

**[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Chatham Borough.**

**Contributors**

Chatham (Kent, England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1944

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bkg643q6>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>




BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

---

ANNUAL  
**REPORT**  
OF  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR  
1944

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health and  
School Medical Officer,  
Medical Officer—Maternity and Child Welfare





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29099110>

## LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE CHATHAM COUNCIL

---

The Mayor

(Councillor J. T. Hawes, J.P.)

The Deputy Mayor

(Alderman H. J. Cloake)

Alderman W. J. Webb, J.P.

Alderman F. G. Luff

Alderman E. G. Maynard

Alderman R. F. Brain, C.C.

Alderman F. H. Lawrence

Councillor H. J. Stearne

Councillor Mrs. F. M. Freeman

Councillor W. F. Hollands

Councillor M. Packer

Councillor G. B. Silver

Councillor W. Heath

Councillor W. Blackmore

Councillor G. W. Hitches

Councillor A. E. Lake

Councillor W. T. Davis

Councillor J. Presnail

Councillor R. Homden

Councillor L. E. Shave

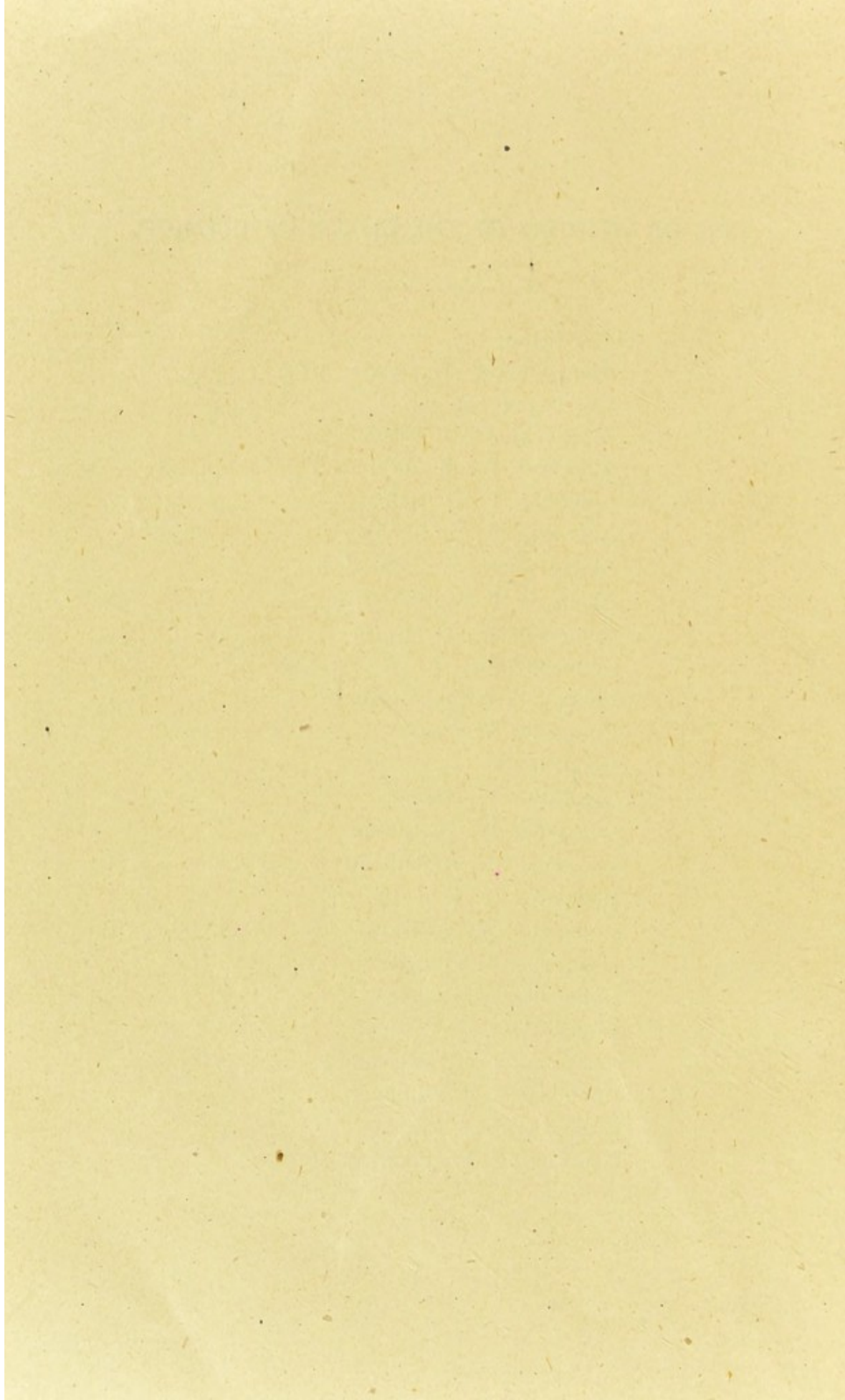
Councillor G. A. Rosenberg

Councillor E. J. Whitaker

Councillor A. S. Price

Councillor E. W. Boorman





## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

This consists of the whole of the Members of the Council.

(Chairman—Alderman F. LAWRENCE)

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

This consists of the Members of the Public Health Committee with the following co-optative members:—Mesdames E. M. CROOKS, B. A. LEWIS, H. J. STEARNE, J.P., L. STAYLAERS, and A. E. HAWKINS.

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

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

*Medical Officer of Health :*

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health :*

SHEILA M. M. NIALL, L.M.S.S.A.

*Dental Surgeon :*

WILLIAM C. GRIFFITHS, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

*Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

THOMAS HOWARD (a) (b).

*Senior District Sanitary Inspector :*

A. W. R. TURNBULL (a) (b) (resigned 8-7-44).

F. W. I. WHITEHOUSE (a) (b) (f) (appointed 18-8-44).

*District Sanitary Inspector :*

W. JOHNSON (a) (resigned 14-8-44).

*Senior Health Visitor :*

Miss M. WILD (c) (d) (e).

*Health Visitors :*

Miss R. TIPPLE (c) (d) (e)

MRS. F. E. GAFFNEY (d).

Miss J. M. MOSS (c)

Miss J. TOMBLESON (c) (d)

*Chief Clerk :*

H. L. CLARK (s).

*Acting Chief Clerk :*

Miss V. F. M. JENKINS.

*Clerks :*

Miss E. ROGERS (s).

A. C. STRIKE.

Miss P. THIRGOOD.

*Clinic Clerk :*

Miss G. HAKEMAN.

MISS E. WILLSON (appointed 8-8-44).

*Dental Attendant :*

Miss J. E. ROBERTS.

(a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

(b) Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

(c) State Registered Nurse.

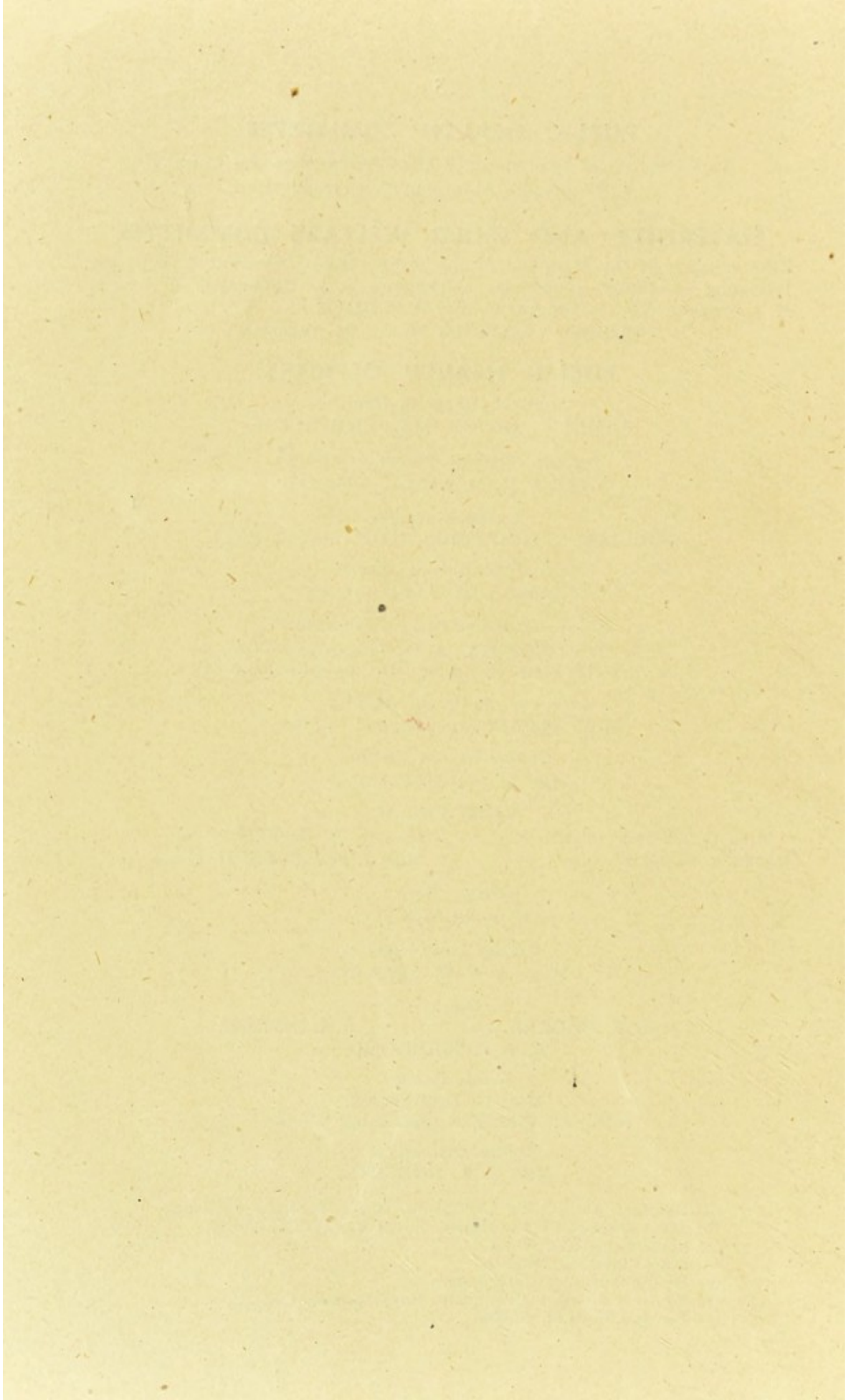
(d) State Certified Midwife.

(e) Health Visitor's Certificate.

(f) Sanitary Science Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

(s) Serving in H.M. Forces.





## Borough of Chatham

---

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chatham*

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the Borough for the year 1944.

Taken generally, the health of the Borough was excellent. The one black spot, and it is a big one, is infant mortality. I have therefore dealt with this subject at length.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria was low. For the latter I feel we can claim some credit for the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign.

To my staff I would put on record my sincere appreciation of their loyalty and conscientious work. Dr. S. Niall was officially appointed my Deputy during the year and her work in the various clinics has been outstanding in spite of having to devote one day a week and half a day a fortnight to Gravesend.

I very much appreciate the unfailing support I have at all times received from the Council.

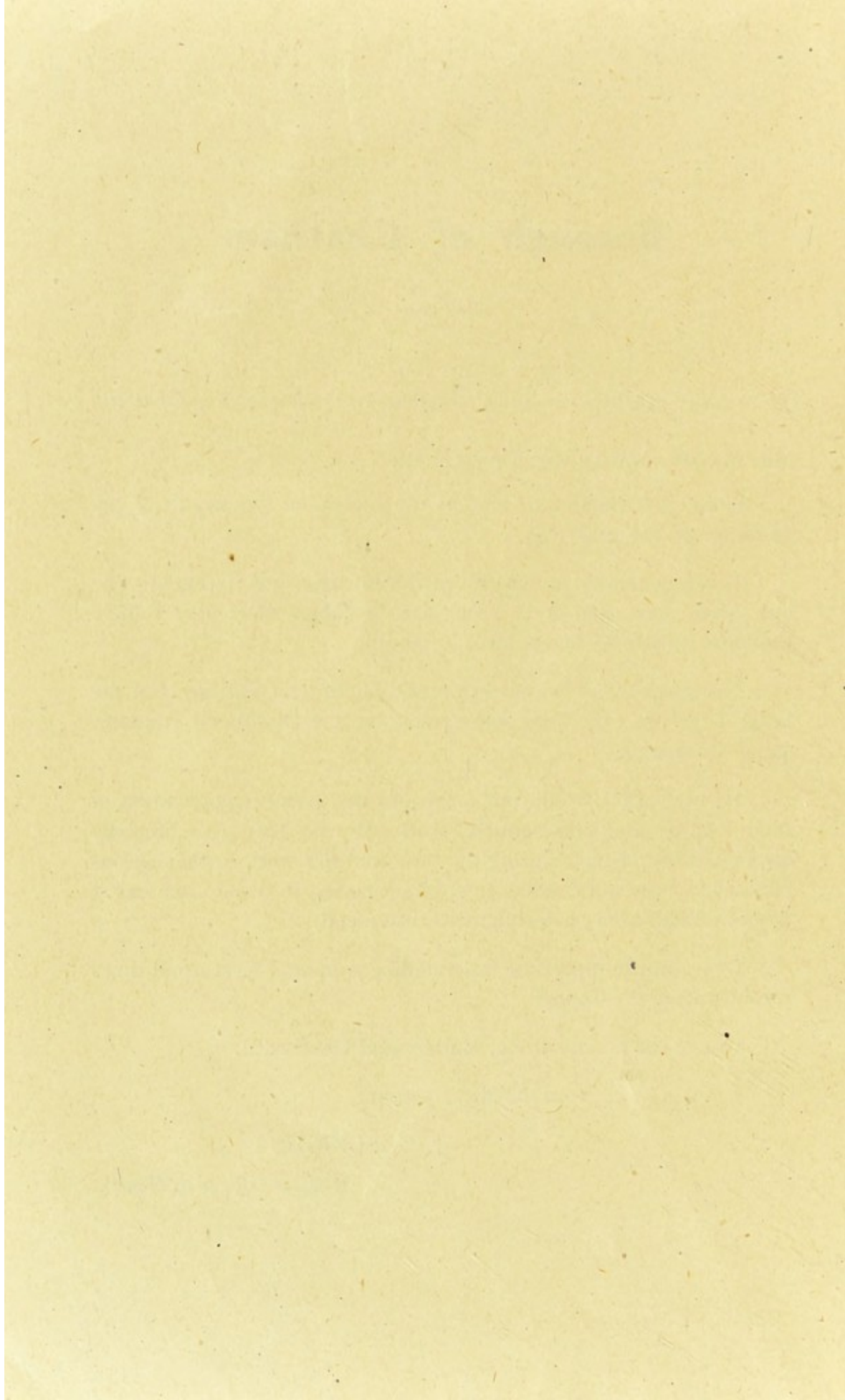
I have the honour to be, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,

*Medical Officer of Health.*





**Section A****STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA**

Area (in acres) ... ..	4,356
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (end of 1944) ... ..	35,180
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books ... ..	11,937
Rateable Value ... ..	£278,068
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£1,080

**EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS**

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births—Legitimate ... ..	411	364	775
Illegitimate ... ..	27	34	61
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... ..			23.7
Stillbirths ... ..			21
Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ... ..			24.3

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths ... ..	313	188	501
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... ..			14.23

**DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES**

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (total live and stillbirths)
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	—	—
Total ... ..	—	—

**DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE**

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	87.3
--	------

**DEATHS FROM**

Cancer (all ages) ... ..	72
Measles (all ages) ... ..	—
Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	33

**BIRTHS**

The number of births recorded is 836 as compared to 717 in 1943.



**Section B****GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.****LABORATORY FACILITIES**

The bacteriological examinations of throat swabs, sputum, blood, milk, water or other suspected material are carried out in the County Council Laboratory at Maidstone.

Chemical examinations are done by the County Analyst.

There is no delay in sending results.

**CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES****I. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE**

- (a) Ante Natal Clinic. TUESDAYS, 10 a.m.—12 noon.  
THURSDAYS, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

- (b) Children under 5 years of age.

MONDAYS	}	2—4.30 p.m.
TUESDAYS		
FRIDAYS		

- (c) Dental. By appointment daily.

- (d) A combined Child Welfare and Ante Natal Clinic is held at the Methodist Hall, Walderslade, on the first Friday of each month.

**2. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION**

WEDNESDAYS 2—4.30 p.m.

**3. SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE**

- (a) Minor Ailments and Medical Inspection.

MONDAYS	}	9—9.30 a.m.
WEDNESDAYS		
FRIDAYS		

- (b) Dental. Daily by appointment, 9—4.30 p.m.

- (c) Refraction. One session each week by appointment.

- (d) Medical Inspection at Schools. Four sessions per week by appointment.

**4. OPHTHALMIC CLINIC**

By appointment. 1st and 3rd THURSDAYS in each month.  
9 a.m.—12 noon.

**5. SCABIES CLINIC, County Hospital F.A. Post.**

MONDAYS and THURSDAYS, 10 a.m.—12 noon and 6—8 p.m.

This is staffed by the personnel of the F.A. Post. The treatment is by "Kathiolan" and it has proved most efficient. Every



endeavour is made to have the whole family treated at one time and the clothing is sterilised at the Post, the bedding at the Brook Depot. Two attendances only are necessary and so far the results are 100 per cent. cure with no unfortunate after effects. Our thanks are due to the personnel of the Post under the charge of Mrs. Green, Post Lay Superintendent, for this excellent work.

The number of cases treated during the year was 466.

We hope the European War will cease during 1945 and the A.R.P. personnel will then not be available for this duty. Provision has been made in the estimates for the paying of part-time personnel to man this very important clinic.

6. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY, 13 NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER  
TUESDAYS 2 p.m.—3 p.m. and 5 p.m.—6 p.m.  
FRIDAYS 9.30 a.m.—10.30 a.m.

7. TREATMENT CENTRE FOR VENEREAL DISEASES, 36 NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER  
TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS for consultations.  
Daily for treatment.

Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 5 are provided by the Council and Education Committee.

Nos. 4, 6 and 7 are provided by the Kent County Council.

#### **MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE**

Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.

Beds are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and the County Hospital for acute illness. If convalescent care is needed it is secured at a suitable institution and a Cot Fund is available.

The Salvation Army and the Rochester Diocesan Society receive unmarried mothers in their Homes.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936**

##### **CHILD LIFE PROTECTION**

The requirements of this Act, which extends to children under the age of 9 years, who are received for reward, necessitates frequent inspection to see that the premises are suitable, and that the children are properly cared for.

Number of children on the register at 1st January, 1944	...	8
Number of children on the register on 31st December, 1944	...	7
Number of reception notices received	... ..	7
Number of removal notices		
(1) to other addresses in the Borough	... ..	3
(2) to other addresses outside the Borough	...	5
Number of visits paid by the Health Visitors	... ..	18



## VISITS

Month	Total Home Visits	Child Welfare			Ante Natal	
		0—1	1—5	1—5	1st	Subs.
January	513	61	170	164	4	3
February	763	42	220	310	3	3
March	692	81	266	298	2	4
April	647	65	245	287	6	3
May	681	78	248	400	5	3
June	763	66	282	318	3	2
July	502	50	187	189	2	3
August	689	54	274	318	1	2
September	803	53	325	386	2	4
October	639	92	211	290	4	4
November	755	70	260	351	3	2
December	285	33	89	137	—	—
Total	7732	745	2777	3448	35	33

## CLINICS

Month	Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
	Total Attend.		New Cases		1st Attend.	Subs.	
	0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5			
Jan.	271	93	36	2	42	60	3
Feb.	333	98	38	4	28	72	3
Mar.	372	129	47	2	44	73	1
April	347	103	33	2	55	55	1
May	377	120	41	—	37	73	5
June	356	105	41	3	35	78	2
July	346	95	36	1	24	77	2
Aug.	319	90	28	—	33	91	—
Sept.	336	108	32	3	31	61	1
Oct.	376	116	34	91	31	71	3
Nov.	282	87	30	2	39	53	6
Dec.	260	68	24	2	14	39	3
Total	3975	1212	420	112	413	803	30

## DENTAL TREATMENT

Below is Mr. Griffiths' Report:—

## ADULTS.

Number treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	181
Extractions	...	...	...	...	...	...	186
Fillings	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Consultations	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

## INFANTS.

Number treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Extractions	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Number of gas cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Fillings	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Consultations	...	...	...	...	...	...	10



A fairly large increase in the dental work done for expectant and nursing mothers is obvious when we compare the 1944 figures with those of each preceding year, while a reduction in all categories of dental treatment continues to characterise the figures representing the pre-school child.

WILLIAM C. GRIFFITHS,

*Dental Surgeon.*

### INFANTILE MORTALITY

This once again is the black spot in the Health Statistics for Chatham. It is 87.3 per 1,000 births—worse even than 1942. The cause this year is a bad outbreak of Gastro-Enteritis accounting for 33 out of the 73 deaths.

Appended are statistical tables giving information on breast feeding, financial circumstances, cleanliness, overcrowding, attendance at clinics, etc.

TABLE A. Shows the cause of death and the environmental circumstances. In one case of Gastro-Enteritis no information was available—an inward transfer and the Mother had left the district when the Health Visitor called. Certain important features stand out in this table.

- (a) Overcrowding was of no consequence.
- (b) 31 out of 32 cases of Gastro-Enteritis investigated had at least some bottle feeding. There can be no doubt that artificial feeding is a very serious cause of this group of diseases.
- (c) The figures for financial circumstances, standard of cleanliness, attendance at clinics, and the take up of the special foods supplied by the Ministry of Food are good and suggest none of these conditions are serious predisposing factors, nor do the 17 cases in which the Mother was at work during part of her pregnancy suggest this as a potent cause. It will be noted that stillbirths numbered 21 whilst deaths under one month (neonatal deaths) total 27. The relationship between stillbirths and neonatal deaths is about average and in the present state of our knowledge little can be done to lower either of them. It is in the deaths one month to twelve months that we should be able to exercise considerable improvement.

TABLE B. In this group it will be seen that the infectious group of diseases, Gastro-Enteritis, Pneumonia and Bronchitis account for the great majority. Most of the "Others" also come into the infective group.

TABLE C. Shows the place of death as being chiefly (57 cases) in hospital, and



TABLE D. Shows the distribution in Wards. St. Paul's certainly comes out worst with 17, but in proportion to births there is no definite statistical evidence of undue proportions in any one Ward.

Gastro-Enteritis in infants is a mixed group of diseases. There is no single organism responsible and in all but one case the actual organism was not identified. It can however be stated that the infective agent enters by the mouth, i.e. it is in food or water on the bottle or teat. Now teats have been in very short supply and of poor quality and this may very well be a contributory factor. The matter was taken up with the Board of Trade and some improvement in the supply of teats was obtained, but the position is still very unsatisfactory.

The water supply in Chatham is very hard and is chlorinated. It should not be a likely cause and this was confirmed by the experience of neighbours in Rochester and Gillingham where certain defined areas obtain their water from other sources. The death rate from Gastro-Enteritis was the same in these defined areas as in the remaining portions of the two Boroughs.

Various forms of food have at times fallen under suspicion and samples sent for bacteriological examination. All proved negative, but it must be emphasised that these samples were taken, in most instances, long after the death and were of the same brand of food, but not of the actual food used at the onset of the illness, a very serious limitation of their value. The reason for this is that the disease is not notifiable and only in those odd cases where the Health Visitor comes across a case during her routine visits does one have the opportunity of scientific investigation of the food. All deaths have been investigated, but especially in "Inward Transfers" this investigation comes weeks or even months after death and obviously cannot show much of value.

Application has been made to the Minister of Health for Gastro-enteritis to be made locally notifiable under Section 147 of the Public Health Act, 1936, but has been refused on the ground that it is not a definite disease but a group of diseases with very different causes and it is suggested that a further Health Visitor be appointed to increase the visiting of infants. I shall be very pleased to have this extra nurse and she will certainly do some good but the disease is a very acute one, many cases are dead within a few days of the onset and few of these will be picked up by the appointment of one extra nurse. That the term Gastro-Enteritis in Infants is a vague one I agree, but until we get to know the incidence of the disease, and that can only be done by notification, we cannot scientifically



investigate the causes and origin of it. After all, Scarlet Fever is still notifiable as a single disease yet we know that there are at least twenty-eight different diseases, each giving immunity to itself alone, comprised in this group, whilst the death rate from the whole group is insignificant compared to Gastro-Enteritis. It has been asked "What useful purpose would notification serve?" It would suggest:

- (1) It will allow early and complete investigation of each case.
- (2) It will give the incidence of the disease. At present we only know of the deaths.
- (3) We could send a specially trained nurse to help in the home nursing of the case. Owing to the diversity of causes this disease, like Scarlet Fever, is not best nursed in hospital unless complete cubicle isolation with highly trained nursing staff is available owing to the dangers of cross infection. The death rate in hospital was over 50 per cent. of cases admitted, though it must be borne in mind that several cases were admitted moribund.

Lastly I come to the question of "Why should Chatham Infant Mortality and especially from Gastro-Enteritis, be so much higher than the County as a whole?" I regret I cannot give a satisfactory answer. Gastro-Enteritis has appeared in epidemic form in various parts of the country. Glasgow had a bad outbreak and the Medical Officer of Health, Sir Alexander MacGregor, has very kindly supplied me with the results of his investigation. These, though of course dealing with much larger numbers, show the same facts as we have, lack of breast feeding and the absence of environmental factors.

Chatham was certainly plagued with flies in 1944, possibly due to lack of proper dustbins, but as far as I can judge this applied to most parts of the country.

In regard to our immediate neighbours, Gillingham was remarkably free of Gastro-Enteritis and their infantile death rate will be low; Rochester figures are pretty much the same as Chatham.

I have obtained good co-operation from the Midwives in meeting the Health Visitors and encouraging breast feeding, but the position in regard to breast feeding is obviously far from satisfactory.



**TABLE A.** **INFANT MORTALITY, 1944.**

Cause of Death	No.	Overcrowd- ing		Feeding		Financial Circumstances			Cleanliness			Attend Clinics		Mother Working		Min of Food Vita- mins
		Yes	No	Breast	Bottle	Poor	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair	Good	A.N.	C.W.	A.N.	P.N.	
Prematurity (1 set Twins) ...	14	—	14	3	5	2	8	4	—	8	6	9	—	7	—	11
Congen. Defects ...	8	1	7	2	4	1	3	4	1	2	5	5	1	2	—	5
Pneumonia ...	8	—	8	2	6	4	—	4	3	2	3	7	3	1	1	7
Bronchitis ...	3	—	3	2	1	—	1	2	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	3
Gastro-Enteritis ...	33*	1	31	1	31	2	12	18	2	11	19	16	15	6	—	26
Others ...	7	—	7	1	6	—	4	3	—	2	5	6	3	1	—	4
	73	2	70	11	53	9	28	35	6	26	40	45	23	17	1	56

\* 1 no information.

Stillbirths: 21.

Ages at Death.

12 hrs. 12-24 hrs. 1-7 dys. 8-28 dys. 1 mth. 2 mth. 3 mth. 4 mth. 5 mth. 6 mth. 7 mth. 8 mth. 9 mth. 10 mth.  
 5 9 13 11 8 4 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

Ages at Death. Premature Congenital Defects.

12 hrs. 12-24 hrs. 1-7 days. 8-28 days. 1 mth.  
 5 1 8 4 3 .

Infantile Mortality per 1000 live births 87.3  
 Neonatal Mortality per 1000 live births 32.29



TABLE B

	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	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Meningitis .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (Non T.B.) .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis .. .	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia .. .	—	—	1	1	2	4	1	—	1	8
Diarrhœa .. .	—	—	1	1	2	11	5	13	2	33
Syphilis .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation .. .	3	1	—	—	4	3	—	1	—	8
Premature Birth .. .	11	—	1	1	13	1	—	—	—	14
Rickets .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes .. .	—	—	1	1	2	1	2	—	1	6
Total ..	14	1	5	5	25	22	8	14	4	73

TABLE C

	St. Mary's	Christchurch	Luton	St. Paul's	St. Michael's	St. John's	County Hosp.	St. Bart's Hosp.	R.N. & M.M.H.	Other Hospitals
Measles .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Meningitis .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (Non T.B.) .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis .. .	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia .. .	—	1	1	—	1	—	3	1	—	1
Diarrhœa .. .	1	—	2	—	1	—	23	5	—	1
Syphilis .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation .. .	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2
Premature Birth .. .	—	1	—	1	1	—	8	—	2	1
Rickets .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes .. .	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	—	—
Total ..	3	3	3	3	4	—	38	9	5	5



## HOSPITAL DEATHS IN WARDS

TABLE D

	St. Mary's	Christchurch	Luton	St. Paul's	St. Michael's	St. John's	Total
Pneumonia . . . . .	—	2	—	1	1	1	5
Diarrhœa . . . . .	1	4	4	11	5	4	29
Congenital Defects . . . . .	—	1	2	1	1	1	6
Premature Births . . . . .	2	—	2	1	—	6	11
Whooping Cough . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis . . . . .	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other Causes . . . . .	1	—	1	1	1	1	5
Total . . . . .	4	8	9	15	8	13	57

## TOTAL DEATHS BELONGING TO EACH WARD

Pneumonia . . . . .	—	3	1	1	2	1	8
Diarrhœa . . . . .	2	4	6	11	6	4	33
Congenital Defects . . . . .	1	2	2	1	1	1	8
Premature Births . . . . .	2	1	2	2	1	6	14
Whooping Cough . . . . .	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Bronchitis . . . . .	1	1	—	1	—	—	3
Other Causes . . . . .	1	—	1	1	2	1	6
Total . . . . .	7	11	12	18	12	13	73
Births . . . . .	78	158	154	157	128	161	836

## THE CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

In accordance with Circular 20/44 of the Ministry of Health, the Council purchased the following articles:—

1 draught-proof cot; 2 electric blanket pads; 2 special feeding bottles; 2 thermometers; 2 mucus catheters; 4 rubber hot water bottles.

Unfortunately the draught-proof cot arrived damaged and had to be returned. It has not yet (18/4/45) been returned from the makers. The Health Visitors have been able to make sufficient warm and suitable clothing to meet all requirements. These outfits are sent out on loan, free of charges, on the request of Doctors or Midwives, and in order to cover exceptional demands we have an agreement with Rochester that if all our outfits are out they will loan an outfit to Chatham, and vice versa.

## ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

The following arrangements agreed at a meeting of Maternity and Child Welfare local authorities' representatives in Kent were adopted and have worked very well.

- (1) That the medical officers of the respective welfare authorities be responsible for ensuring close co-operation between officers of the authority, particularly the health visitors, and the voluntary organisations concerned with the problem.



- (2) That approval be given to the appointment of an additional visitor to the headquarters staff of the County Council to assist in administration and co-ordination and with the investigation of special cases, the officer to have, if practicable, special qualifications and training in this type of social work. Where the services of this officer are utilised by autonomous welfare authorities, they be asked to contribute towards her salary and expenses on the basis of user during each financial year.
- (3) That wherever possible the expectant mother should be persuaded to make known her circumstances to her parents and, if the home is likely to be a satisfactory one, persuade the grand-parents to make a home there for the child.
- (4) That the expectant mother should be advised on suitable accommodation before and immediately after confinement and to this end voluntary bodies providing such accommodation should be assisted financially.
- (5) That the mother should be assisted to obtain an affiliation order or otherwise to secure assistance from the father of the child; if the mother so desires the assistance of the Probation Officer to be sought.
- (6) That the mother shall be assisted to find employment, preferably with her baby, in an institution or in private employment; in this connection the assistance of the appropriate officer of the Ministry of Labour and National Service to be enlisted at an early stage.
- (7) That, if a home cannot be found for the baby with the mother's relatives, lodgings for the mother and baby should be sought when she desires non-resident work, and to this end voluntary bodies providing such accommodation should be assisted financially.
- (8) That a suitable foster mother should be sought if it is necessary for the mother and baby to be separated, the Welfare Authority undertaking to give financial assistance towards the cost.
- (9) That places should be sought in a residential nursery or home for babies whose mothers cannot look after them and for whom accommodation cannot be found by other means, and to this end voluntary bodies providing such accommodation should be assisted financially.
- (10) That in special cases, e.g., where the mother is very young or is the wife of a man not the father of the child, every help should be given to the mother in regard to legal adoption.
- (11) That the advice given should be followed up and every effort made to ensure that the baby is kept under observation at the Child Welfare Centre until the education authority or other body or person appointed by the Court to act in connexion with adoption proceedings takes the case in hand.
- (12) That any cases in which difficulties arise or special action or advice is required, be referred to the County Medical Officer for consultation, and, if necessary, special investigation.



- (13) That to facilitate early supervision and assistance, health visitors, midwives, probation officers, moral welfare workers and others who may be concerned should notify the County Medical Officer of cases in the County welfare area, or the respective Medical Officers of Health of cases in autonomous welfare areas, of any unmarried pregnant woman or girl who is known to need or is likely to need help, in order that steps to care for her during pregnancy and arrangements for her and the child after birth can be co-ordinated.
- (14) That autonomous welfare authorities be recommended to take action on the same lines as the County Council particularly as regards the granting of financial assistance to voluntary bodies under paragraphs (4), (7) and (9).
- (15) That the County Council do immediately endeavour to obtain premises suitable for adaptation as a residential nursery to which children could be admitted as soon as the mothers are able to return to work, this establishment to be available for the reception of children from the autonomous welfare areas upon their agreeing to bear in respect of such cases the ascertained weekly cost of maintenance.
- (16) That, pending exploration of the possibility of the establishment as a permanent part of the County maternity and child welfare scheme of a post-natal hostel in which mothers and children could be accommodated during the period between discharge from hospital and fitness for employment, negotiations be opened by the County Council with the Ministry of Health for the admission of these cases, both from the County and autonomous welfare areas, to a post-natal hostel expected to be established by the County Council on behalf of the Ministry under the Government Evacuation Scheme, the cost of maintenance to be borne by the responsible welfare authority at such rates as the Ministry may decide. The average duration of stay of the mother and child in such a hostel should be three months.

If and when a similar post-natal hostel is established by the County Council as part of its welfare scheme, autonomous authorities to be permitted to make use thereof on a cost of maintenance basis.

#### **INFESTATION**

Frequent examinations by School Nurses—Health Visitors and personal propaganda have proved reasonably efficient. An extending trial of "Lethane" was carried out but proved disappointing. So far it has not been necessary to take proceedings under the Scabies Order.



**WAR TIME DAY NURSERIES****Pattens Lane**

At the request of the Ministry of Labour another cottage (No. 11) was taken over at the Cottage Homes on 19/4/43 and the necessary adaptations and provision of shelter accommodation carried out. The expected increase in numbers attending did not arise and No. 11 Cottage was closed on 28/4/44. It was actually never necessary to occupy it though it was used to a slight extent as a means of spreading the children to minimise the risk of infection.

Consequent on the opening of the new Nursery at Maida Road on 30/5/44, the numbers attending Pattens Lane fell still further and on 4/12/44 the Annexe at Pattens Lane was closed.

The numbers attending Maida Road never reached expectations and on 28/12/44 the bus taking the children from the Collecting Point at St. Mary's First Aid Post was diverted from Pattens Lane to Maida Road. This left so few attending Pattens Lane that the Nursery there was finally closed on 3/2/45. All children are now accommodated at Maida Road, using St. Mary's First Aid Post as a picking up point for children when mothers find it more convenient to leave them there than take them out to Luton.

Maida Road Nursery is now running fairly nearly to capacity with a very marked saving in cost per child per day. I am afraid it would be very difficult to prove that Pattens Lane Nursery made, on balance, any contribution to the war effort if we set on one side the Man-Woman hours employed in its adaptation, furnishing and Staff and on the other Woman hours of the mothers made available for War Work.

It is apparently the policy of H.M. Government to transform War Day Nurseries into Nursery Schools. Presumably such schools will be available to children over 2 years only and be open only for reasonable hours, a policy which has much to commend it.



## TOTAL DEATHS, 1944.

CAUSES OF DEATH.							M.	F.
ALL CAUSES .. .. .							313	188
1.	Typhoid Fever, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
2.	Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
3.	Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
5.	Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Influenza .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5	1
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Respiratory Tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	17	12
10.	Other Tuberculous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
11.	Syphilis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	4	—
12.	Gen. Paralysis of Insane, Tabes, etc. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
13.	Cancer .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	49	23
14.	Diabetes .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	22	13
16.	Heart Disease .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	69	36
17.	Aneurysm .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	9	4
19.	Bronchitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	19	17
20.	Pneumonia (all forms) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	19	12
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	6	2
22.	Peptic Ulcer .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	7	—
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	13	21
24.	Appendicitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
26.	Other Liver Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	6	1
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	8	8
29.	Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
30.	Other Puerperal Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	16	6
32.	Senility .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	17	9
33.	Suicide .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
34.	Other Violence .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	8	5
35.	Other Defined Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	12	12
36.	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	12	12
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above):—								
	Small-pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
	Poliomyelitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
	Polioencephalitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—								
	Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	42	31
	Legitimate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	38	29
	Illegitimate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	4	2

RESIDENT POPULATION .. .. 35,180



## Section C

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

## WATER

## RAINFALL DURING 1944

I am indebted to A. E. Watkins, Esq., B.Sc., A.M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.W.E., for the following figures taken at Luton Waterworks.

Rain Gauge:—Diameter of Funnel, 5 ins.

Height of top above ground, 3 ft. 0 ins.

Height of ground above sea level, 88 ft.

Month	Total Depth	Greatest Fall in 24 hours	No. of days with .01 in. or more	No. of days with .04 in. or more
	Inches	Inches	Date	
January .....	1.20	.28	22nd	12 8
February .....	1.13	.73	16th	11 5
March .....	0.12	.05	18th	4 2
April .....	1.68	.56	16th	8 6
May .....	0.46	.17	16th	4 4
June .....	1.36	.30	26th	13 8
July .....	2.48	.96	3rd	14 9
August .....	3.07	1.21	24th	11 10
September .....	2.88	0.77	7th	15 14
October .....	5.04	0.91	20th	22 18
November .....	4.59	0.71	5th	19 17
December .....	1.53	0.59	16th	13 8
Total ...	25.54			146 109

## WATER

The water supply throughout the year has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

It is common to Chatham, most of Gillingham and Rochester east of the Medway.

Bacteriological tests of the treated water are done monthly by Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham, and fortnightly by the Water Company, giving five bacteriological examinations per month. All have proved excellent.

The untreated water is examined fortnightly by the Water Company, and the results passed on to the three Medical Officers of Health. Very occasionally evidence of slight contamination appears, e.g. Coliform Bacilli present in 30 c.c. A typical chemical analysis is appended.

Considering that a large proportion of the Catchment area is agricultural in character with no sewers and that the water is obtained from borings in the chalk such results must be expected. It is neces-



sary, therefore, to continue chlorination, but as soon as conditions permit the Company will be requested to instal softening and de-chlorination plant giving a period of contact of 30 minutes. It is of interest that one private well, now discontinued, going down 400 feet produced a regularly excellent water but not sufficient in quantity. The well was deepened to 600 feet when the quantity proved adequate but the water showed considerable evidence of pollution!

Action under Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is taken where possible to minimise pollution but with marked shortage of labour during the year very little could be accomplished.

About 0.4 per cent. of the houses (0.25 per cent. of the population) are not connected to a piped supply. Most of these depend on rain water stored in tanks, though a few have independent wells. This cannot be considered satisfactory and a scheme is being drawn up under the Rural Water Supplies Act for the provision of a piped supply to practically all houses. The matter is complicated however by the necessity of connecting all such houses to the main drainage. To fail to do so would merely add to the risk of pollution of the main supply of water. Careful planning is therefore necessary in the laying of sewers so that they may form an integral part of the sewerage system of the town as it develops in the future.

There is only one standpipe in the town serving six houses. During the very dry spell of the Spring and early Summer several houses depending on rainwater were completely without water. By the courtesy of the Water Company I was able to arrange with the N.F.S. to pump water to their tanks and so tide them over until the rain came.

I have made an analysis of a sample of water marked:—

Luton Raw Water at New Electric Station,

and taken by me at 2.45 p.m. on the 21st of April, 1944.

The results are as follows.

*Chemical Analysis* (expressed in parts per 100,000).

Suspended Solids	Nil
Dissolved Solids	39.80
Chloride (as $\text{Cl}_2$ )	2.2
Free Ammonia	0.0015
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0026
Nitrate (as $\text{N}_2$ )	0.71
Nitrite	Very faint trace
Oxygen Consumed from permanganate (4hrs. at $80^\circ\text{F}.$ )	0.0032
pH value	7.0
Temporary Hardness	23.02
Permanent Hardness	4.03

*Physical Examination.* Clear, colourless, odourless.

A. SCIVER.

DRS. RIDEAL, RIDEAL & SCIVER,  
*Public Analysts.*



## CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1944.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.*

I beg to submit my report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors and Sanitary Depot for the year ended 31st December, 1944. The year has been difficult owing to shortage of staff. Since June there have been only one District Sanitary Inspector and myself, and it has not been possible to carry out all our duties. In 1939 the staff was 3 District Sanitary Inspectors and myself. Advertisements have been issued but it has not been possible to fill the vacancies. There was an increase in the amount of time devoted to food inspection and the condemnation of unsound rationed goods. This was caused by the fact that all tradesmen must present "condemnation certificates" (issued by this Department) to the Ministry of Food for replacement of points and rationed goods. The Borough of Gillingham has allowed their Inspectors to assist in work of meat inspection since October.

House to house inspections have not been carried out, with the consequent lowering of the standard of fitness of the houses. There has been a serious shortage of building operatives; repairs of houses neglected, and there appears a very few houses in the Borough in which a sanitary defect is not evident. In order to get the most essential defects remedied it was necessary to arrange for the withdrawal of operatives from final War Damage repairs. With the aid of the Sub-area Leader, Ministry of Works, a scheme was introduced whereby, on the owner presenting a letter of essentiality from this Department to the builder named therein, arrangements were then made for the builder to withdraw his operatives from other essential work to carry out the terms of that letter. This scheme was working satisfactorily but has been superseded by an Order of the Ministry of Works, S.R. & O., 1945, No. 105. Both these arrangements have as their aim the carrying out of essential work only, and have been successful, but have a further call on the time of the available Inspectors. Overcrowding is now much more common due to the lack of houses for young married couples who are obliged to share their parents' homes. Houses in general are rapidly deteriorating through the want of maintenance repairs. Routine inspections have not been carried out as frequently as is desirable, with the consequent lowering of the standards of cleanliness. The shortage of sanitary dust-bins is also creating a serious nuisance. Sites of demolished houses are becoming dumping grounds for household refuse, etc., and breeding places of flies and vermin.

### DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS TO THE CORPORATION SEWERS

During the year a further 12 premises were connected to the Corporation Sewers.



### CESSPOOL WORK

880 complaints of choked drains were received, and it was found possible to clear 698 drains from obstruction. Overflowing cesspools made up the remainder of the complaints.

Some 390 cesspools were emptied, this necessitating the contents of 327 cesspools being pumped direct into the foul sewers, 594 tins of solids conveyed to the Joint Sewerage Board, water and 94,150 gallons of sewage transported from outlying houses to the nearest sewers. There was an increase in this work for the year.

### COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

There are 6 registered cow-keepers with 13 cowsheds in the Borough. On the Register are also:—

- 2 Producers of Accredited Milk.
- 3 Wholesale Producers.

Owing to the Borough being zoned for the distribution of milk there are 19 Retail Purveyors of milk.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER AND MILK.

The following samples were collected for analysis:—

- 38 Water Samples.
- 26 Milk Samples.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS.

The work has again taken up a considerable portion of the Inspector's time and there is an increase in the amount of food which was destroyed.

### CARCASES INSPECTED

			Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
1940	..	..	2204	978	1151	18896	1637	24886
1941	..	..	2066	707	1187	12462	901	17323
1942	..	..	1322	479	520	8235	1153	11709
1943	..	..	1165	546	1025	6641	466	9861
1944	..	..	1341	1087	963	4956	1147	9494

### UN SOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED, 1944

The total amount of meat and other food destroyed was 36 tons 8 cwts. 0 qrs. 20 lbs., of which 17 tons 1 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lbs. was affected by Tuberculosis.

Bovine Carcases and Offal	...	...	...	...	...	65
Pig	..	..	..	..	..	26
Sheep	..	..	..	..	..	13



Calves	„	„	„	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bovine hind and fore quarters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	309
Livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	373
Plucks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Stomachs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Intestines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Hearts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	209
Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Skirts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Udders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Spleens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

Tons. cwt. qrs. lbs.

All meat including Home-killed meat  
(listed above)

31 1 2 5

Fish

1 6 3 27

Tinned and other Foods

3 19 2 16

**CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED**

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number inspected	1341	1087	963	4956	1147	9494
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	6	18	1	13	23	61
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	107	168	2	78	65	420
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	8.4	17.1	0.31	1.8	7.7	5.06
<b>Tuberculosis Only.</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	10	31	1	0	3	45
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	81	273	0	0	30	384
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	6.8	27.9	0.1	—	2.87	4.52



**RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION**

The Council still employ a Rat Catcher and an assistant, and no charges are made for their services.

Pre-baiting as recommended by the Ministry of Food has been tried but only with limited success.

	Rats Caught			Visits
	Black	Brown	Total	
Dwelling Houses ...	3	116	119	565
Shops and Stores ...	696	763	1459	6936
Corporation Refuse Shoot	—	889	889	109
Farms ... ..	—	331	331	50
	<hr/> 699	<hr/> 2099	<hr/> 2798	<hr/> 7660
Days or part days worked by rat catcher ... ..				301
Varnish boards laid ... ..				1166
New Applications ... ..				208

**BAKEHOUSES**

There are 16 Bakehouses in the Borough, 2 of which are not in use.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Particulars of all cases notified and removed to Hospital will be found in Section F of this report. The number of loads of bedding disinfected was 88 and 31 rooms were disinfected. Library books from 16 premises were disinfected.

**COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS**

There is 1 common lodging house and 8 houses let in lodgings on the register.

**OFFENSIVE TRADES**

There are 23 Fish Friers' premises on the register, 5 of which are temporarily out of use.

**MORTUARY**

The following bodies were removed to the public mortuary:—

Adult Males ... ..	14
Adult Females ... ..	4
Male Children ... ..	—
Female Children ... ..	2

Post mortems were carried out on 8 bodies; 5 bodies were buried at the expense of the Parish.



**CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS**

There were no cases of suspected Swine Fever reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**VERMIN.**

The following were fumigated for vermin:—

**ROOMS.**

Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	50
Other	...	...	...	...	...	151

**LOADS OF BEDDING.**

Council Houses (including scabies)	...	...	...	...	25
Other Houses (including scabies)	...	...	...	...	123
Firewatchers	...	...	...	...	25
Home Guard	...	...	...	...	19
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	37
N.F.S.	...	...	...	...	14
War Day Nurseries	...	...	...	...	17
Local Furnishers	...	...	...	...	12

**PROSECUTION**

A successful prosecution was undertaken against the occupier of a dirty house and the penalty of 40s. and a daily penalty of 10s. was inflicted.

**SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933**

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at 31st December, 1944, was 25. Many of these are now serving in H.M. Forces.

**PIG SWILL**

The amount of pig swill collected during the year was 116 tons 11½ cwts., for which an amount of £215 18s. 9d. was received.



**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938**

During the year 145 samples of food and drugs were taken as per the following table:—

ARTICLE	No. of Samples.		Result of Analysis.					
	Formal.	Inform.	Adulterated.		Fair Quality.		Genuine Good Quality.	
			Formal.	Inform.	Formal.	Inform.		
Milk .. .. .	68	19	—	—	—	—	87	
Butter .. .. .	2	2	—	—	—	—	4	
Black Pepper ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Egg Substitute ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Sterilized Milk ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Beer .. .. .	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Sterilized Milk ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Pickled Onion ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Ulster Broth ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Semolina .. .. .	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	
Cakes .. .. .	1	3	—	—	—	—	4	
Lard .. .. .	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	
Margarine .. .. .	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	
Whiskey .. .. .	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Vinegar .. .. .	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	
Almond Essence ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Jam .. .. .	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	
Oatmeal .. .. .	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Sausage Meat ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Glycerine & Borax	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Soya Flour .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Sweets .. .. .	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Mixed Spice .. ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	
Macaroni .. .. .	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Coffee .. .. .	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Tea .. .. .	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Sugar .. .. .	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	
Flour .. .. .	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Fever Cure .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Arrowroot .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Baking Powder ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Castor Oil .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Liquid Paraffin ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Liquorice Powder	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Friars Balsam ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Meat Paste .. ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	

No sample of Food or Drug proved to be adulterated.

**NOTICES SERVED**

During the year 269 Informal Notices and 65 Statutory Notices were served.

**VISITS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR**

Restaurants .. .. .	42
Drainage and subsequent visits .. .. .	157



Repairs and subsequent visits ...	1266
Housing Acts ...	4
Miscellaneous ...	404
Slaughterhouses ...	965
Houses let in Lodgings ...	11
Common Lodging Houses ...	39
Fish Friers ...	33
Marine Stores ...	3
Knackers Yards ...	3
Cowsheds ...	46
Milk Shops ...	138
Workshops ...	21
Outworkers ...	90
Bakehouses ...	40
Houses, 1st Visit ...	678
Public Conveniences ...	23
Contagious Diseases of Animals Acts ...	13
Stables ...	49
Courts and Alleys ...	24
Piggeries ...	24
Infectious Diseases ...	69
Tuberculosis ...	56
Overcrowding ...	6
Bedding and Disinfection ...	78
Unsound Food and Cold Store ...	396
Food Shops ...	185
Schools ...	9
Drains Tested (New) ...	1
Cesspools ...	67
Verminous Premises ...	188
Council House Applicants ...	21
Rats Order ...	288
Gipsy Encampment ...	35
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations ...	83
Shops ...	14
Food and Drugs ...	245
A.R.P. ...	146
Water ...	170
War Day Nursery ...	41
War Damage ...	8
Total ...	6083



**NUISANCES ABATED**

During the year the following nuisances were abated under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors. Considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting nuisances abated owing to present abnormal conditions.

Accumulations of Refuse, etc., removed	...	...	...	6
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	10
Cesspool covers repaired or sealed	...	...	...	1
Chimney pots replaced	...	...	...	1
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	3
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	2
Coppers repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	4
Doorlocks or fasteners repaired	...	...	...	1
Doors or frames repaired	...	...	...	1
Drains repaired	...	...	...	6
Firegrates/renewed	...	...	...	2
Firegrates repaired	...	...	...	2
Floors repaired	...	...	...	7
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	9
Flues repaired or provided	...	...	...	6
Gutters or downpipes cleared	...	...	...	2
Gutters or downpipes provided	...	...	...	3
Inspection covers provided	...	...	...	1
Keeping animals in unfit state	...	...	...	1
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	24
Sashcords repaired or provided	...	...	...	8
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	1
Sink waste pipe repaired or provided	...	...	...	5
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	1
Walls repaired	...	...	...	7
Damp walls repaired	...	...	...	6
Windows reglazed	...	...	...	1
Window frames, sashes, sills, repaired	...	...	...	5
W.C. seats or risers	...	...	...	1
W.C. structures rebuilt	...	...	...	1
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	4
Yard gully or grills provided	...	...	...	2
Drains connected to sewers	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	34

THOS. HOWARD,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*



**Section D****HOUSING****1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	678
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1423
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	269

**2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	70
--	----

**3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR**

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners ... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	65
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners ... ..	36
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	—



(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | — |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | — |

#### NEW HOUSES DURING 1944

(a) The total number of dwelling houses or plans submitted during 1944 was:—

By private persons	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
By the Corporation	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(b) The total number of houses erected during 1944 was:—

By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	Nil
By the Corporation	...	...	...	...	Nil

(c) With State Assistance under the Housing Act:—

By the Local Authority (included in the above total (b))	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

#### CLEARANCE AREAS

Areas taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Houses included...	...	...	...	...	...	...	257
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	257

#### INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

326 houses were reported up to the end of 1944.

Of these—216 were demolished.

58 were rendered fit.

4 were closed under undertaking not to re-let.

15 were not yet demolished.

Parts of 3 houses have been subject to closing orders. Action not completed during 1944—30 cases. There have been 38 individual houses reconditioned by informal action.

The housing position has, I regret to say, further deteriorated. It is even more difficult than ever to get necessary repairs carried out and the effects of this continued neglect are cumulative. The position is further complicated by the marked shortage in Sanitary Inspectors. We have only two Sanitary Inspectors compared to four in 1939. We do 60 per cent. of the meat inspection of the three towns, and, even if we do now get some help from Gillingham in this, it will be realised that it is impossible to carry out the very necessary housing inspections.



**Section E****INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

This is a very important duty of a Public Health Department and much of the Sanitary Inspectors' time is occupied in visiting slaughterhouses and premises where food is prepared or sold.

Particulars of the number of Cowsheds, Registered Cowkeepers, Purveyors of Milk, etc., are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

**POTTED AND PRESERVED MEAT**

The supervision of this class of business is important. Ready cooked and prepared foods are being increasingly used by the public and a close watch is kept on such premises. They are registered under a local act.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938**

Particulars are included in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD**

These examinations are conducted by the Kent County Council.



## Section F

# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1944.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria .. ..	12	11	—
Scarlet Fever .. ..	48	25	—
Pneumonia .. ..	29	3	29
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	18	18	—
Erysipelas .. ..	18	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	1
			(Gastro-enteritis)
Malaria .. ..	2	—	—
Enteric Fever .. ..	1 N/R	1	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	3	1	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	182	2	1
Measles .. ..	201	1	—
Dysentery .. ..	4	2	1

## PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

	Pos.
Diphtheria Swabs .. ..	8
Tubercle Sputum .. ..	47
Hairs for Ringworm .. ..	5
Serum for Typhoid .. ..	—
Faeces for Typhoid .. ..	—
Faeces for Dysentery .. ..	3

## SUPPLY OF ANTI-TOXIN

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is kept at the Public Health Department, Elm House, 15 New Road Avenue, Chatham, and at the Central Fire Station, Railway Street, and is supplied free of charge to medical practitioners. It can be obtained at any hour of the day or night.

The number of units issued during 1944 was 152,000.



**IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA**

The Clinic first opened at the end of 1929 and is held every Wednesday.

New cases (1944) ... ..	649
Immunised ... ..	576
Attendances ... ..	1225

The following table shows the numbers and ages of the new cases:—

1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-6 years	6-7 years	7-8 years	8-9 years	9-10 years	10-11 years	11-12 years	12-13 years	13-14 years	14-15 years
279	45	18	20	47	25	14	23	21	11	27	31	15	—

The yearly figures are as follows:—

Year	Total New Cases	Total Immunised	Total Attendances
1931	614	560	2716
1932	575	561	2819
1933	459	405	2295
1934	392	359	1944
1935	526	482	2271
1936	415	395	2049
1937	398	381	1773
1938	138	129	775
1939	80	80	176
1940	17	—	17
1941	583	514	1097
1942	2480	2399	4916
1943	878	825	1703
1944	649	576	1225

There were twelve cases of Diphtheria notified during the year, four of whom had been immunised. Three of the four were, however, found on subsequent examination in hospital not to be suffering from Diphtheria. The fourth, though a definite case, had none of the usual complications nor was he seriously ill. He had received 0.2 c.c. A.P.T. on 22/7/1942, and 0.5 c.c. A.P.T. on 19/8/1942.



The number of actual cases of Diphtheria was, therefore, nine, one of whom had been immunised.

It can be safely stated that Immunisation gives immunity to normal doses of infection, but if an immunised person gets a very heavy dose of infection which would otherwise lead to a very severe illness, he will get off with a light attack.

The percentage of children now immunised is estimated as:—

Age 1-4 inclusive, 56 per cent.      Age 5-14 inclusive, 80 per cent.

#### VENEREAL DISEASE

The treatment Centre for the Medway Area is situated at 36 New Road, Rochester, and is provided by the Kent County Council.

I am indebted to H. Nicol, Esq., F.R.C.S., the Medical Officer in charge, for the following particulars:—

New Patients	Chatham	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis ... ..	...	5	7	12
Soft Sore ... ..	...	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa ... ..	...	10	5	15
Non-venereal ... ..	...	28	44	72
				<hr/>
				43      56      99
				<hr/>

Total number of patients from all districts served ... ..	156	176	332
---	-----	-----	-----

#### Discharges (all districts served)

Discharged cured:	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis ... ..	9	6	15
Soft Sore ... ..	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa ... ..	39	25	64
Non-venereal ... ..	105	128	233

#### Defaulted before final test of cure:

Syphilis ... ..	3	2	5
Gonorrhœa ... ..	—	4	4

#### Defaulted before completion of treatment:

Syphilis ... ..	4	8	12
Gonorrhœa ... ..	—	5	5

Total attendances of Chatham patients ... ..	...	...	1815
Total attendances—all districts ... ..	...	...	5796



I again note a fall in the number of cases of Venereal Disease accompanied, I am glad to say, by a considerable rise in the number attending the V.D. Clinic and found not to have V.D. This shows that people are going more freely to the clinic to make sure they have not contracted V.D.—a line of thought to be actively encouraged. Examination and treatment at the clinic are secret, but some feel that if they are seen going into the clinic or by some other patient who knows them in the waiting room it will get known that they have V.D. The figures in the report show that this is a fallacy, most of the persons attending did not in fact have V.D.

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Notified	Cases		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
3	3	—	3	—	—	1 (Gastro- enteritis)

### TUBERCULOSIS

Table showing new cases and Mortality during 1944.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	2	1	—	1	1	1	—
5—15 years	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	15	20	—	2	6	6	—	1
25—35 years	12	8	3	1	4	8	—	1
35—45 years	9	4	—	—	2	1	—	—
45—55 years	7	3	1	—	4	—	—	—
55—65 years	6	2	—	—	4	2	—	—
65 years up	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Totals	52	40	7	4	21	21	1	2

TABLE B

(a) *New Patients.*

Male (including children)	...	...	...	...	197
Female	..	...	...	...	213

(b) *Attendance (Old and New Patients)*

Male (including children)	...	...	...	...	780
Female	..	...	...	...	649



(c) *Admissions to Institutions in 1944.*

(including County Hospital, Chatham)

Male (including children)	...	...	...	...	14
Female	..	...	...	...	16

(d) *Diagnosis (New Patients).**Pulmonary.*

Male (including children)	...	...	...	...	39
Female	..	...	...	...	30

*Non-Pulmonary.*

Male (including children)	...	...	...	...	6
Female	..	...	...	...	5

From Table A it will be seen that notifications have risen sharply from a total of 77 in 1943 to 103 in 1944, but it will be noted under Table B (d) that the diagnosis of new cases is practically the same as in 1943. The reason for the difference is the notification by the Tuberculosis Officer of cases which have been attending the dispensary for some years and have not been notified.

Bearing this in mind there is still very little evidence of increase in the incidence of Tuberculosis.

Table B does however show one very pleasing trend. Under (a) New Patients were 410. The Diagnosis (d) shows only 80 were found to have Tuberculosis. The Clinic is therefore being increasingly used as a diagnostic centre in doubtful cases. Only 1 in 5 of the cases sent there were found to be suffering from Tuberculosis.

**NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS****PULMONARY**

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	92
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	38
Hospital and Poor Law Institutions	...	...	...	...	11
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	...	32
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	...	11

**NON-PULMONARY**

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	11
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	—
Hospitals and Poor Law Institutions	...	...	...	...	6
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	...	2
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	...	3

**CLASSIFICATION OF NON-PULMONARY CASES**

Glandular	...	...	...	...	5
Meninges	...	...	...	...	—
Bones and Joints	...	...	...	...	4
Abdomen	...	...	...	...	2



On January 1st, 1944, there were on the Register:—

			Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	116	83	199
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	38	32	70

On December 31st, 1944, the numbers were:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	134	95	229
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	41	35	76

The number of cases removed from the Register during 1944 was:—

Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	64
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	5











