number of cases removed from the Register during 1933 was :—

Pulmonary	...	...	42
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	11

Eighteen of the above removals were presumed to be cured, as there was no record of continued treatment, and five years had elapsed since the primary notification.

Twenty-three had died and eleven had left the district. One case was transferred from the Non-Pulmonary to the Pulmonary list.

There were no deaths from un-notified cases of Tuberculosis.

Dr. Charles Roper, the Tuberculosis Officer for the District has kindly supplied the following particulars relating to Chatham patients attending the Dispensary.

Number of New Cases	...	...	...	...	163
Total Attendances (Old and New)	...	...	...	...	868
Number sent to Institutions	...	...	...	...	57

Diagnosis. New Patients.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	52
Surgical Tuberculosis	...	...	...	13
Other diseases	...	...	...	10
Apparently healthy...	...	...	...	83
Under observation	...	...	...	5
				163

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1933 :—

Lenham Sanatorium	...	...	...	18
Keycol Hill „	...	...	...	11
Grosvenor „	...	...	...	8
Sevenoaks Hip Hospital	...	...	...	2
Croydon Boro' Sanatorium	...	...	...	1
St. Nicholas Hospital	...	...	...	1
Victoria Home, Margate	...	...	...	1
Cranbrook Convalescent Home	...	...	...	1
R.S.B. Hospital, Margate	...	...	...	3
Preston Hall, Aylesford	...	...	...	1
Tait Convalescent Home	...	...	...	1
Medway Hospital, Chatham	...	...	...	8
Eversfield Chest Hospital	...	...	...	1
				57

RAINFALL DURING 1933.

I am indebted to Mr. Coles Finch for the following particulars of rainfall at Luton and Woolman's Wood.

		<i>Luton</i>	<i>Woolman's Wood</i>
January ... ..	...	1.57 inches	1.66 inches
February ... ..	...	1.49 "	1.21 "
March ... ..	...	2.60 "	2.62 "
April ... ..	...	.68 "	.64 "
May ... ..	...	1.95 "	2.28 "
June ... ..	...	1.23 "	1.42 "
July ... ..	...	2.68 "	4.17 "
August ... ..	...	.71 "	.67 "
September ... ..	...	2.62 "	3.28 "
October ... ..	...	1.54 "	1.73 "
November ... ..	...	1.20 "	1.18 "
December ... ..	...	.49 "	.56 "
Totals ... ..	...	18.76 inches	21.42 inches

