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ACQUITTED CHELMSFORD

Borough of Chelmsford.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

for 1924.

RICHARD H. VERCOE, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer Maternity and Child Welfare.

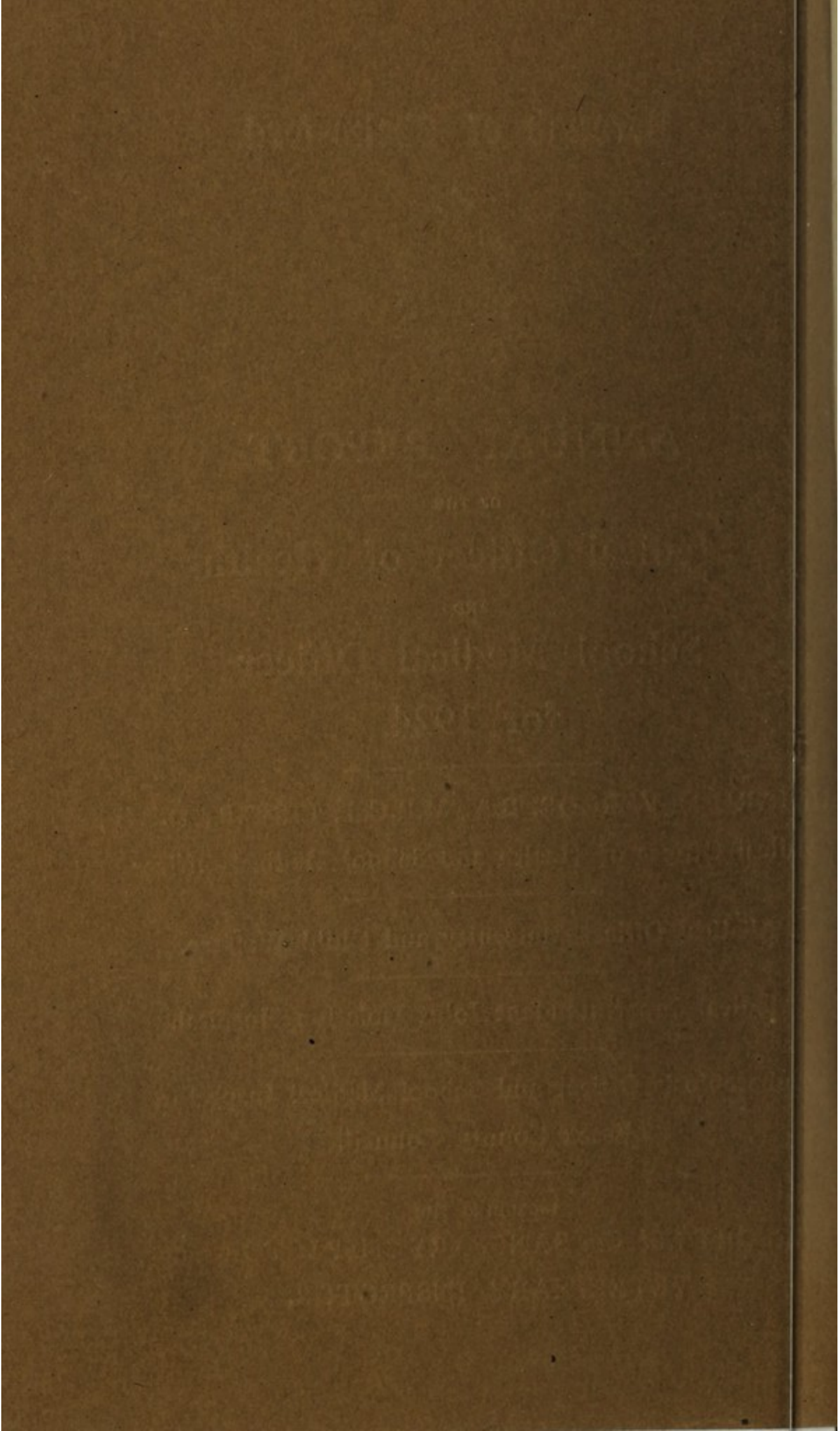
Medical Superintendent Joint Isolation Hospital.

Tuberculosis Officer and School Medical Inspector,

Essex County Council.

INCLUDING THE

**REPORTS of the SANITARY INSPECTOR and
VETERINARY INSPECTOR.**



Borough of Chelmsford.



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OF THE

STAFF.

RICHARD H. VERCOE, Medical Officer of Health.

WALTER BROWN, Sanitary Inspector.

WILLIAM J. FINCH, Clerk.

SARAH G. LANGFORD, Health Visitor.

(1) General Statistics.

AREA	...	...	3,112 acres, including Inland Water (Census 1921)
POPULATION (1924)	...	21,680 (Registrar General's Figure)	20,761 (Census 1921)
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES:—4,621 (Census 1921)			
RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	148,495
AMOUNT PRODUCED BY 1d. RATE	...	...	£525

(2) Extracts from vital Statistics of the Year.

			Total.	M.	F.		
BIRTHS	...	Legitimate	...	329	163	166	} Birth Rate 15.72
		Illegitimate	..	12	6	6	

DEATHS—

Total uncorrected, 262: rate, 12.08 per 1,000 living

Total corrected, 213: rate, 9.82 per 1,000 living

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of Childbirth:—

From Sepsis	...	...	1
Other Causes	...	..	2

Deaths of infants under one year:—

Legitimate, 13. Illegitimate, 0. Total, 13.

INFANT DEATH RATE ... 38.12 per 1,000 births

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	1
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	2
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	0

(3) Vital Statistics.

The following table gives the chief vital statistics of the Borough of Chelmsford and also of London, the groups of 96 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns, and of the country as a whole.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH-RATES, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, 1924.

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Total Deaths under One year.		Causes of Death certi- fied by Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.		
England and Wales	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.49	0.44	7.3	75	92.3	6.6	1.1		
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	19.4	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.18	0.03	0.12	0.08	0.45	0.40	9.2	80	92.5	6.9	0.6		
137 Smaller Towns, (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000).	18.9	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.06	0.30	0.36	6.2	71	93.3	5.5	1.2		
London	18.7	12.1	0.01	—	0.29	0.03	0.11	0.12	0.36	0.44	8.4	69	91.3	8.6	0.1		
Chelmsford M.B.	15.72	9.82	0.00	0.00	0.94	0.00	0.09	0.09	0.30	0.14	0.0	28	96.8	3.2	0.0		

BIRTHS. Three hundred and fifty-one births were registered as occurring in the Borough. The Registrar-General's figure, after correction, for inward and outward transfers is 341 for the Borough. The number of notification of births received from medical practioners and midwives during the year was 307. 3 still births were notified. These cases of still births were investigated by the Health Visitor to ascertain, as far as possible, the cause of death.

BIRTH RATE. The birth rate of Chelmsford for 1924 was 15.72 as compared with 17.57 in 1923, 17.96 in 1922, and 19.3 in 1921. This is a low rate compared with that of England and Wales, as a whole, which was 18.8 in 1924, 19.7 in 1923, and 20.6 in 1922. The birth rate of this town has fluctuated with that of the whole country during the last three years, always however, keeping at a lower level.

The following tabular statement gives details of the number of deaths classified according to cause and sex :—(R.G.)

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Enteric Fever...	—	—	—
Small-pox ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	2
*Diphtheria ...	1	1	2
Influenza ...	3	5	8
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	9	9	18
Other Tuberculosis Diseases ...	2	3	5
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	17	7	24
Rheumatic Fever ...	—	—	—
Diabetes ...	1	2	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. ...	3	4	7
Heart Disease ...	15	12	27
Arterio Sclerosis ...	8	4	12
Bronchitis ...	4	11	15
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	7	4	11
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	4	3	7
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	—	1	1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	—	—	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	2	1	3
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	1	4	5
Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	1	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	—	2	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth ...	6	3	9
Suicide ...	1	1	2
Other Deaths from Violence ...	1	—	1
Other Defined Diseases ...	15	31	46
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	—	—	—
Total ...	102	111	213

* There were really 3 deaths from this disease, although the Registrar General only records 2.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1924.

AGES.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over	Total Deaths
	13	2	6	7	16	26	52	91	213

DEATH RATE. The number of deaths registered in the Borough was 262. Of this number 66 were deaths of persons who were not inhabitants of Chelmsford.

In addition, 17 deaths were accepted as deaths of Chelmsford residents occurring in other districts.

Subtracting 66 "outward transfers" from the figure of 262, and adding 17 "inward transfers," the net number of deaths is 213, which agrees with the figure supplied by the Registrar-General. This gives a corrected death-rate of 9.82 per 1,000 for the year 1924. This is a low death-rate as compared with that of the whole country, which is 12.2 per 1,000. It is almost the same as that of 1923 for Chelmsford, which was 9.71 per 1,000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. It is a satisfactory fact that out of 341 births there were only 13 deaths of infants under the age of 12 months. Another satisfactory feature is that of the 12 illegitimate children born, none of these children died during the first 12 months of life. This gives an Infantile Death Rate of 38.12 per 1,000 births, which is the lowest on record for Chelmsford.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified was as follows:—Diphtheria 67, Scarlet Fever 17, Pneumonia 9, Erysipelas 2, Paratyphoid 1, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 0, Puerperal Fever 1, Encephalitis Lethargica 0, Anterior Poliomyelitis 0. Of these cases the following number were admitted to Hospital:—Diphtheria 61, Scarlet Fever 13. (See also Appendix on Infectious Diseases on Page 11 of this Report).

The usual methods of disinfection and of dealing with contacts have been followed throughout the year. Diphtheria Antitoxin has been provided to practitioners free of charge.

TUBERCULOSIS. See figures in Appendix, on page 11 of this Report. The Chelmsford Tuberculosis Dispensary is under the control of the County Council.

Diphtheria.

In the twelve months of 1924 there were 67 cases of Diphtheria.

The comparison with other years is as follows, but it must be remembered that the population has been steadily increasing, being 17,200 in 1907, as compared with 21,680 in 1924.

Year ...	1907	1908	1909	1910	1912	1913	1914	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Cases ...	31	10	3	17	25	46	14	31	44	23	38	17	4	67

while this year 1925 there has only been 1 case so far (*i.e.*, first half-year).

Although the year 1924 appears to stand by itself with very little Diphtheria in the years immediately preceding and following it, yet the monthly distribution throughout the year was fairly uniform, as follows:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	2	3	6	10	6	7	3	6	5	12	6

AGE DISTRIBUTION.

Age ..	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
Cases ...	0	1	2	3	6	4	4	6	6	9	7	5	4	2	2

Age ...	23	24	28	29	35	38
Cases ...	1	1	1	1	1	1

LOCALISATION.

No indications of Milk infection could be found at any period.

The House distribution was uniformly scattered throughout the Borough and the cases generally followed one another in different parts of the town as each case arose.

In each Ward the distribution was fairly equal after allowing for the differences of population, as follows:—

North Ward 31; South Ward 29; Springfield Ward 9.

In only 2 instances were there more than 1 case in each house, neither of these was a "Return case."

In 1 house there were 3 cases per house.

„ 1 „ „ 2 „ „
 „ 62 houses „ 1 case „

Yet for the average ordinary case the average period between onset of sore throat and removal to Hospital was 3—4 days:

In 14 unusual cases this period was much longer being about 8 days in some cases and 14 days in a few.

61 out of the 67 cases were removed to Hospital.

Any cases sent into the Hospital as Diphtheria in which the clinical signs were doubtful were not accepted for notification unless confirmed by bacteriological report. Of the total 95 cases sent into the Hospital from all sources as Diphtheria, 8 were thus found to be Tonsillitis.

SWABBING.

Altogether 846 swabs were taken, mainly of school children, exclusive of swabs taken at the Hospital.

Of these swabs 30 were from cases just before going to Hospital and were all positive.

From 447 close Contacts at home or school 34 positive swabs were obtained.

From 369 children in a school with 6 Diphtheria cases 8 positive swabs were obtained.

It was remarkable how seldom direct home contacts gave any positive swabs, for example in one especially virulent case which was not recognised as Diphtheria till death after 4 days of illness at home in a salivating highly infectious condition as shown by the pure cultures from both nose and throat, not only did no other case occur in the house of 8 people but all the swabs from these contacts were negative.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools were very carefully watched and, on the whole in proportion to numbers the distribution was fairly even and by no means confined to one or two schools or classes. One case in one school would be usually followed by the next in a distant school with no ascertainable connexion.

Of the 44 cases in elementary school children, 13 were in the Trinity Road Boys' Department and 11 in the Girls of the same school, which School however numbers nearly one-third of the total school children. Between March 4 and April 22 there was a direct sequence of 6 cases occurring at Trinity Road Girls' and in no other school.

These 6 cases however were not confined to any particular class occurring in fact (in date order) in classes 2, 6, 5, 5, 2, 3.

Swabbing of the class contacts both at school and at home continued to give rather negative results and no suspicious clinical nose or throat signs of very definite import could be detected.

Therefore it was decided to swab the whole Department of 369 children.

This necessitated special arrangements with the County Laboratory as the maximum quota for any one place is 20 per diem. The Authorities concerned however gave me every facility to see what the effect might be though it has been tried elsewhere before, usually with rather disappointing results for the expense and trouble involved.

The swabbing was done by the School Medical Officer himself, taking particular care to get good contact between swab and tonsil, and taking particular note of any abnormality in any child such as sore nose, redness, pitting or swelling of tonsils, etc.

All the children noted as have^{ing} any such abnormality returned negative swabs, while on the other hand the 8 positive swabs obtained from the 369 total were from children in whom nothing unusual could be found.

One of these 8 positive swabs gave a pure culture, but some of the remainder may have^{been} a virulent, as no virulence tests were done. All these 8 cases were excluded on April 30th, till 2 negative swabs were obtained later.

The result of this extensive swabbing was now watched with some interest and the school remained free for 2 weeks, but fresh cases began to recur again on May 17th (Class 5); May 19th (Class 5); May 24th (Class 2); July 12th (Class 1)—the last for the year in that school.

The wholesale swabbing of the large Department did not therefore produce very strikingly dramatic results.

DRINKING CUPS IN THE PLAYGROUND.

On May 15th the cups were removed from the chains attaching them to the drinking water taps in the playground and the children were instructed (both boys and girls) to fill the palm of the hand and not to drink directly from the tap.

After this date 9 cases still occurred among the Boys and 4 amongst the Girls.

DEATHS.

There were 3 deaths—at the ages of 3, 11, 12.

It may be of some interest to compare the amount of Diphtheria (number of cases and deaths) in Chelmsford during 1924 with that in London during 1922 and 1921, and in Edinburgh during recent years.

	Cases to population.	Attack rate per thousand.	Deaths.	Death rate per thousand.
Chelmsford, 1924	67 in 21,600	3.1	3	.14
Edinburgh (average in recent years) ...	1,000 in 427,300	2.3	75	.18
London, L.C.C., 1922	15,304 in 4,534,230	3.4	1,145	.25
" " 1921	16,319 in "	3.6	1,150	.25

The number of cases in Chelmsford in 1924 in proportion to population seems therefore about equal to that in London in 1922 and more than that in Edinburgh, while the Death rate in Chelmsford seems less than that in either. So that the type of disease was relatively milder in Chelmsford.

The prevalence of Diphtheria in London in 1922 evoked from the London County Medical Officer of Health a favourable description in the Annual Report of the Schick test and immunisation against Diphtheria, citing the results with 90,000 school children in New York and in certain residential institutions in this country.

The Schick test consists in the injection into the skin of a small quantity of fluid the reaction to which in 7 days enables us to say whether that person is susceptible to Diphtheria or not.

If not susceptible no further action is taken, but if susceptible then three injections are given which render the individual immune for the remainder of life.

The interesting fact is disclosed from these tests that in the poorer quarters the percentage of insusceptible children is as high as 80 per cent., whereas in good class schools it was only 33 per cent. and in a rural school only 15 per cent.

This lesser number of susceptible than insusceptible subjects among urban elementary school children goes far to explain why more cases were not found in one house or in one class at school.

The L.C.C. Schools did not adopt the Schick procedure and the amount of Diphtheria has in any case subsided, but the Borough of Holborn Baby Welfare Centres have been offering protection against Diphtheria by this procedure and in the past three years since inception 667 children and 57 adults have been tested and where necessary immunised.

At Edinburgh the Schick procedure was offered to the children under 10 years old in the elementary schools and 41.5 per cent. accepted and 3,270 have been treated up to present date.

The cost works out at 2s. a head when large numbers are done.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY. The present sources of supply are the same as in past years, but the quantity is limited and it is only possible to supply water to the Town between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. throughout the year, although the pumps are working all night. Every three months samples are taken from the various supplies and forwarded to Drs. Thresh and Beale for analysis, and the reports throughout the last year have been satisfactory.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. The condition of the Chelmer and its tributaries which flow through Chelmsford remains much the same as in past years.

SCAVENGING. The disposal of refuse is being economically carried out by tipping on the low lying land in the Recreation Ground, men being constantly employed in covering the refuse as it is tipped daily and no nuisance has in any way occurred.

The number of tons of refuse tipped during the year was 4,900. The work is being done by four carts and a central tip is being used.

This number also includes the scavenging of Springfield Ward, which has been taken over by the Corporation; this Ward was previously worked by contract.

FOOD SUPPLY AND INSPECTION. For particulars under this head reference should be made to the reports of the Sanitary and Veterinary Inspectors.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Clinics, Hospitals, Etc.

DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATIONS. There is one District Nurse in each of the three wards of the town. In the Springfield Ward the District Nurse undertakes midwifery cases, but the other two do not.

MIDWIVES. There are three fully qualified midwives in the Borough, one residing in each of the three wards.

CLINICS, ETC. The School Clinics and two Infant Welfare Centres in the town are municipal, whilst the Tuberculosis and Venereal Clinics are provided by the County Council.

HOSPITALS are the Chelmsford and Essex General Hospital, the Poor Law Infirmary and the Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases. There is also a Small-pox Hospital at Galleywood.

Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

The work under this Scheme has been carried on much in the same way as in the previous year.

HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITOR. Mrs. Langford continues to do much good work in visiting mothers and their infants in their homes. The following is the record of her work during the year :—

Ante-natal visits	...	...	93
Primary or first visits	...	...	344
Re-visits	...	...	2,503
Special visits	...	...	80
			—
			3,020
			—

In all 3,020 visits were paid.

The first visit follows notification of birth, and is with the object of advising the mother on infant care, and also about her own health.

Later visits are paid, varying in number and frequency according to the requirements of each case.

In addition to her work in the homes, the Health Visitor attends with the Medical Officer of Health at the Centres. There are two Centres where mothers may obtain advice about the health of their infants, these being held at the Friends' Meeting House and at the Orchard Street Hall. Judging by the attendance at the Centres, the mothers appreciate them. The attendance has been well sustained at both the Centres throughout the year as follows :—

	No. of infants.	No. of attendances made.
Friends' Meeting House	... 368	... 2,437
Orchard Street Hall	... 268	... 1,989
		—
		636
		—
		4,426
		—

Altogether 636 infants were brought to the Centres by their mothers throughout the year, making in all 4,426 attendances. This number of attendances, is in excess of that of the previous year, which was 3,789,

The voluntary workers have continued to give their services as previously and their assistance has contributed very materially to the success of the work. They have rendered the usual services of recording the attendances, weighing the infants and providing refreshment for the mothers.

THE MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER. During the year free milk has been supplied for the use of *necessitous* mothers and their infants, the amount has been restricted to one pint daily for each family supplied. Altogether 68 families have been relieved.

The expenditure sanctioned by the Ministry was £200 per annum.

The actual amount spent during the *financial* year ended March 31st, 1924, was £138 9s. 11d.

BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD—INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1924.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths
All Cases { Certified ...	8	1	...	...	9	4	...	...	...	1
Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis not Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformation ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	5	1	...	...	6	1	...	...	...	...
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes... ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	8	1	...	...	9	4	...	...	...

Nett Births in { Legitimate, 341.
the Year 1924. { Illegitimate, 12.

Nett Deaths in { Legitimate, 13.
the Year 1924. { Illegitimate, 0.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES APPENDIX.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

NOTIFICATIONS AT AGES.											Total Cases notified in each Locality. (e.g.) Parish or Ward of the District				
Notifiable Disease.	Total cases.	Under 1									Total Deaths.	North Ward.	South Ward.	Springfield Wd.	
		1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	Over 45	Cases admitted to hospital						
Diphtheria	67	11	30	20	—	4	2	—	61	2	31	27	9		
Scarlet Fever	17	8	3	3	1	2	—	—	13	—	8	4	5		
Pneumonia	9	—	—	—	1	3	—	4	—	—	1	8	—		
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—		
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—		
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Totals	97	1	19	34	23	2	10	3	76	2	40	43	14		
TUBERCULOSIS.															
Pulmonary.															
Males	5	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	8	9	1	3	1		
Females	9	—	—	1	4	1	1	2	3	9	3	5	1		
Totals	14	—	—	2	4	5	1	2	11	18	4	8	2		
Non-Pulmonary.															
Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—		
Females	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	2	—	—		
Totals	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	2	—	—		
Grand Totals	113	1	20	34	25	6	15	5	7	25	46	51	16		

Annual Report of the Joint Hospital Board for the year 1924.

Cases admitted during each month were as follow :—

	Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Typhoid.		Other Diseases.
January	8	...	2	...	0	...	0
February	8	...	13	...	0	...	1 Meningitis
March	6	...	6	...	0	...	0
April	5	...	5	...	0	...	2 Tonsillitis
May	2	...	15	...	1	...	1 Gastritis
June	3	...	5	...	0	...	2 Tonsillitis
July	1	...	8	...	0	...	0
August	2	...	4	...	1	...	0
September	2	...	4	...	0	...	0
October	2	...	7	...	0	...	1 Tonsillitis
November	1	...	12	...	0	...	2 „
December	3	...	6	...	0	...	2 { 1 Tonsillitis 1 gastritis
Total	—		—		—		—
Admitted	43		87		2		11 = 143 Patients
	—		—		—		4,717 Days

Including 3 patients remaining from 1923, the total number of patients in the Hospital for the year was 146.

Total number of days for the year was 4,717.

Total Deaths were 5. These were 4 Diphtheria, and 1 Meningitis.

Total death rate for All diseases = 3.5 per cent. of All diseases admitted.

„	Typhoid	= 0	„	„	Typhoid Fever cases	„
„	Scarlet Fever	= 0	„	„	Scarlet Fever	„ „
„	Diphtheria	= 4.6	„	„	Diphtheria	„ „

Of 95 cases admitted as Diphtheria 8 proved to be Tonsillitis.

„	4	„	Typhoid	2	„	Gastritis,
---	---	---	---------	---	---	------------

Work done for the Essex County Council.

(1) As Tuberculosis Officer (to July, 1924)—

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is open every Friday afternoon from 2 o'clock onwards, where patients attend as either definite or suspected cases.

They are there seen by the Medical Officer by whom their condition is recorded and requisite action decided from time to time.

The number of attendances at the Dispensary for the year was 423.

In addition to seeing patients at the Dispensary, visits to their homes are also often made, either to enquire into environmental conditions or in a consultative capacity but not as a regular medical attendant.

The number of domiciliary visits made in the Chelmsford Borough and Rural District was 85

(2) As School Medical Inspector of the Schools in the Chelmsford Rural District—

The number of children medically examined at the schools was 1,230

The number of cases of defective vision refracted at the eye clinic was 57

Of these, the number for whom glasses were prescribed was 51

The number of children and teachers medically examined for various reasons at the Chelmsford Clinic was ... 23

Housing.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS. The number of dwelling-houses in the Borough is 5,037. Of these, about 3,819 may be considered working-class houses.

The population of the Borough is 21,680. (R.G. Estimate).

" " (Census 1921) 20,761.

During the year considerable progress was made with the housing scheme on the Boarded Barns Estate. At the end of the year all the houses contracted for were completed and inhabited.

Number of houses contracted for	...	...	50
,,	completed and inhabited	...	—

The number of houses erected in the Borough to December 31st, 1924 was 146, which were by private enterprise.

UNFIT HOUSES. In a town like Chelmsford there is a large number of houses which are constantly requiring repairs if they are to be kept in a condition fit for human habitation. Owners of property of this type naturally demur to expending large sums of money in repairs each year in cases where the property is so dilapidated that it is incapable of being put in a state of repair without some amount of re-construction. In many cases demolition is the only satisfactory remedy for this state of affairs.

At the present time there are about 110 houses in the Borough which are only fit for demolition. These houses are unfit for human habitation for various reasons. In some cases, houses are permanently damp from the fact that they are built on damp sites adjoining the river. In other cases general dilapidation is the cause of unfitness. In a few cases the houses are in danger of falling down from this cause. In addition to the 110 houses which need demolition, there are 300 more houses which are not entirely satisfactory as dwellings, but which may be considered reasonably fit for habitation in time of shortage, if repairs are attended to regularly.

HOUSING APPENDIX.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	146
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	...	...	...	—

1. *Unfit for dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 1,634

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 72

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	15
2. <i>Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.</i>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officer	14
3. <i>Action under Statutory Power.</i>	
A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	—
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	845
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) By owners	741
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries) ..	23	—	—
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries) ..	162	3	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	5	—	—
TOTAL ..	190	3	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ..	1	1	—	—
Want of ventilation ..	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ..	7	7	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ..	3	2	—	—
{ unsuitable or defective ..	7	7	—	—
{ not separate for sexes ..	1	1	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences ..	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total ..	20	19	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Extracts from Census Return, 1921.

(Preface page 15). See table next page.

The average size of family has thereby been reduced from 4·38 persons in 1911 to 4·16 persons in 1921, a drop of about 5 per cent.

The Tables show that while, as already stated, the average size of family has dropped by about 5 per cent., the average unit of occupation has decreased from 4·66 rooms per family in 1911 to 4·41 in 1921, also a decrease of about 5 per cent., with the consequence that the average number of occupied rooms per person in the County as a whole has remained stationary.

The ratio of more than two persons per room was selected in the Census Reports for 1911 and earlier years as an approximate comparative index figure for the purpose of measuring the prevalence and distribution of overcrowding conditions. Since, however, that ratio has been commented upon as though it had been propounded as an absolute standard or a definition of overcrowding, it may be well to observe that its use in the Census statistics implies no judgment whatever as to what in fact constitutes overcrowding.

PRIVATE FAMILIES, CLASSIFIED BY SIZE OF FAMILY, ROOMS OCCUPIED, AND DENSITY OF OCCUPATION.

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN FAMILY.	NUMBER OF PRIVATE FAMILIES OCCUPYING THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF ROOMS.								TOTAL PRIVATE FAMILIES.		Rooms occupied	Average Number of Rooms per Person.	DENSITY OF OCCUPATION.					
									No.				%	Population in Private Families	under .3	.3 and under .5	.5 and under .7	.7 and under 1.0
1 ..	24	42	21	51	35	23	4	—	200	4.1	200	725	3.63	—	—	—	—	
2 ..	10	105	63	169	235	186	26	2	796	16.5	1,592	3,658	2.30	—	—	20	2	
3 ..	12	41	53	210	359	285	44	17	1,021	21.3	3,063	5,226	1.71	—	36	123	—	
4 ..	..	22	50	219	371	277	60	14	1,013	21.1	4,052	5,307	1.31	—	—	92	196
5 ..	..	9	20	168	292	213	47	20	769	16.0	3,845	4,143	1.03	—	45	100	840
6 ..	..	3	21	74	216	111	25	13	463	9.6	2,778	2,499	0.90	—	18	370	1,296
7 ..	..	2	8	55	103	59	11	8	246	5.1	1,722	1,308	0.76	14	56	385	1,057
8 ..	..	—	2	29	73	47	13	6	170	3.5	1,360	963	0.71	—	16	816	376
9 ..	..	—	2	10	37	16	4	4	73	1.5	657	419	0.64	—	108	414	90
10 ..	..	1	—	7	17	12	2	1	40	0.8	400	219	0.55	10	70	250	60
11 ..	..	—	—	2	6	8	—	4	20	0.4	220	154	0.70	—	88	88	—
12 ..	..	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	4	0.1	48	21	0.44	—	36	12	—
13 ..	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	0.0	13	5	0.38	—	13	—	—
14 ..	..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	0.0	28	12	0.43	—	28	—	—
15 & over	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	0.0	33	23	0.70	—	—	18	15	
Total Private Families ..	46	225	240	994	1,748	1,240	236	91	4,820	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Population in Private Families	80	550	822	3,978	7,745	5,270	1,050	516	—	—	20,011	—	—	24	514	2,883	3,932	
Rooms occupied..	46	449	720	3,976	8,740	7,707	1,962	1,082	—	—	—	24,682	1.23	—	—	—	—	
Percentage of families living in various units of occupation.																		
1.0	1.0	4.7	5.0	20.6	36.2	25.7	4.9	1.9	100.0	1921.	Percentage of families living in various units of occupation.							
0.8	0.8	3.6	2.7	19.8	27.3	35.9	6.3	3.6	100.0	1911.	Percentage of families living in various units of occupation.							

Report of Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
DUKE STREET, CHELMSFORD.

March, 1925.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting the following Report on sanitary work done during the year 1924, being my thirteenth Annual Report.

*Summary of Sanitary Work carried out as a result of Notice served or
recommendations made.*

Dilapidated water closets rebuilt	8
Additional water closets provided	11
Water closets provided with proper waste preventing cisterns in place of large tanks	1
Flushing apparatus and fittings of water closets repaired or new flushing cisterns provided	127
New pedestal basins provided in W.C.'s in place of defective or obsolete basins	40
Defective water closets repaired, cleansed &c.	55
New branch drains laid	5
New drainage provided	2
Glazed gulley traps fixed	25
Drains properly intercepted or ventilated	6
Defective drains repaired	30
Inspection chambers provided to drains	12
Obstructed drains, water closets, &c., unstopped	52
Defective sink, bath and lavatory waste pipes properly disconnected, trapped or renewed	23
Smoke nuisances abated	3
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	45

Refuse Receptacles.

Foul ashpits abolished... ..	2
Galvanised iron sanitary dustbins provided in place of foul ashpits or where previous bins were dilapidated	188

Dwelling-Houses.

Houses or parts thereof cleansed ...	...	...	...	24
Damp conditions prevented, damp courses inserted, walls rendered in impervious material, soil removed from walls, &c. ...	...	...	...	39
Overcrowding abated ...	...	...	...	1
Floors relaid ...	...	...	...	60
Floors and stairs repaired ...	...	...	...	38
Coppers and stoves repaired or new ones provided ...	...	...	...	19
Windows and doors repaired ...	...	...	...	33
Roofs, ceilings and chimneys repaired ...	...	...	...	97
Walls and plastering repaired ...	...	...	...	101
Troughing and downpipes provided, disconnected, repaired or cleared from observation ...	...	...	...	166
Efficient ventilation provided, windows made to open, &c. ...	...	...	...	5
Sanitary sinks and water supplies provided in houses where no sink was previously provided and water supply was outside houses ...	...	...	...	3
Sanitary sinks provided in place of defective stone or other sinks ...	...	...	...	20
Yard paving laid, relaid or repaired ...	...	...	...	122
Houses closed as unfit for habitation ...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	3

Factories and Workshops (including Bakehouses).

Factories, Workshops, or parts thereof, limewashed or cleansed	1
Insufficient or defective closet accommodation ...	...	...	...	10
Ventilation improved ...	...	...	...	1
Other Nuisances abated ...	...	...	...	7

Water Supply.

Houses provided with supplies of water directly from the main instead of from storage tanks ...	...	...	...	21
Number of samples of well water submitted for analysis ...	...	...	...	1
Number of samples of well water condemned as unfit for use ...	...	...	...	1

Miscellaneous

Dairies, cowsheds or milkshops cleansed or repaired after notice ...	...	...	...	3
Nuisances from keeping animals abated ...	...	...	...	9
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed, premises cleansed, &c. ...	...	...	...	26
Common lodging houses cleansed or repaired ...	...	...	...	2

Drains, Water Closets, &c.

Much attention has been given to these matters, and considerable improvements effected.

Eleven additional water closets have been provided, and 8 dilapidated water closets have been rebuilt, 40 pedestal basins affixed in place of defective basins, 55 defective closets repaired and cleaned, &c.

Refuse Receptacles.

One hundred and eighty-eight sanitary bins have been provided, mostly to replace dilapidated ones; 2 ashpits have been abolished, and sanitary bins substituted. Very few ashpits remain.

Dwelling Houses.

Particulars of this work will be found in the summary at the beginning of this report.

Six houses have been closed under the Public Health Act, by arrangement with the owners, but it was found necessary to re-open one to meet a very urgent difficulty.

The remaining 5 houses have been permanently closed.

Only 3 houses have been provided with sinks, and water supplied indoors where no sink was previously fixed and the water supply was only obtained from a tap in the yard, but, as I stated in my last Annual Report, the dwelling houses in the Borough where these conveniences do not exist are very few, numbering only about a 100, whereas a few years ago over a 1,000 houses were not so furnished.

The change brought about by this improvement is most marked.

Obviously the fact of having to obtain water from a distant tap, and having to return with waste water to a distant drain, resulted in as little as possible being done in the way of cleaning; while especially in the case of the aged and infirm occupiers waiting for vessels to fill at a common tap in the yard was most undesirable, especially in bad weather.

Common Lodging Houses.

The 2 Common Lodging Houses have been well kept, and very little cause for complaint has arisen.

Periodical visits have been made and some slight improvements in the sanitary arrangements have been carried out.

Paving of Yards, Passages, &c.

The paving of 122 yards and passages has either been repaired or relaid in cement.

Not only does this make for the comfort and health of the tenants by preventing to a large extent, dirt and filth being carried into the house in bad weather, and by removing damp conditions; but is a good investment for the property owner tending to the preservation of his property.

Slaughterhouses.

These have been regularly inspected and cleansing of premises and removal of refuse, &c., has been carried out.

There are now 6 slaughterhouses in use in the Borough :—

Registered.	Licensed.
H. Green & Son, Moulsham Street	Coppin & Finning, Viaduct Road
J. F. Banham, High Street	W. T. Candler, Moulsham Street
Palmer & Rimmer, Mildmay Road	
H. Wright, Springfield Road	

The one occupied by Messrs. Palmer & Rimmer has been greatly improved, blood pits provided, walls cemented, yard relaid, ventilation improved, better lairage provided, &c.

The one at Hill Farm has been disused throughout the greater part of the year, and is not now in use.

The premises are generally satisfactory; but of course in several instances they do not comply with modern requirements as to situation, &c.

Offensive Trades.

The offensive trades carried out in the Borough are as follows :—

Fat extractor	...	...	...	1
Tanner	...	...	...	1
Fish Friers	...	...	...	5

Little cause for complaint has arisen in the conduct of these businesses.

Animals sent out of Market.

I visited the cattle market each market day with the Borough Veterinary Inspector, Major Mulvey, and we have during the year excluded from the market the following animals :—

Feb. 8th, 1924	...	Red and white heifer, very emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous
" "	"	Sow, suspected to be suffering from swine fever.
" 15th,	"	14 store pigs " " "
" "	"	White cow, very emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous
" 22nd,	"	1 sow and 9 pigs, suspected swine fever.
Mar. 7th,	"	Bay gelding suffering from parasitic mange
" 28th,	"	Black and white cow, very emaciated and suspected tuberculous

June 13th, 1924	...	5 store pigs suspected to be suffering from swine fever
" 20th, "	...	2 " " "
July 25th, "	...	26 pigs " " "
" " "	...	Black cow, very emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous
Sept. 12th, "	...	Calf sent into market from infected area, owner had not complied with regulations
" 19th, "	...	5 pigs (1 dead), suspected swine fever
" 26th, "	...	Red and white cow, very emaciated, suspected to be tuberculous
Oct. 3rd, "	...	8 store pigs, suspected swine fever
Nov. 14th, "	...	11 " " "
" 28th, "	...	1 sow, 7 unweaned pigs and 4 store pigs, suspected swine fever
Dec. 5th, "	...	8 pigs, suspected swine fever

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

These have been regularly inspected and improvements made in several instances.

Two new producers and 15 new retailers have been registered, and one retailer's register has been transferred to a new occupier.

Fourteen of the retailers registered were from districts outside the Borough, but retailing milk within the Borough.

Information was sought from the Sanitary Department of the Chelmsford Rural District Council, as to the conditions existing at the premises of these retailers before recommending registration in the Borough.

I am indebted to Dr. Macdonald and his staff for their valuable help on all occasions when I have consulted them.

Twelve samples of "certified" milk were submitted to Drs. Thresh & Beale for analysis, 7 samples complied with the standard, and 5 samples failed to pass.

The licence for the sale of "certified" milk has now been given up.

One retailer is licensed for the sale of Grade A milk.

Food Inspection.

The following articles of food were surrendered by the owners:—

Jan. 8th, 1924	...	...	Carcases of 6 pigs
Feb. " "	...	...	" a heifer
June 24th, "	...	...	100 mackerel
" 27th, "	...	...	56 lbs. of haddock
July 24th, "	...	...	84 lbs. of herrings
Sept. 2nd, "	...	...	1 6-lb. tin of corned beef
Oct. 13th, "	...	...	Carcase of a pig
Nov. 12th, "	...	...	" "

Elementary Schools.

The sanitary conveniences at the various Elementary Schools have been inspected, and a report made each month to the Education Committee as to their condition.

Two schools have been disinfected; one after measles, and one after Diphtheria.

Disinfection, &c.

The number of cases removed to the Isolation Hospital was as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	13
Diphtheria	...	...	...	61
Paratyphoid	...	..	...	1

The number of cases, &c., disinfected was as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	15
Diphtheria	...	...	...	67
Consumption	...	...	...	15
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	1
Measles ...	...	...	...	1
Other Illness	...	...	...	7

The bedding and clothing, where necessary, was removed to the Joint Hospital Board's disinfecting station for disinfection.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Constant attention has been given throughout the year, this being most important; but special efforts were made on the occasion of Rat Week, to enlist the co-operation of occupiers and much good work was done in consequence.

Tips, farms, food stores, &c., received special attention.

Petroleum Acts.

During the year 45 licenses to store petroleum spirif, and 13 to store calcium of carbide, only were granted.

The Acts and Regulations have been well observed.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER BROWN, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

Report of Veterinary Inspector, 1924.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in reporting that nothing of unusual nature has arisen in connection with my duties as Veterinary Inspector to the Borough during the year.

COWS AND COWSHEDS. All cows and cowsheds are inspected and examined at least once in each two months, and samples of milk have been taken from cows and examined whenever considered advisable.

The number of cowsheds in the Borough is	...	11
„ cows	„ approximately	270
„ cows excluded from cowsheds in the Borough		
„ during the year was	...	6
„ samples of milk tested during the year was		40
„ cows tested with the tuberculin test during		
„ the year was	... ..	4
„ visits paid to cowsheds during the year was		109

During the last few months the Rural Districts of Maldon, Rochford, Chelmsford, Braintree and Lexden have appointed qualified Veterinary Surgeons to make an examination of all the cows and cowsheds in their districts. Copies of the reports shall be submitted for your information when available.

During the year all milk traders selling milk in the Borough, although they live outside that area, have been referred to be registered. This gives us a much better control of the supply to the town.

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Macdonald for his help and courtesy in informing us as to the suitability of their premises, &c., and for allowing *me* to visit several.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES. The number of animals slaughtered in the Borough for human food during the year 1924, is approximately :—

Beast	...	...	...	...	2,236
Sheep	...	...	...	...	5,772
Calves	...	...	...	...	520
Pigs	...	...	...	...	6,515

About one-half of the beast, sheep and calves and one-sixth of the pigs were slaughtered at Wright's slaughterhouse in Springfield Road.

Foods Condemned and Surrendered.

8th January,	1924	...	6 pigs
" February,	"	...	Carcase of a heifer
24th June,	"	...	100 Mackerel
27th "	"	...	56 lbs. haddock
23rd July,	"	...	Case of herrings (84 lbs.)
2nd September,	"	...	1 6lb. tin of corned beef
13th October,	"	..	Carcase of a pig
12th November.	"	...	" "

Wright's slaughter-house was visited every day, all the others at very frequent intervals. They are, on the whole, well kept, but of course require supervision.

The slaughterhouse in Mildmay Road has been purchased by Mr. Palmer—and has been reconstructed.

Two new butcher's shops have been opened, making 17 in the town.

HORSE FLESH. A very large quantity is sent from this town to Rotterdam and Antwerp.

Twenty carcasses have been condemned.

A large number of goats are killed and sent to Belgium.

Palmer's slaughterhouse is visited whenever necessary to inspect the carcasses before they are put on rail.

MARKET. The Corporation market has been regularly attended on each market and Fair Day, and all animals deposited or exposed for sale have been examined.

The market has been closed by Order of the Ministry of Agriculture, once, owing to outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease.

The following is a list of all animals removed from the market during the last year .—

Animals sent out of the market during the year 1924.

Feb. 8th, 1924	...	Red and white heifer, very emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous
" " "	...	Sow, suspected to be suffering from swine fever
" 15th "	...	14 store pigs, " " "
" " "	...	White cow, very emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous
" 22nd "	...	1 sow and 9 pigs, suspected swine fever

March 7th, 1924	...	Bay gelding, suffering from parasitic mange
" 28th, "	...	Black and white cow, very emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous
June 13th, "	...	5 store pigs, suspected to be suffering from swine fever
" 20th, "	...	2 " " "
July 25th, "	...	26 pigs " "
" " "	...	Black cow, very emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous
Sept. 12th, "	...	Calf sent into market from infected area, owners had not complied with regulations
" 19th, "	...	5 pigs (1 dead) suspected swine fever
" 26th, "	...	Red and white cow, very emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous
Oct. 10th, "	...	8 store pigs, suspected swine fever
Nov. 14th, "	...	11 " " "
" 28th, "	...	1 sow, 7 unweaned pigs and 4 store pigs, suspected swine fever
Dec. 5th, "	...	8 pigs, suspected swine fever

The class of animals sent to this market is very markedly superior to that of previous years.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

		Petty Sessional Division of Chelmsford.		Borough of Chelmsford.
Anthrax	...	1	...	—
Parasitic Mange	...	2	...	1
Swine Fever	...	22	...	2
Foot and Mouth Disease	...	1	...	—
Sheep Scab	...	1	...	—

HORSES. One horse died as the result of disease—two old ones were sold and two new bought.

With the exception of temporary disablement the health and condition has been very good.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. S. MULVEY, T.D., F.R.C.V.S.

Borough of Chelmsford.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1924.

Staff.

School Medical Officer—

RICHARD H. VERCOE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., B.A.

Dentist—

NATHAN SMITH, R.D.S.

School Nurse—

MISS A. M. MITTELL.

Clerk—

W. J. FINCH.

School Clinic —

89, Duke Street.

*The Borough Public Health Offices,
Duke Street,
Chelmsford,*

March, 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

*I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1924,
on the work of the School Medical Department.*

*The following is a brief summary of the principal figures of the work
done for the year by the School Medical Department:—*

By the School Medical Officer :

Visits to Schools for Routine Medical Examinations	...	43
Children examined at	... ..	883
" " and certificates given for employment		38
Children refracted at the Eye Clinic	... ..	58
" to whom gas was administered for Dentist	... ..	19
Children examined at the Minor Ailments Clinic	... ..	470
Children's attendances	... ..	2,940

By the School Nurse :

*In addition to the treatment, preparation and clerical work associated
with that of the S.M.O. in the above figures:—*

Visits paid to Homes were	... ..	781
" " Schools	... ..	254
Heads inspected for Pediculosis	... ..	5,716

*The School Nurse also carried out the preparation and clerical work
associated with the following summary of the Dental work.*

By the School Dentist :

Half-days occupied were	... ..	86
Children's mouths inspected at the Schools	... ..	1,561
" attendances made at the Dental Clinic		424
" treated at the Dental Clinic	... ..	416

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD VERCOR

School Medical Officer.

Routine Examinations.

ROUTINE EXAMINATIONS in the schools numbered 883, which were the children returned by the Teachers as due for Medical Examination in the three age groups prescribed by the Board, namely :—

Entrants (mostly 5 years old), these numbered 233.

Intermediates (mostly 8 years old), these numbered 350.

Leavers (mostly 12 „), „ „ 300.

The complete findings of these examinations are set out in Table II., page 11, and some notes on these are as follows :—

MALNUTRITION cases numbered 30 (entrants 8, Intermediates 11, Leavers 11). This condition may be due to a variety of dissimilar causes such as hereditary, chronic disease, defective housing, or defective feeding either in quality, balance, cooking, or quantity. The attempt is made to probe into the most probable causes and advice given accordingly. Those cases which seem likely to benefit by Cod Liver Oil are advised to take this regularly, especially during the colder months, while Virol is recommended for those who cannot tolerate Cod Liver Oil. Both of these are obtainable at the Clinic at cost price to encourage those parents with small means whose children are often those most requiring these substances.

Cases of ANÆMIA (16), BRONCHITIS (20), NERVOUS DEBILITY (11) and some others were also advised Cod Liver Oil, &c., in addition to general hygienic instruction and altogether, including additional special cases of the same diseases coming to the Minor Ailments Clinic, 147 lbs. of Cod Liver Oil and 123 lbs. of Virol were obtained during the year from the Clinic.

UNCLEANLINESS cases numbered 20 at Routine Inspection, when, however, heads are often cleaner than usual through the notice given that inspection is going to be made. Inspection without notice is made by the Nurse on different occasions, the figures for which appear on page 6.

DEFECTIVE VISION and SQUINT cases numbered 28, which indicates only those who were referred for treatment, not those who already had suitable glasses. Nearly all the former together with similar cases specially referred, apart from Routine Inspection were refracted at the Eye Clinic.

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS. For “Enlargement of Tonsils only” no cases were advised operation but 70 were put down for observation (Entrants 16, Intermediates 30, Leavers 24). These figures were not based on the uniform size of tonsil, but on the estimate of what constituted enlargement

beyond that physiologically normal for the age, which rather depends on the personal equation of the observer. At the same time they are some criterion of the amount of shrinkage or otherwise which takes place with age in the tonsils which are enlarged alone without adenoid complications.

14 cases of Adenoids only, and enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids were recommended for operation, which, with 8 specials of the same defect, made a total of 22 for operation.

16 cases were operated on at the Chelmsford Hospital during the year under the Committee's agreement with that Institution.

The cases of Tonsils and Adenoids referred for observation numbered 9 from Routine Inspections and 4 from Specials. These were advised a course of nasal drill and douching in the evening before going to bed. This might be termed treatment, but they are put in the Observation column to distinguish them from the operative cases.

HEART DISEASE. 6 cases were found at Routine Inspection, 5 of which were mild, well compensated cases. There is one special case who comes to the Clinic for observation and is debarred games and drill owing to the cardiac dilatation which however is improving. This case was caused by sub-acute Rheumatic Fever, which produced so little pain that it did not lead the parent to seek medical advice until the advanced heart condition was discovered at Routine Medical Inspection a year or two ago, twelve months after the onset of the Rheumatism.

TUBERCULOSIS. Non-Pulmonary and Suspected Pulmonary. Certain of the marked Malnutrition cases who did not improve after a period of observation, which included weighing, were referred to the Tuberculosis Dispensary, with other specially selected cases, as "Pre-Tubercular" cases. 2 of these, and 2 cases of Spinal Tuberculosis were sent to Sanatoria.

No case of definite Pulmonary Tuberculosis was discovered at the Schools or School Clinic, though one child was very strongly suspected, and sent to London for special X-ray examination of the chest. Definite Tubercular disease could not be substantiated by any test, but the child was sent to a Sanatorium as a "Pre-Tubercular" case.

THYROID ENLARGEMENT. Only one case was found, and this was a very definite one in a girl of 14, living in one of the highest parts of the Borough. No other cases, even of slight degree, could be found. This one case was kept under observation at the Clinic for some time, and received internal iodide medication as is done in Derbyshire where this

condition is much commoner. The case was of long standing, and no alteration in the neck measurements could be detected during the period of observation, no signs of grave disease were present. Two sisters were stated to have had a similar condition at the same age which disappeared 3 years later.

The PERCENTAGE of Children found at Routine Medical Inspection to require treatment was 19'0. Of these Entrants were 13'7, Intermediates 21'7, Leavers 20'0.

Bronchitis was most frequent among the Entrants (12 out of 233), less among the Intermediates (5 out of 350), and least among the Leavers (3 out of 300). Anæmia was most in the Intermediate (10) as against 1 in the Entrants and 5 in the Leavers.

Uncleanliness of the Head.

The total number of Heads examined at the Schools by the Nurse was 5716.

The number of individual children found unclean was 238.

In all these 238 cases the homes were visited by the Nurse in order to verbally instruct the parents and explain the written instructions on the forms calling attention to the defect.

Those cases which were not properly cleansed at home, but had to be cleansed at the Clinic, were 11.

The total number of days of Exclusion for Pediculosis was only 30 days.

The numbers of children with Nits at Routine Medical Inspection, where pre-notice had been given, and many heads temporarily cleaned up for the event, was 20 out of 883 examined.

It was not considered necessary or desirable, so far at least, to put into operation the machinery of Prosecution.

Eye Clinic.

EYE CLINIC. 58 cases were Refracted by Retinoscopy in the Dark Room at the Clinic under Atropin.

In 10 cases glasses were either not found to be necessary or no improvement was made over those already being worn.

In 48 cases glasses were prescribed, and of these 45 actually obtained them.

Infectious Diseases in the Schools.

St. Peter's Infants School was closed from February 13th to March 8th by reason of measles.

Trinity Road Infants Department was closed from February 26th to March 15th by reason of Whooping Cough and Influenza.

Trinity Road Girls Department was closed from April 28th to 30th during the examination of swabs taken of the whole Department for Diphtheria.

The Disease of the year was Diphtheria there being 44 cases in school children out of the 64 in the Borough.

This disease particularly chooses children of school age; on the whole it was fortunately of a mild type, but there were two deaths, one aged 12 and the other aged 11.

Of the 44 school cases 13 occurred in the Trinity Road Boys Department and 11 in the Girls Department of the same school, which, however, is the largest in the Borough, and 7 cases occurred in the three Departments of St. John's School. The cases were scattered among different classes. They occurred at varying intervals broken by odd cases occurring in other schools, with the exception that between March 4th and April 22nd, 6 cases occurred at Trinity Road Girls and no other cases in any other school.

Swabbing of the Contacts, both school and at home, gave very negative results and no suspicious clinical nose or throat or ear case could be detected; the cases were not confined to any particular class occurring in fact (in date order in Classes 2, 6, 5, 5, 2, 3. Therefore it was decided to swab the whole Department, with the result that 8 were returned positive and 361 negative. The swabbing was done by the S.M.O. himself, taking particular care to get good contact between swab and tonsil, and particular note was made of any suspicious abnormality in any child, such as sore nose, redness, or pitting of the tonsil, etc. All the abnormal cases returned negative swabs, and

conversely the 8 positive swabs, including 1 which gave a pure culture, were from clinically normal healthy children. No virulence tests were done, and these may have been avirulent (except the pure-culture case) but were excluded till 2 negatives from each case were obtained later. A complete report on Diphtheria will be found in my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health.

Minor Ailments Clinic.

The Minor Ailments Clinic is held every morning from 9.15 to 10.15.

The total number of children treated at the Clinic was 470. (This does not include Refraction cases).

The total number of attendances at the Clinic was 2940.

The Ailments were of the following kinds and numbers:—

MINOR AILMENTS AT CLINIC.

Malnutrition	...	...	45	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	8		
Uncleanliness	...	...	0	Sore Throat, positive	...	5		
Skin	{	Ringworm, Scalp	...	7	" negative	...	37	
		" Body	...	5	" not swabbed	...	15	
		Scabies	...	1	Other Conditions	...	5	
		Impetigo	...	50	Enlarged Cervical Glands (non T.B.)	...	10	
		Septic Conditions	...	133	{	Heart Disease, Organic	...	1
		Warts	...	7		" " Functional	...	1
		Chilblains	...	6		Anæmia	...	2
		Eczema	...	5		Lungs	Bronchitis	...	22
		Psoriasis	...	2	{	Other Non T.B. Diseases	...	2
		Other Conditions	...	20		T.B.	Pulmonary, Suspected	...	2
		Blepharitis	...	7	{	Non-Pulmonary, Glands	...	1
		Conjunctivitis	...	8		" Spine	...	1
		Defective Vision	...	8		{	Epilepsy	...	1
		Squint	...	2	Chorea		...	1
		Other Conditions	...	12	Nervous Debility		...	9
{	Defective Hearing	...	9	Spinal Curvature	...	1		
	Otitis Media	...	17	Injuries	...	55		
	Other Ear Diseases	...	1	Gastritis	...	14		
Enlarged Tonsils only	...	3	Miscellaneous	...	59			
Adenoids only	...	1						

MALNUTRITION cases numbered 45, and comments on this Ailment have already appeared on page 5.

Uncleanliness cases numbered 11 (Pediculosis of the Head) which required cleaning at the Clinic. These attendances have not been included in the Clinic figures.

RINGWORM of the Scalp numbered 7 cases. Of these, 4 were cured at the Clinic by Special Lotion which has to be prepared fresh for each case, while 3 required to be sent for X-ray treatment to the London Hospital under the Committee's agreement with that Institution.

Ringworm of the body numbered 5 cases which were all easily cured at the Clinic by the usual methods.

IMPETIGO numbered 50 cases and were made to attend regularly at the Clinic and were quickly cured, which is one of the advantages of the Clinic being open every morning, thus making exclusion from school less necessary than might otherwise have been the case. Exclusion, however, was considered advisable in 12 cases, and the average time was 6 days each.

SEPTIC SKIN Conditions numbered 133, as distinct from Impetigo; and more required exclusion. Other conditions are set out in the table.

The MINOR AILMENT CLINIC does much good by the treatment of conditions in an early stage, which often does not seem to the parent sufficiently serious to go to the private Doctor, but which nevertheless might have become much worse if untreated. Certain cases are sent at once to the private Doctor as more suitable for treatment by him for a variety of reasons.

The attendances at the Clinic have greatly increased in the past two years and the accommodation at the old premises in Duke Street is very inadequate in the mornings, and the new Clinic and Offices designed for erection at the back of Rainsford House are badly needed.

Mayor's Fund.

During the year over 100 pairs of boots were supplied free to necessitous school children from the above fund, through the Mayor who interests himself personally in every case brought to his notice, and in the same way the children are benefitted by the meat, potatoes, coal, &c., distributed to necessitous families and by the 800 parcels given away at Christmas.

Many thanks are due to the Mayor and Mayoress for their interest and activity in these affairs of the health of the children.

TABLE I.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED 1ST JANUARY, 1924, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1924.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Code Group Inspections:—

Entrants	..	..	..	..	..	233
Intermediates	350
Leavers	300
Total						883

Number of other Routine Inspections
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B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections .. (see note d).	{	490	at Clinics and School
		58	at Eye Clinic
		38	for Employment Certificates
		19	for Gas Administration
Number of Re-Inspections .. (see note e).		2470	at Clinic M. Ailments
Total ..		3075	

(d) If a child who has been specially inspected for one defect is subsequently specially inspected for another defect, such subsequent inspection should be recorded as a Special Inspection and not as a Re-inspection.

(e) The first inspection in every case will be entered as a routine or special as the case may be. Every subsequent inspection of the same defect will be entered as a re-inspection.

TABLE II.
A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION
IN THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1924.

Defect or Disease.					Routine Inspections.		Specials.	
					No. referred for Treatment.	No. requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.	No. referred for Treatment.	No. requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.
(1)					(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Malnutrition .. .. .	..	..	..	30	8	45	—
	Uncleanliness .. .. .	..	..	..	20	—	—	—
	(See Table IV., Group V.)							
Skin	Ringworm :							
	Scalp .. .. .	..	..	..	—	—	7	—
	Body .. .. .	..	..	..	—	—	5	—
	Scabies .. .. .	..	..	..	1	—	1	—
	Impetigo .. .. .	..	..	..	4	—	50	—
	Other Diseases (non-Tuberculous) ..	..	..	..	1	1	173	—
Eye	Blepharitis .. .. .	..	..	..	4	—	7	—
	Conjunctivitis .. .. .	..	..	..	5	—	8	—
	Keratitis .. .. .	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
	Corneal Opacities .. .. .	..	..	..	1	—	—	—
	Defective Vision (excluding squint) ..	..	..	..	23	29	30	—
	Squint .. .. .	..	..	..	5	11	2	—
	Other conditions .. .. .	..	..	..	2	—	12	—
Ear	Defective Hearing .. .. .	..	..	..	3	—	9	—
	Otitis Media .. .. .	..	..	..	7	—	17	—
	Other Ear Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
Nose and Throat.	Enlarged Tonsils only .. .. .	..	..	..	—	70	2	1
	Adenoids only .. .. .	..	..	..	1	3	—	1
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids .. ..	..	..	..	11	6	8	3
	Other conditions .. .. .	..	..	..	3	—	62	—
	Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-Tuberculous) ..	..	..	..	—	27	10	2
	Defective Speech .. .. .	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
	Teeth—Dental Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	264	—	—	—
	(See Table IV., Group IV.)							
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease :							
	Organic .. .. .	..	..	..	6	1	1	—
	Functional .. .. .	..	..	..	1	13	1	—
	Anæmia .. .. .	..	..	..	16	—	2	—
Lungs	Bronchitis .. .. .	..	..	..	20	6	22	—
	Other non-Tuberculous Diseases .. ..	..	..	..	1	2	2	—
Tuberculosis	Pulmonary :							
	Definite .. .. .	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
	Suspected .. .. .	..	..	..	—	—	2	—
	Non-Pulmonary :							
	Glands .. .. .	..	..	..	1	2	1	—
	Spine .. .. .	..	..	..	3	—	1	—
	Hip .. .. .	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
	Other Bones and Joints .. .. .	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Nervous System	Skin .. .. .	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
	Other Forms .. .. .	..	..	..	—	1	—	—
	Epilepsy .. .. .	..	..	..	1	1	1	—
Deformities	Chorea .. .. .	..	..	..	—	1	1	—
	Other Conditions .. .. .	..	..	..	11	7	9	—
Other Defects and Diseases	Rickets .. .. .	..	..	..	—	6	—	—
	Spinal Curvature .. .. .	..	..	..	6	—	1	—
	Other Forms .. .. .	..	..	..	2	—	0	—
	Other Defects and Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	40	8	128	—

TABLE II.—*continued.*

B.—NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS AND DENTAL DISEASES).

GROUP.	NUMBER OF CHILDREN.		Percentage of Children found to require Treatment.
	Inspected.	Found to require Treatment.	
	(2)	(3)	(4)
CODE GROUPS :—			
Entrants	233	32	13.7
Intermediates	350	76	21.7
Leavers	300	60	20.0
Total (Code Groups)	883	168	19.0
Other Routine Inspections	—	—	—

TABLE III.

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA IN 1924.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind (including partially blind)	(i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind.. .. .	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools.. .. .	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution.. .. .	—	—	—
	(ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind.. .. .	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools.. .. .	2	2	4
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution.. .. .	—	—	—
Deaf (including deaf and dumb and partially deaf)	Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf	1	1	2
		Attending Public Elementary Schools.. .. .	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution.. .. .	—	—	—
	Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially deaf.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools.. .. .	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution.. .. .	—	—	—

TABLE III—continued.

			Boys	Girls	Total
Mentally Defective.	Feeble-minded (cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority).	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools..	3	3	6
		At other Institutions	—	1	1
		At no School or Institution..	—	—	—
	Notified to the E.C.C. during the year.	Feeble-minded	—	—	—
		Imbeciles	—	—	—
		Idiots	—	—	—
Epileptics.	Suffering from severe epilepsy.	Attending Certified Special Schools for Epileptics	—	1	1
		In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools..	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution..	—	—	—
	Suffering from epilepsy which is not severe.	Attending Public Elementary Schools..	1	1	2
		At no School or Institution	—	—	—
Physically Defective.	Infectious pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board.. ..	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution..	—	—	—
	Non-infectious but active pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board.. ..	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Open Air Schools	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools ..	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools	—	2	2
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution..	—	—	—
	Delicate children (e.g., pre-or latent tuberculosis, malnutrition, debility, anæmia, &c.)	At Certified Residential Open Air Schools	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools ..	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools	15	15	30
		At other Institutions	1	1	—
		At no School or Institution..	—	—	2
	Active non-pulmonary tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board.. ..	1	1	2
		At Public Elementary Schools	1	2	3
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution	—	—	—
	Crippled children (other than those with active tuberculous disease) e.g., children suffering from paralysis, etc., and including those with severe heart disease.	At Certified Hospital Schools	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Cripple Schools	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Cripple Schools	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools	2	2	4
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution	—	—	—

TABLE IV.

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING 1924.
GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Group V.)

Disease or Defect. (1)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Otherwise. (3)	Total. (4)
<i>Skin—</i>			
Ringworm-Scalp	7	—	7
Ringworm-Body	5	—	5
Scabies	1	—	1
Impetigo	50	—	50
Other skin disease	173	—	173
<i>Minor Eye Defects</i> (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)	27	—	27
<i>Minor Ear Defects</i>	27	—	27
<i>Miscellaneous</i> (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, &c.)	514	—	514
Total	804	—	804

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

Defect or Disease. (1)	No. of Defects dealt with.			
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (3)	Otherwise. (4)	Total. (5)
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) (Operations for squint should be recorded separately in the body of the Report).	58	1	—	59
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.)	—	2	—	2
Total	58	3	—	61

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 49
(b) Otherwise 1

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 45
(b) Otherwise 1

TABLE IV.—continued.

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Number of Defects.				
Received Operative Treatment.			Received other forms of Treatment.	Total number treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme—in Clinic or Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Total.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
16	—	16	10	26

GROUP IV.—DENTAL DEFECTS.

(1) Number of Children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist :

Aged :

Routine Age Groups	5 ..	174	Total.. 1561
	6 ..	205	
	7 ..	206	
	8 ..	152	
	9 ..	173	
	10 ..	161	
	11 ..	174	
	12 ..	154	
	13 ..	108	
	14 ..	54	

Special (see note d) 80

Grand Total 1641

(b) Found to require treatment .. 999

(c) Actually treated 416

(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination (see note e)

(2) Half-days devoted to :—

Inspection ..	20	} Total .. 86
Treatment ..	66	

(3) Attendances made by children for treatment 424

(4) Fillings :—

Permanent teeth	79	} Total .. 208
Temporary teeth	129	

(5) Extractions :—

Permanent teeth	27	} Total .. 327
Temporary teeth	300	

(6) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions 19

(7) Other operations :—

Permanent teeth	} Total ..
Temporary teeth	

TABLE IV.—*continued.*

GROUP V.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurse	8
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	5716
(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean	238
(iv.) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	11
(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	None
(b) Under School Attendance Bye-laws	None

