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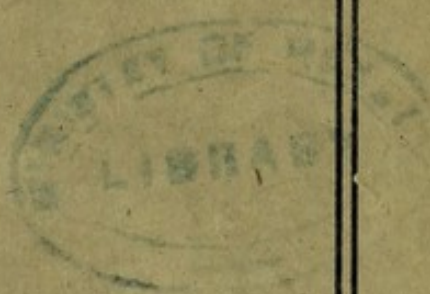
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BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

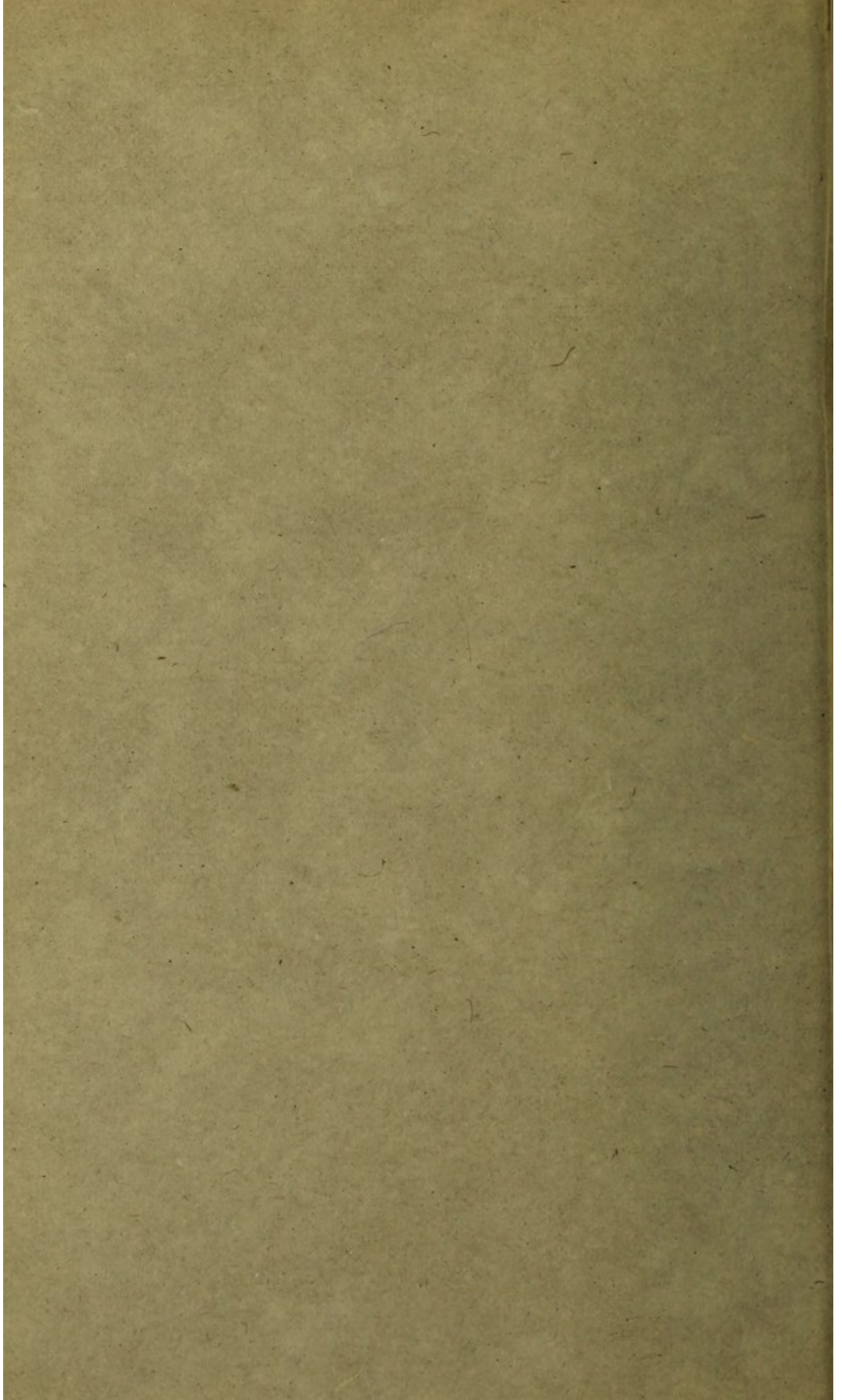
FOR

1946

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

Medical Officer of Health

Medical Officer—Maternity and Child Welfare





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RESEARCH OF BATHAM

REPORT

Annual Report of the

Department of

Education

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE CHATHAM COUNCIL.

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THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor J. T. Hawes).

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Alderman F. H. Lawrence.
Alderman M. Packer.
Alderman W. Blackmore.
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Councillor R. Homden.
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Councillor F. Semple, B.Sc.
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Councillor G. Balderston.

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CHAIRMAN (Alderman W. F. Hollands).

THE MAYOR (Alderman H. J. Stearne, J.P., C.C.).

Alderman F. H. Lawrence.

Alderman M. Packer.

Alderman W. Blackmore.

Councillor Mrs. F. M. Freeman.

Councillor F. Semple, B.Sc.

Councillor J. S. Thomas.

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Councillor Mrs. B. Grieveson, J.P.

Councillor J. Presnail.

Councillor L. Shave, C.C.

Councillor G. Balderston.

Councillor P. Kelly.

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Alderman F. H. Lawrence.

Alderman M. Packer.

Alderman W. F. Hollands.

Alderman W. Blackmore.

Councillor Mrs. F. M. Freeman.

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Councillor J. S. Thomas.

Councillor R. Foster.

Councillor A. L. Garrett.

Councillor J. Presnail.

Councillor L. Shave, C.C.

Councillor G. Balderston.

Councillor P. Kelly.

Together with the following co-optative members:—
Mesdames Garrett, Hollands, Stearne and Balderston.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health :

James C. Sleight, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Sheila M. Niall, L.M.S.S.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

Thomas Howard (a) (b).

Senior District Sanitary Inspectors:

A. E. South, (a) (b),

H. Taylor (a) (b),

G. Richards (a) (b).

Senior Health Visitor:

Miss S. F. Nixon (c) (d) (e).

Health Visitors:

Miss R. A. Tipple (c) (d) (e),

Miss P. Procopiou (c) (d) (e),

Miss A. E. Webster (c) (d) (e),

Mrs. Blackwell, part-time (c) (d) (e),

Mrs. Murray (c) (d) Part-time School Nurse,

Mrs. E. E. Read (c) Temporary School Nurse.

Chief Clerk:

H. L. Clark.

Clerks:

A. C. Strike.

Miss J. Mitchell.

Miss S. Springate.

P. I. Monk.

Clinic Clerks:

Miss E. Wilson.

Miss G. Hakeman.

Matron:

Maida Road Day Nursery,

Mrs. G. H. Harris (c).

- (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 Visitors' Certificate.

Borough of Chatham

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

MR. MAYOR, MESDAMES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1946. In January of this year I presented an interim report based on the figures then available. The final statistics show no significant change from those presented to you then.

From a health point of view 1946 has been very satisfactory. Infant mortality at 32.1, a significant decrease in cases of venereal disease, and very low figures for all infectious diseases except measles, is a very pleasing state of affairs, but this must not be a source of complacency.

The potential dangers are very marked. Housing, including slum clearance, is nearly as bad as ever; overcrowding is rampant, and the state of our dustbins is disgraceful.

The solution to these problems is being pursued relentlessly, but the old story of shortage of labour and materials makes progress very slow.

We cannot demolish unfit houses till we have new houses to put the people into.

A start has been made on the dustbin problem, and the Council are to provide standard dustbins as part of the refuse collection service.

It is to be hoped that by next year it will be possible to have them emptied twice weekly. The state of many of them in hot weather on a weekly collection is far from satisfactory.

The general standard of nutrition as measured by height and weight of school children compares favourably with 1938, but this, I feel, by no means represents the full facts.

It has become noticeable that though people appear to be well nourished, and by physical measurement are so, they seem to lack stamina. Injuries, especially to bones, seem to take longer to heal, and convalescence from illness is more prolonged than before the war.

What the cause is, I do not know. Caloric intake appears to be about sufficient, the various vitamins we know of are sufficient, but something is lacking.

I have recently returned from a week in a fairly rural area in Germany. There the same facts are emerging, though in the large towns there is definitely signs of subnutrition; in the country areas

obvious malnutrition is low. This delay in recovery is marked, whilst the T.B. rate has risen alarmingly.

One possible explanation is the low amount of first-class, i.e., animal protein compared with pre-war.

It is suggested that this delay in recovery and lack of stamina might be investigated by the Research Council.

Our Maternity and Child Welfare services are to be handed over to Kent County Council on the "Appointed Day" under the Health Services Act 1946. We have built up a first-class service, and it is to be hoped that the maximum possible decentralisation of administration will take place to those areas which employ a whole-time Medical Officer of Health. This will ensure some degree of continuity, the personal knowledge so essential in these services, and the necessary link with the environmental services. At the same time opportunity should be taken of decentralising the School Medical Service which so far has hardly maintained the high standards it had when under your control.

May I take this opportunity to record my sincere thanks to you, Sir, Mesdames and Gentlemen, for the kindness and support you have continued to give me.

To my staff, and especially Dr. Sheila Niall, who acted as Medical Officer of Health during my absence in the Army, I would convey my most sincere thanks for their loyalty and most efficient service.

I have the honour to be,

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 (middle of 1946)	39,550
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books:—	
Dwellings	11,207
Shops with living accommodation	688
Licenced Premises with living accommodation	109
Rateable Value	£280,138
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,105

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	438	462	900
Illegitimate	28	36	64
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			24.37
Stillbirths			31
Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births			25.1
Deaths	263	222	485
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			12.3

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (total live and stillbirths)
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	1	1.0
Total	1	1.0

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	32.1
--	------

BIRTHS

The number of births recorded is 964 as compared to 748 in 1945.

DEATHS.

There were 485 deaths. During the previous five years there were:—

1945	...	...	...	...	...	501
1944	...	...	...	...	...	501
1943	...	...	...	...	...	513
1942	...	...	...	...	...	520
1941	...	...	...	...	...	508

The number of deaths occurring each month, at different age groups was as follows:—

Age	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Age group total
All under 1 year	2	2	7	-	1	4	2	4	2	1	2	4	31
1 and under 5	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
5 and under 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
15 and under 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	4	3	12
25 and under 45	4	4	1	1	1	4	1	3	1	2	4	2	28
45 and under 65	14	5	12	10	13	7	12	7	10	13	5	9	117
65 and over	31	26	32	25	21	22	20	15	18	23	27	30	290
Monthly Totals	51	39	53	36	37	37	37	30	31	42	43	49	485

The following table shows the increases and decreases in population since 1921:—

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Natural increase per 1,000 Population
1921	23.4	12.8	10.6
1922	22.2	12.1	10.1
1923	21.1	10.7	10.4
1924	19.8	13.3	6.5
1925	20.3	11.7	8.6
1926	20.2	13.2	7.0
1927	21.1	13.9	7.2
1928	18.0	11.8	6.2
1929	18.0	14.2	3.8
1930	18.5	10.8	7.7
1931	18.0	14.4	3.6
1932	17.5	12.4	5.1
1933	15.1	11.5	3.6
1934	15.2	11.4	3.8
1935	16.3	11.2	5.1
1936	15.5	11.9	3.6
1937	16.2	12.4	3.8
1938	15.95	12.2	3.75
1939	16.1	12.4	3.7
1940	19.55	15.58	3.97
1941	19.06	14.51	4.55
1942	19.03	14.5	4.53
1943	20.1	14.38	5.72
1944	23.7	14.23	9.47
1945	20.73	13.8	6.93
1946	24.37	12.3	12.07

The birth rate for 1946 was the highest since 1920. Combined with an acute housing shortage this has given rise to a serious shortage in maternity bed accommodation.

The opening of a private Maternity Home of 20 beds has helped considerably, but the problem remains. The Council have tried every possible source to increase maternity beds, but so far without success.

TOTAL DEATHS, 1946

		Chatham M.B.	
		Causes of Death	
		M.	F.
All Causes		263	222
1.	Typhoid Fever, etc.	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	1	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	1
5.	Diphtheria	—	—
6.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	26	10
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	1	—
9.	Influenza	2	—
10.	Measles	—	—
11.	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—
12.	Ac. inf. enceph.	1	—
13.	Cancer of Buc. cav. & oesoph (m) uterus (f)	3	4
14.	Cancer of stomach & duodenum	8	5
15.	Cancer of breast	—	6
16.	Cancer of all other sites	34	17
17.	Diabetes	—	1
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	26	22
19.	Heart Disease	77	87
20.	Other dis. of circ. system	5	4
21.	Bronchitis	15	7
22.	Pneumonia	14	9
23.	Other resp. diseases	4	3
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	4
26.	Appendicitis	—	—
27.	Other digve. diseases	4	5
28.	Nephritis	4	9
29.	Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	—	1
31.	Premature Birth	3	2
32.	Con. Mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	8	5
33.	Suicide	2	3
34.	Road traffic accidents	3	1
35.	Other violent causes	2	4
36.	All other causes	17	12
Deaths of Infants under 1 year		Total ..	17
		Legitimate ..	15
		Illegitimate ..	2
Live Births		Total ..	466
		Legitimate ..	438
		Illegitimate ..	28
Still Births		Total ..	20
		Legitimate ..	18
		Illegitimate ..	2
RESIDENT POPULATION ..		39,550	

The following table shows the Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates during a period of 37 years:—

Period	Birth Rate per 1,000	Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality per 1,000 births
1910 to 1914 (average)	25.1	13.4	105
1915 to 1919 do.	22	18	97
1920 to 1924 do.	22.1	12.3	73
1925	20.3	11.7	63
1926	20.2	13.2	83
1927	21.1	13.9	65
1928	18.01	11.8	60
1929	18.03	14.2	95
1930	18.5	10.8	43
1931	18	14.4	63
1932	17.5	12.4	60
1933	15.1	11.5	61
1934	15.2	11.4	63
1935	16.3	11.2	50
1936	15.5	11.9	51
1937	16.2	12.4	66
1938	15.95	12.2	64.1
1939	16.1	12.4	36.3
1940	19.55	15.58	38.1
1941	19.06	14.51	53.37
1942	19.03	14.5	80.76
1943	20.1	14.38	68.3
1944	23.7	14.23	87.3
1945	20.73	13.8	52.1
1946	24.7	12.3	32.1

The infant mortality rate of 32.1 is the lowest on record. That it should be so in spite of housing and maternity bed shortage involving the discharge of mothers and babies from hospital on the 10th instead of the 14th day is surprising, and reflects credit on the liaison between health visitors and midwives.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1946. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C. Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
* Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
Live Births	19.1†	22.2	21.3	21.5
Still Births	0.53‡	0.67	0.59	0.54
<i>Deaths :—</i>				
All Causes	11.5‡	12.7	11.7	12.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 Year of Age	43†	46	37	41
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ..	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2

* A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

† Per 1,000 related births.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Total population.

	England and Wales	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
Notifications :—				
Typhoid fever ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever ..	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06
Scarlet Fever ..	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42
Whooping Cough ..	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22
Diphtheria	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24
Erysipelas	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35
Pneumonia	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):—

(a) Notifications:—

Puerperal Fever ..	} 8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62
Puerperal Pyrexia ..				*9.68

(b) Maternal Mortality—England and Wales:—

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other
0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06

Abortion:—Mortality per million women aged 15-45
England and Wales:—

No. 140 With Sepsis	No. 141 Without Sepsis
11	5

* Including Puerperal Fever

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.

1. *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

(a) Ante-natal Clinics:

White Road	...	...	Tuesdays	a.m.
King's Road	...	...	Tuesdays	a.m.
Elm House	...	...	Thursdays	p.m.

(b) Child Welfare Clinics:

White Road	...	...	Mondays	p.m.
			Thursdays	p.m.
King's Road	...	...	Mondays	p.m.
			Fridays	p.m.
Elm House	...	...	Tuesdays	p.m.
			Fridays	p.m.

(c) Dental—by appointment.

(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.*

Elm House—Wednesdays p.m. (except the last Wednesday in the month).

White Road—The last Wednesday in the month, p.m.

King's Road—ditto.

3. *School Medical Service.*

(a) Minor Ailments and Minor Inspections.

Elm House—Mondays	}	9-10.30 a.m.
Wednesdays		
Fridays		

(b) Dental—by appointment.

(c) Refraction—by appointment.

(d) Medical Inspection at Schools.

(e) Ophthalmic Clinic—by appointment.

4. *Scabies Clinic, County Hospital.*

Thursdays.

Women and children 9 a.m. — 12 noon.

Men 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

5. *Tuberculosis Dispensary, 13 New Road, Rochester.*

Tuesdays 2 p.m. — 3 p.m.

Fridays 9.30 a.m. — 10.30 a.m.

6. *Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases, 36 New Road, Rochester.*

Mondays 1.30 p.m. — 4.30 p.m.

Thursdays 10 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Nos. 3, 5 and 6 are provided by the County Council.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

A new Ambulance Service covering the three Medway Towns commenced on 1st January, 1947.

Strood Rural District, though not a participating authority, are covered by agreement.

The scheme fits in well with the area proposed by Kent County Council under Part III. of the National Health Service Act 1946. The existing Joint Committee will only need to be enlarged to include representatives of the surrounding districts.

HOSPITALS**COUNTY HOSPITAL**

The present allocation of beds is as follows:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Cots</i>
General Medical ...	44	47	12
General Surgical ...	44	26	12
Maternity ...	—	28	28
Venereal Diseases ...	No special beds.		
Ophthalmia ...	No special beds.		
Tuberculosis ...	12	12	
Chronic Sick ...	37	63	
Mental ...	—	56	
Mental Deficiency ...	No special beds.		
Orthopaedic ...	No special beds		
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	No special beds		
Isolation ...	4	4	

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, ROCHESTER

A general hospital containing 201 Beds, thus classified:—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Surgical ...	52	54	106
Children ...	20		20
	<i>(M & F)</i>		
Orthopaedic ...	2	2	4
Observation ...	5		5
Medical ...	21	21	42
Ophthalmic ...	4	4	8
Cancer ...	8	8	16
			201

In-patients treated during 1946 ...	3,079
Average number of occupied beds ...	160.7
No. of New Out-patients treated in 1946	14,994
No. of Out-patient Attendances in 1946	80,840

Fourteen beds for private patients.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital is fully equipped to deal with all acute general medical and surgical cases, and in addition maintains the following Special Departments:

Casualty (for accident and emergency cases at any hour of the day or night).

Orthopaedic (including Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy Departments).

Fracture.

Ear, Nose and Throat.

Dental.

Ophthalmic (including Orthoptic).

X-ray.

Cancer—Radium and Deep X-ray Therapy.

Massage and Electrical.

Pathological and Bacteriological Laboratory.

An Occupational Therapy Department was opened in June, 1946, and is proving of considerable assistance in restoring patients to a fuller capacity of life after severe accidents, etc. This Department is run in conjunction with the Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Department, and every kind of Handicraft is taught according to a patient's particular disability.

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 Individual Foster Mothers receiving children under nine for reward apart from their parents at the end of the year: 5.

Number of children under nine:

(1)	Received during the year	...	...	...	5
(2)	At end of year	...	...	...	5
(3)	Who died during the year	...	...	...	—
(4)	On whom inquests were held during the year	...	...	...	—

DENTAL TREATMENT

During the year arrangements were made with Kent Education Committee for the dental treatment of nursing and expectant mothers on the same lines as existed prior to the coming into force of the 1944 Education Act.

These were expanded to include the provision of Dentures, etc., and this service, providing dentures at a very low cost and in necessitous cases entirely free, thus fully proved its value.

MATERNITY ACCOMMODATION

The acute shortage of maternity beds is still the main problem. The opening of a private nursing home of twenty beds in September, 1946, has certainly helped, but much bigger provision is necessary.

Arrangements have been made with the Kent County Council to the effect that up to twenty beds per month be allocated in the County Maternity Home at Tunbridge Wells to patients from the Medway Towns.

Normal cases are now discharged from hospital on the tenth day. This is far from ideal, but I think it does make the best use of the beds available, being equivalent in numbers of cases dealt with to an increase of about 33%, but it increases proportionately the services to be provided by Health Visitors and Home Helps.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The following regulations govern Home Helps:—

1. The Home Help will attend at a house where a confinement has taken place for a period not to exceed 14 days after the confinement. On the written application of the Doctor attending the case, to the Medical Officer of Health, attendance may be allowed before the confinement, and/or for a further period of 7 days.

2. She will attend for 6 days per week from 7.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., but from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. she will be off duty. The hours may be varied to meet the wishes of the patient with the written consent of the Medical Officer of Health, but only so that the total number of hours on duty is not less than 8 per day.

3. She will be paid by the Borough Treasurer, 12/- per working day, i.e., £3 12s. od. per week, on production of a form signed by the midwife and patient.

4. She must undertake that as long as she is on the list of Home Helps, she will not attend any confinement unless a state registered nurse or midwife is in attendance. A Home Help breaking this rule will at once be removed from the list.

5. She must immediately inform the Medical Officer of Health, whether she is on duty or not, of the occurrence of any infectious disease in her household. "Infectious Disease" includes ordinary colds and sore throats.

6. She must provide and cook her own food.

7. She must cook for the family, and give general supervision to the children, preparing them for school, and if necessary putting them to bed. She will be responsible for keeping the house clean and in good order.

8. She must not interfere in any way with instructions of the doctor or midwife.

9. She is not to wash the patient, nor make her bed, nor undertake any of the duties of the nurse.

10. She will undertake any domestic washing for the children if needed.

11. She must not discuss the family affairs or domestic conditions of the household.

12. The work of the Home Helps will be under the supervision of the Health Visitors and duly appointed visiting member of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

The Health Visitors paid 45 visits for this purpose.

Payment by the patient is on a sliding scale which takes into account rent, rates, necessary expenses and the number of persons in the family.

Number of Domestic/Home Helps employed at the end of the year:—23.

Number of patients who availed themselves of this service:—81.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The same regulations govern Domestic Helps as for the Home Help Service, except for paragraphs 1 and 4. The types of cases dealt with are as follows:—

- (a) Where the housewife falls sick or must have an operation.
- (b) Where the wife is suddenly called away to see her husband in hospital and arrangements have to be made to look after the children.
- (c) With elderly people who are infirm, or one of whom suddenly falls ill.
- (d) Where several members are ill at the same time, e.g., during an Influenza epidemic.

Payment by the patient is on the same basis as that for the Home Help Scheme.

No. of patients who availed themselves of this service:—37.

Both schemes have been running very satisfactorily.

DAY NURSERY

This nursery is situated at Maida Road, Luton, and is available for 60 children aged 1—5 years for day care. Children are admitted in the following order of priority:—

- (a) Children of mothers engaged in vital industrial production.
- (b) Children of mothers employed as nurses, shop assistants, 'bus conductresses, domestic and other employment as the Council may from time to time determine.
- (c) Children of mothers who are ill, or during confinement.
- (d) Children of employed unmarried mothers.
- (e) Children of mothers separated from their husbands, or widows.

subject to provision being made for five vacancies to meet cases of possible emergency as determined by the Medical Officer of Health.

Children under 1 year are not admitted due to the susceptibility of such children to infection.

HOURS OF OPENING

MONDAY—FRIDAY	...	7.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
SATURDAY	... ..	7.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DAY NURSERY—YEAR ENDING, 31st DECEMBER, 1946

	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		Apr.		May		June		July		Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5	0.2	2.5
No. of children on Nursery Register on last day of month	7	30	8	32	14	37	11	38	10	44	10	49	8	48	6	48	7	51	9	42	8	28	—	23
Average Attendance	3.7	22.5	6.4	25.9	8.7	31.0	9.9	34.2	7.3	35.9	8.2	38.0	6.0	40.7	5.0	36.6	5.9	42.4	7.3	36.9	6.5	25.3	3.8	20
Highest Attendance	4	27	8	28	13	33	11	36	9	40	10	44	8	45	5	42	7	45	8	44	8	32	7	26
No. of Mothers whose children were on Register on the last day of month :—																								
(1) In Employment																								
(a) Whole-time	34		32		37		35		34		41		43		37		45		33		27		19	
(b) Part-time	1		2		1		1		2		2		—		3		1		6		6		4	
(2) Compassionate Cases	1		1		3		4		3		3		4		2		1		2		—		—	
TOTAL	36		35		41		40		39		46		47		42		47		41		33		23	
No. of days open during month	27		24		26		23		23		22		27		25		25		27		26		24	

NURSING HOMES

There is one nursing home on the register which has accommodation for 20 maternity patients only, and this will undoubtedly alleviate considerably the maternity bed accommodation in this district.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

Total number of live births notified	...	...	964
Births notified by midwives	...	...	542
Births notified by doctors	...	...	27
Births notified in County Hospital	...	...	222
Births notified in Royal Naval Maternity Home	...	...	82
Births notified in other Homes or Hospitals	...	...	91
Still births	...	...	31

NOTIFIED BIRTHS, HOME ADDRESS NOT IN CHATHAM.

Total	...	...	587
County Hospital	...	...	563
Other Homes or Hospitals	...	...	24
Still births	...	...	28

WARDS.

St. Mary's	...	109	Christchurch	...	168
St. John's	...	183	Luton	...	150
St. Michael's	...	158	St. Paul's	...	196

HEALTH VISITORS—VISITS.

Month	Total Home Visits	Child Welfare			Ante Natal		Special
		0—1 1st	Subs.	1—5	1st	Subs.	
Jan.	305	65	133	89	2	—	16
Feb.	331	54	149	96	1	9	22
March	265	62	83	105	1	—	14
April	247	55	72	102	4	—	14
May	558	78	181	237	11	1	50
June	519	78	195	218	10	—	18
July	659	105	219	303	7	—	25
August	672	73	302	261	3	—	33
Sept.	595	80	292	208	2	—	13
Oct.	545	94	244	178	12	1	16
Nov.	732	86	242	210	8	1	185
Dec.	696	79	167	181	3	—	266
Totals	6124	909	2279	2180	64	12	672

CLINICS.

ELM HOUSE

Month	Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
	Total Attend.		New Cases		1st Attend.	Subs.	
	0-1	1-5	0-1	1-5			
Jan.	305	57	41	6	71	67	1
Feb.	240	61	24	6	52	109	2
March	304	62	37	—	58	103	—
April	361	58	42	2	60	93	3
May	393	72	46	5	95	107	—
June	336	54	38	6	60	81	3
July	468	70	58	2	55	98	3
August	377	62	35	1	46	98	2
Sept.	317	48	34	—	62	115	1
Oct.	333	47	45	5	69	141	3
Nov.	317	38	32	2	56	63	4
Dec.	203	25	25	—	41	45	3
Totals	3954	654	457	35	725	1120	25

KING'S ROAD

Month	Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
	Total Attend.		New Cases		1st Attend.	Subs.	
	0-1	0-5	0-1	1-5			
Jan.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feb.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
August	31	10	6	2	—	—	—
Sept.	114	38	20	3	—	—	—
Oct.	107	28	18	2	—	—	—
Nov.	131	22	18	4	6	13	1
Dec.	140	28	14	4	11	36	—
Totals	523	126	76	15	17	49	1

WALDESLADE

Month	Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
	Total Attend.		New Cases		1st Attend.	Subs.	
	0-1	1-5	0-1	1-5			
Jan.	6	4	—	—	—	1	—
Feb.	4	8	1	—	—	1	—
March	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
April	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	7	4	—	—	—	—	—
June	3	2	1	—	—	—	—
July	5	8	1	—	—	—	—
August	6	2	2	—	—	—	—
Sept.	6	6	1	—	—	—	—
Oct.	8	6	—	—	—	—	—
Nov.	11	6	4	1	1	—	—
Dec.	10	2	2	1	—	1	—
Totals	73	49	12	2	1	3	—

ATTENDANCES AT ALL CLINICS—TOTAL.

Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
Total Attend.		New Cases		1st Attend.	Subs.	
0—1	1—5	0—1	0—5			
4550	744	545	52	743	1172	26

INFANTILE MORTALITY

It is very pleasing to be able to report the lowest infant mortality on record, and the first half of 1947 has maintained this excellent state of affairs.

We have been singularly free from epidemics during the year, but the housing conditions are in many cases deplorable.

Every infant death is investigated and the results appear on Table A. These are frankly rather surprising. Overcrowding, which is very prevalent in the town, was present in only 3 of the 31 cases, whilst neither poverty nor lack of cleanliness appear to have been contributory causes.

It can certainly be maintained that our Child Welfare services, working under grave difficulties, have been efficient—a very good reason for asking the County Council to decentralise the administration to as great a degree as possible of these services under Part III. of the National Health Services Act 1946.

TABLE A. INFANT MORTALITY, 1946

Cause of Death	No.	Overcrowding		Feeding		Financial Circumstances			Cleanliness			Attend Clinics		Mother Working		Min. of Food Vitamins
		Yes	No	Breast	Bottle	Poor	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair	Good	A.N.	C.W.	A.N.	P.N.	
Prematurity ...	5	1	4	2	1	—	3	2	1	1	3	3	—	—	—	4
Congen. Defects ...	9	—	9	5	2	—	6	3	—	4	7	1	1	—	—	6
Pneumonia ...	4	1	3	3	4	—	—	4	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	3
Gastro Enteritis ...	3	—	3	3	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Other Infectious Diseases ...	2	—	2	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Accidents at Birth ...	3	—	3	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Others ...	5	1	4	4	3	1	2	2	2	—	3	—	2	1	—	2
TOTALS ...	31	3	28	20	12	1	12	18	3	5	23	18	5	3	1	21

Stillbirths: 31.

12 hrs. 12-24 hrs. 1-7 d. 8-28 d. 1 mth. 2 mth. 3 mth. 5 mth. 6 mth. 8 mth. 10 mth.

5 3 5 4 2 4 3 1 1 1 2

Ages at Death. Prematurity and Congenital Defects.

12 hrs. 1-7 days. 8-28 days. 2 mth.

3 6 3 2

Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births ... 32.1

Neonatal Mortality per 1,000 live births ... 17.6

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.

These outfits are sent out on loan, free of charge, 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.

The No. of premature babies notified during 1946 was:—48*

* Babies weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth, irrespective of the period of gestation. Still births are not included in this figure.

The total number of premature babies notified during 1946 who were born:—

- (1) At home—22.
- (2) In hospital or nursing home—26.

The number of those born at home:—

- (1) who were nursed entirely at home—19.
- (2) who died during the first 24 hours—2.
- (3) who survived at the end of one month—19.

The number of those born in hospital or nursing home:—

- (1) who died during the first 24 hours—Nil.
- (2) who survived at the end of 1 month—25.

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 grandparents 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 connection 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.

PROVISION OF CONSULTANTS FOR DIFFICULT MATERNITY CASES

Provision has been made whereby a Consultant is available to be called in by the patient's own Doctor for difficult Maternity Cases either ante-natally or at the confinement.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths occurring during pregnancy and child birth are investigated by the Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTION OF WOMEN'S CONVENIENCES.

The Health Visitors paid 31 visits for this purpose.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

RAINFALL DURING 1946

I am indebted to Avon E. Crisp, Esq., M.A., M.Inst.C.E., for the following figures taken at Luton Pumping Station.

January	Total depth in inches	1.22
February	„ „ „ „	2.45
March	„ „ „ „	1.35
April	„ „ „ „	2.32
May	„ „ „ „	3.19
June	„ „ „ „	2.09
July	„ „ „ „	2.35
August	„ „ „ „	5.00
September	„ „ „ „	2.55
October	„ „ „ „	1.71
November	„ „ „ „	4.48
December	„ „ „ „	2.30
		—
	Total depth in inches	31.01
		—

WATER.

Domestic water supply by the Chatham and District Water Co. has been maintained at a very high level of bacteriological and chemical purity. Chlorination is still carried out.

All possible steps are being taken to extend the piped supply to the rural area, but shortage of labour and materials has made progress less than our hopes.

The supply has always been adequate, but the increase in the built-up areas actual and projected may well limit the quantity of water obtainable from the Company's gathering area. All rainfall falling on roads, roofs, etc., and passed into sewers is lost to the gathering ground. Whilst it is desirable that water from roofs and roads should not be passed into the chalk subsoil and hence to our water supply, careful consideration has to be given to the effects of such a policy in the quantity of water available.

It should be borne in mind, however, that the smallest trace of road tar gaining access to water which is subsequently chlorinated has a most disastrous effect on the taste of the water.

Discussions are taking place with the Metropolitan Water Board for further supplies of water from Kent to the London area. It can safely be said that the supply of water available in the county will be required by the county entirely within the next five years, leaving no surplus for Metropolitan needs. Indeed, in 20 or 30 years we may well be in the position of having to ask the Metropolitan Water Board for further supplies for certain parts of the county.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Houses connected to the Public Sewers during the year were:—71.

A large extension of the sewers, both foul and storm, has been planned and has now (August, 1947) received the approval of the Ministry of Health. This includes a special relief sewer designed to prevent some of the flooding which periodically occurs in certain areas of the town following heavy rain.

This flooding is at times very serious, some houses being flooded not only with storm water but foul sewage, and I would ask for every possible priority to be given to the construction of the relief sewer planned.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

A large tidal river like the Medway is necessarily polluted, but being tidal the dilution is great and no action has been found necessary.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

General public cleansing of street gullies, household and trade refuse is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department. Disposal is by controlled tipping.

The old tip in close proximity to the new Housing Estate has been closed and a new one opened on Capstone Farm with much more control of the tipping.

In accordance with the decision of the council all rubbish tipped must be covered the same night.

PUBLIC BATHS

Facilities for hot baths are provided at the County Hospital, Chatham, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1946

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

MR. MAYOR, MESDAMES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report on the work of the Department for the year 1946. The supervision of work carried out under the various Notices served made considerable demands on the time of the Inspectors, but the nuisances abated, due consideration being given to the difficulties in obtaining labour and material, showed a very great increase over the previous year.

An extensive rat campaign in conjunction with the Ministry of Food was carried out.

All vacant houses reported to this Department or noted by the District Sanitary Inspectors have been followed up and they have been re-occupied much quicker, thus preventing requisitioning. It was, however, possible to requisition two houses and one flat.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. HOWARD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS TO THE CORPORATION SEWERS

During the year a further 71 premises were connected to the Corporation Sewers.

CESSPOOL WORK

1,063 complaints of choked drains were received and it was found possible to clear 824 drains from obstruction. Overflowing cesspools made up the remainder of the complaints. Number of cesspools emptied was 467—this necessitating the contents of 419 cesspools being pumped direct into the foul sewers, 520 tins of solids conveyed to the Joint Sewage Board and 236 tank loads of sewage transported from outlying houses to the nearest sewers.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

There are 6 registered cow-keepers with 13 cowsheds in the Borough. Of these:—

- 1 is a producer of Tuberculin Tested milk and
- 2 producers of Accredited Milk.

Owing to the Borough being zoned for the distribution of milk there are 19 retail purveyors of milk.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER, MILK AND ICE CREAM

The following samples were collected and submitted to the County Laboratory for analysis:—

WATER.

36 water samples.

MILK.	No. of Samples taken.	No. of Unsatisfactory Samples
"Accredited"	14	3
"Tuberculin Tested"	7	2
Non-designated	7	—

No. of samples (exclusive of those mentioned above) collected for biological examination: 4.

No. of samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination: 21.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected since 1941:—

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
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
1945	1425	990	1251	3313	1626	8605
1946	1920	1065	3326	5079	1429	12819

UN SOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED, 1946

The total amount of meat and other foods condemned was 62 tons 2 cwts. 2 qrs. 4 lbs.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
All meat, including Home-killed meat	55	5	3	10	4
Fish			10	2	3
Tinned and other Foods	6	14	0	19	9

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number inspected	1920	1065	3326	5079	1429	12819
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	21	6	22	16	67
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	580	428	15	566	100	1689
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	30.3	42.1	.6	11.5	8.1	13.7
Tuberculosis Only.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	28	76	8	—	10	122
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	191	335	3	—	75	604
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	11.4	38.5	.3	0	6.0	5.7

RAT DESTRUCTION

No. of rats caught in dwelling houses	196
No. of rats caught in shops, stores, etc.	541
No. of rats caught at farms	601
No. of rats caught at refuse shoot	377
Total	1715

Days or part-days worked by Rat Catcher	291
No. of varnish boards laid	336
No. of new applications	173

In accordance with the instructions of the Public Health Committee, the number of rats poisoned during the extensive rat campaign carried out in accordance with the Ministry of Food methods has not been taken into account. The result of this campaign should become apparent during the year 1947.

BAKEHOUSES

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

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of all cases notified and removed to Hospital will be found in Section F of this report.

Bedding fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	76
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	48
Library books disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	5

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is 1 Common Lodging House on the register.

FISH FRYERS

There are 22 Fish Fryers on the register, 1 of which is temporarily out of use.

MORTUARY

The following bodies were removed to the public mortuary:—

Adult Males	...	...	...	...	...	13
Adult Females	...	...	...	...	...	10
Male Children	...	...	...	...	...	3
Female Children	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Post mortems were carried out on 20 bodies; 1 body was buried at the expense of the Parish.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS

One case of Swine Fever was discovered in the Ministry of Health Slaughterhouse and confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

VERMIN.

The following work was carried out:—

Rooms of Council Houses fumigated	...	...	21
Rooms of other houses	...	...	87
Bedding fumigated	...	...	23 loads
Bedding received from H.M. Dockyard and local business firms (not vermin)	...	...	1153 loads
Rehousing of Council House applicants: Loads of furniture fumigated and bedding disinfected	...	...	184 loads

The policy of the Council in fumigating furniture and bedding of all new tenants of Council Houses has been carried out. This has added considerably to the work of the Sanitary Depot.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at 31st December, 1946, was 26.

PIG SWILL

The amount of pig swill collected during the year was 82 tons 4½ cwts., for which an amount of £153 11s. 3d. was received.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

During the year 135 samples of food and drugs were taken as shown by the following table:—

ARTICLE	No. of Samples.		Result of Analysis.				Genuine Good Quality.
	Formal.	Inform.	Adulterated.		Fair Quality.		
			Formal	Inform	Formal.	Inform.	
Milk	105	14	1	—	—	—	118
Golden Wine ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Self-raising Flour	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Lard	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Baking Powder ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cake Mixture ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Beef Sausage Meat	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Butter	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Tea	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Sugar	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Lemon Essence ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Camphorated Oil	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cough Mixture ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Margarine	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Plum Jam	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

NOTICES SERVED

During the year the following Notices were served:—

No. of Informal Notices	1128
No. of Statutory Notices served on 1946 Informal Notices	571
Total No. of Statutory Notices served during the year	628

Of these, the following were completed:—

No. of Informal Notices completed without a Statutory Notice having been served	459
Total No. of Notices completed	784

VISITS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR

Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Drainage and subsequent visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	632
Repairs and subsequent visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4400
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	384
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	941
Houses let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Houses (first visits)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1414
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	167
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Contagious Diseases of Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Stables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Courts and Alleys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	253
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	149
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Bedding and Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Unsound Food and Cold Store	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	326
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Drains Tested (New)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Drains Tested (Old)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Council House Applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Rats Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Gipsy Encampment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food and Drugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	220
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Vacant Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	186
Milk (Special Designations)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Milk (Tuberculosis Order)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	516

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.

1.	Accumulations of Refuse removed	...	...	...	31
2.	W.C. pans replaced	...	...	...	105
3.	Ceilings whitened	...	...	...	16
4.	Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	240
5.	Cesspool covers repaired	...	...	...	6
6.	Cesspools filled in	...	...	...	5
7.	Chimney pots replaced	...	...	...	11
8.	Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	30
9.	Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	3
10.	Coppers repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	68
11.	Door locks or fasteners repaired	...	...	...	18
12.	Doors or frames repaired	...	...	...	34
13.	Doors provided or repaired	...	...	...	28
14.	Drainage of old buildings relaid	...	...	...	13
15.	Drains repaired	...	...	...	5
16.	Firegrates renewed	...	...	...	12
17.	Firegrates repaired	...	...	...	44
18.	Floors repaired	...	...	...	136
19.	Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	81
20.	Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	19
21.	Flues repaired or provided	...	...	...	8
22.	Gutters or downpipes cleared	...	...	...	15
23.	Gutters or downpipes provided	...	...	...	86
24.	Inspection covers provided	...	...	...	32
25.	Inspection pits provided	...	...	...	11
26.	Interiors cleansed	...	...	...	4
27.	Keeping of animals in unfit state	...	...	...	2
28.	Manure pits repaired	...	...	...	7
29.	Roofs repaired	...	...	...	495
30.	Sashcords repaired or provided	...	...	...	63
31.	Sash fasteners repaired	...	...	...	4
32.	Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	24
33.	Sink waste pipes repaired or provided	...	...	...	59
34.	Stables drained	...	...	...	1
35.	Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	1
36.	Stair-treads or steps repaired	...	...	...	28
37.	Walls repaired	...	...	...	188
38.	Damp walls repaired	...	...	...	103

39.	Weatherboarding or external walls repaired ...	...	...	...	...	32
40.	Windows reglazed ...	...	...	...	...	15
41.	Window frames, sashes, sills repaired	...	...	...	...	135
42.	W.C. seats or risers repaired ...	...	...	...	...	32
43.	W.C. structures rebuilt ...	...	...	...	...	24
44.	Yard paving repaired ...	...	...	...	...	31
45.	Yard gully or grills provided ...	...	...	...	...	2
46.	Drains connected to sewer ...	...	...	...	...	1
47.	Vent shafts provided ...	...	...	...	...	4
48.	New W.C. floors ...	...	...	...	...	4
49.	Water supply provided ...	...	...	...	...	5
50.	Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	264

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)	1173
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1414
(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	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	24
(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	1104

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	459
--	-----

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	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	628
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	325
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

(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	... ..	24
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	Nil

(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	... ..	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	Nil

NEW HOUSES DURING 1946.

(a) The total number of dwelling houses on plans submitted during 1946 was 538.		
(b) The total number of houses erected during 1946	... ..	269
(c) Houses erected by Local Authority	... ..	245
(d) Houses erected by other Persons...	... ..	24

CLEARANCE AREAS.

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

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

350 houses were reported up to the end of 1946.

Of these—218 were demolished.

58 were rendered fit.

4 were closed under undertaking not to re-let.

37 were not yet demolished.

Parts of 3 houses have been subject to closing orders. Action not completed during 1946, 30 cases. There have been 38 individual houses reconditioned by informal action.

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.

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.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

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

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

These examinations are carried out by the County Analyst by arrangement with Kent County Council.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

(a) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1946.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	2	2	—
Scarlet Fever	26	10	—
Pneumonia	27	6	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	—
Erysipelas	16	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Malaria	5	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2*	2	1
Whooping Cough	52	2	1
Measles	568	2	—
Dysentery	—	—	—

* One case not notified.

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES, (Ages)

	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Malaria	Dysentery
Under 1 year	7	15	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1-2 years	6	58	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-3 years	10	83	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-4 years	7	65	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-5 years	8	73	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	14	265	11	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 years	—	4	4	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 years	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20-35 years	—	2	1	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	4	—
35-45 years	—	—	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
45-65 years	—	—	—	—	12	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	52	568	26	2	16	27	4	—	—	1	2	5	—

(c) INFECTIOUS DISEASES. (Wards).

	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Malaria	Dysentery
St. Mary's	5	48	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
St. John's	12	80	4	—	5	7	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
St. Michael's	10	75	2	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Paul's	20	130	5	1	5	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Luton	4	174	12	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Christ Church	1	61	1	—	1	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	52	568	26	2	16	27	2		—	1	*2	5	—

* One case not notified.

(d) TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1928-1946

Year	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Malaria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Encephalitis Lethargica	Dysentery
1928 ...			223	447	—	7	12	—	7	29	—	1	2	—
1929 ...			61	98	6	4	13	1	14	24	5	—	2	—
1930 ...			84	44	2	2	21	—	4	7	2	—	1	—
1931 ...			58	26	2	6	11	—	1	20	—	1	—	—
1932 ...			149	11	16	4	11	—	4	21	6	—	—	—
1933 ...			145	25	2	1	10	—	2	29	2	—	—	—
1934 ...			114	31	1	2	17	—	2	19	—	—	—	—
1935 ...			44	22	2	2	17	—	—	30	—	—	—	—
1936 ...			40	25	—	1	21	—	4	20	1	—	—	—
1937 ...			160	261	—	9	28	—	3	14	—	4	—	—
1938 ...			233	208	4	4	19	—	2	23	—	—	—	—
1939 ...			61	86	—	7	10	—	1	19	1	—	—	—
1940 ...	79	12	20	13	—	8	14	—	4	22	2	—	—	—
1941 ...	413	120	20	4	12	9	4	—	4	12	5	—	—	—
1942 ...	417	219	38	8	—	16	7	—	5	32	6	1	—	—
1943 ...	412	91	124	16	—	12	17	—	—	44	—	—	—	—
1944 ...	201	182	48	12	1	18	18	2	3	29	3	—	—	4
1945 ...	446	111	52	9	1	23	16	—	1	34	1	3	1	1
1946 ...	568	52	26	2	—	4	16	5	—	27	2*	1	—	—

* One case not notified.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

For notifiable infectious diseases accommodation is available at St. William's Hospital, Rochester, and is used jointly by Chatham and Rochester. On a basis of 144 square feet per bed there is accommodation for 86 patients, and if necessary this could be extended on the present site.

PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORIES.

	Pos.
Diphtheria Swabs	—
Tubercle Sputum	42
Hairs for Ringworm	5
Faeces for Typhoid	—
Serum for Typhoid	—
Faeces for Dysentery	—

SCARLET FEVER.

Cases notified	26
Removed to hospital	10
Households affected with 1 case	24
Households affected with 2 cases	1
Households affected with 3 cases	—
Households affected with 4 cases	—
County Hospital	—
Deaths	—

DIPHTHERIA.

Cases notified	2
Removed to Hospital	2
Households with 1 case	2
Households with 2 cases	—
Households with 3 cases	—
Households with 4 cases	—
County Hospital	—
Deaths	—

These are very satisfactory figures and go to prove that our Diphtheria Immunisation campaign is showing good results.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The Clinic first opened at the end of 1929 and is held at Elm House on Wednesdays p.m. (except the last Wednesday in the month) and at White Road and Kings Road Clinics on the last Wednesday in the month p.m. The following table shows the numbers and ages of children who attended the Clinic.

	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
Immunised	226	126	45	26	28	35	11	24	15	23	28	4	8	3
Boosting Doses	—	—	—	—	40	14	5	6	3	3	3	1	—	—

The yearly figures are as follows:—

YEAR	IMMUNISED	BOOSTING DOSES
1932	561	—
1933	405	—
1934	359	—
1935	482	—
1936	395	—
1937	381	—
1938	129	—
1939	80	—
1940	—	—
1941	514	—
1942	2399	—
1943	825	—
1944	576	—
1945	546	—
1946	602	75

There were two cases of Diphtheria notified during the year neither of whom had been immunised.

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 1946 was 304,000.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified	Cases		Vision Impaired	Vision Unimpaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Treated					
	At home	In hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

There were two cases, one of which was not notified.

SMALLPOX.

There were no cases.

VACCINATION.

I am indebted to Mrs. J. Vernal, the Vaccination Officer, for the following information:—

Number of Births registered	...	...	...	1391
Number of Certificates of successful vaccination received	...	...	...	770
Number of Statutory Declarations of Objection	...	...	...	292
Number of Certificates of Insusceptibility	...	...	...	—
Number of Certificates of Postponement	...	...	...	10
Number of cases removed from district	...	...	...	76
Number of cases otherwise not traced	...	...	...	12

(The above figures include all children born in the County Hospital, Chatham, irrespective of home address).

CANCER.

The facilities for diagnosis are—General Practitioners, the County and Voluntary Hospitals.

The total number of deaths was—77, allocated as follows:—

	MALE	FEMALE
Buc. cav. and oesoph., (M) uterus (F) ...	3	4
Stomach and duodenum	8	5
Breast	—	6
All other sites	34	17

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The treatment Centre for the Medway Area is situated at 36, New Road Avenue, Rochester. I am indebted to Dr. E. F. Prebble, Director, for the following particulars:—

NEW PATIENTS	CHATHAM	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Syphilis	6	10	16
Soft Sore	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	11	9	20
Non-Venereal	49	20	69
		66	39	105

Total No. of new patients from all districts served ...	438
Total attendances of Chatham patients	2186
Total attendances of patients from all districts ...	8184

	SY.	GON.
Total Number of patients treated with Penicillin	53	93

DISCHARGES (all districts served)	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Discharged cured:—			
Syphilis	8	12	20
Soft Sore	1	—	1
Gonorrhoea	34	37	71
Non-venereal	227	78	305

DEFAULTED BEFORE FINAL TEST OF CURE

Syphilis	10	4	14
Gonorrhoea	12	4	16

DEFAULTED BEFORE COMPLETION OF TREATMENT

Syphilis	8	4	12
Gonorrhoea	9	—	9

The following table shows the number of cases from Chatham since 1938:—

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Gonorrhoea	29	39	46	73	40	26	64	22	20
Syphilis	12	16	23	60	43	13	15	10	16
Non-Venereal	46	42	42	43	39	49	233	59	69

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Hospital and Poor Law Institutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

NON-PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hospitals and Poor Law Institutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Table showing new cases and Mortality during 1946:—

	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	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 years ..	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-25 years ..	14	8	2	3	3	4	—	—
25-35 years ..	9	10	1	—	4	3	1	—
35-45 years ..	8	4	—	1	4	1	—	—
45-55 years ..	12	1	—	—	7	2	—	—
55-65 years ..	2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
65 years up ..	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Totals ..	49	26	4	5	26	10	1	—

DELAY IN NOTIFICATION.

NAME	NOTIFICATION RECEIVED	DATE OF DEATH
C.R.W.	12. 1.46	22. 1.46
H.A.S.	10.11.46	13.11.46
E.M.	28. 1.46	27. 4.46
F.K.	12. 3.46	12. 5.46

The following table gives comparative figures of notifications and deaths since 1938:—

Year	Pulmonary						Non-Pulmonary					
	Notifications			Deaths			Notifications			Deaths		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1938	26	25	51	20	17	37	8	13	21	3	3	6
1939	39	18	47	17	10	27	10	2	12	3	—	3
1940	27	21	48	14	9	23	5	4	9	5	3	8
1941	36	23	59	16	17	33	3	6	9	2	5	7
1942	34	23	57	22	8	30	11	11	22	3	5	8
1943	27	30	57	21	16	37	5	2	7	—	3	3
1944	52	40	92	21	21	42	7	4	11	1	2	3
1945	32	35	67	18	15	33	5	3	8	2	3	5
1946	49	26	75	26	10	36	4	5	9	1	—	1

I am indebted to Dr. S. Roy C. Price, Tuberculosis Officer, for the following information:—

Particulars of patients from the Chatham Area dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary, Rochester, during the year ended December 31st, 1946.

	PULMONARY				NON PULMONARY				TOTALS				
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total
Def. T.B.	37	17	3	1	4	3	2	1	41	20	5	2	68
Non T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	90	105	53	58	306
Obs. '46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Total New Cases	37	17	3	1	4	3	2	1	131	125	58	62	376

TOTAL ATTENDANCES: 1,612.

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1946:—

County Hospital, Lenham	...	...	...	...	5
County Hospital, Chatham	...	...	...	...	18
County Hospital, Pembury	...	...	...	...	1
County Hospital, Orpington	...	...	...	...	1
Grosvenor Sanatorium, Ashford	...	...	...	...	1
Keycol Hill Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	2
London Chest Hospital	...	...	...	...	2
Kettlewell Hospital, Swanley	6
Holy Cross, Haslemere	1
Royal Nat. Orthopaedic Hospital	1

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