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BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. F. CORFIELD,

M.D., B.S., London; M.R.C.S., England; L.R.C.P., London;
D.P.H., Cambridge.

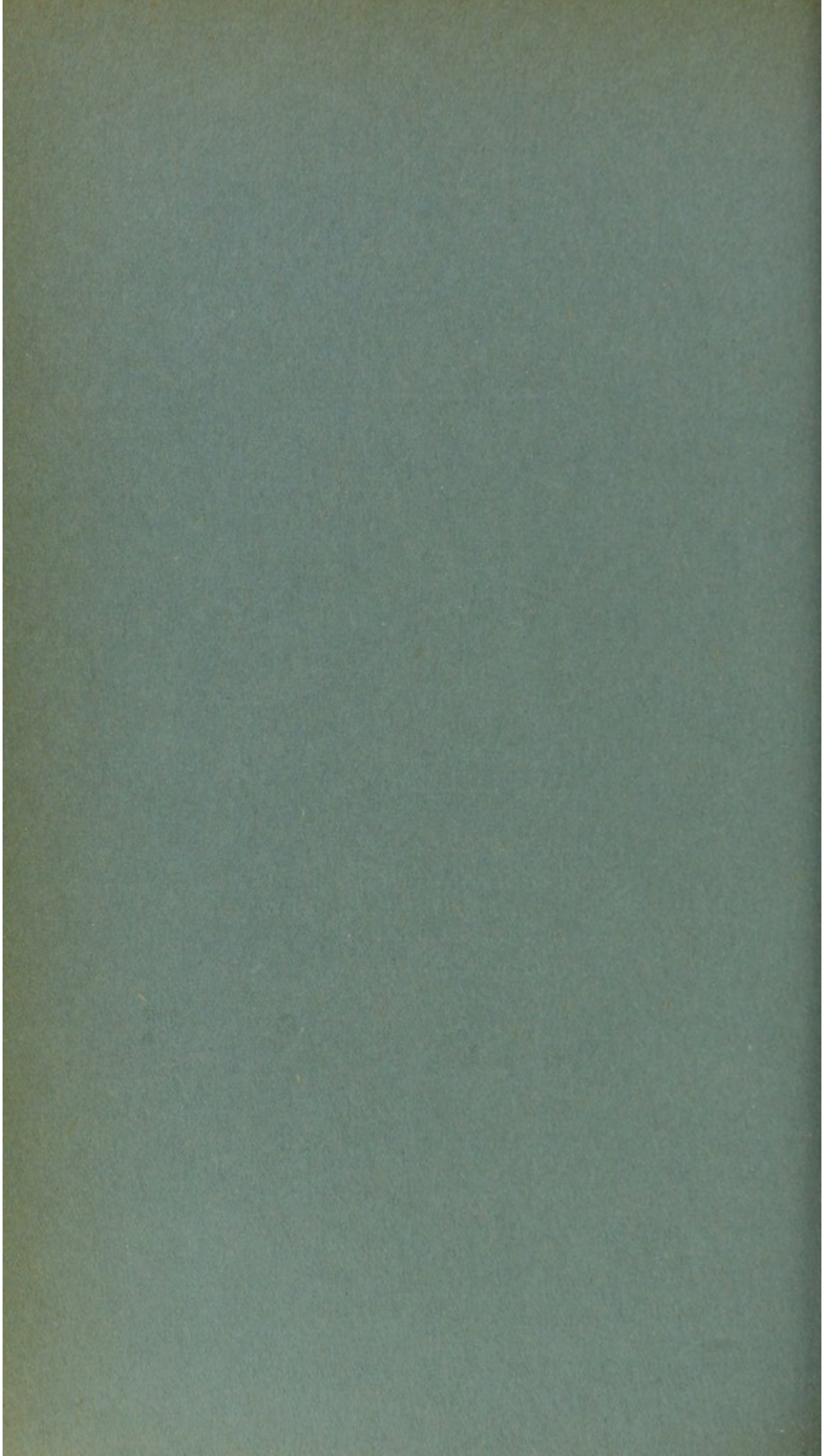
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH;
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER;
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL
AND SANATORIUM;
AND TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

1937.



Colchester:

WILKS AND SON LTD., TRINITY STREET.



BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

BOROUGH & PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE,
1937-38.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

ALDERMAN E. ALEC BLAXILL, J.P.

Chairman :

ALDERMAN P. A. SANDERS, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.

Deputy-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR G. W. B. HAZELL, J.P.

Members :

COUNCILLOR W. S. S. BACON.

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. L. BENSUSAN-BUTT, M.D.

COUNCILLOR H. H. FISHER, J.P.

COUNCILLOR S. E. HUNWICKE.

COUNCILLOR F. A. JACKLIN.

COUNCILLOR P. W. OLLE.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :

The Health Committee with the addition of

MRS. W. W. TOWNSEND and Miss K. E. SANDERS, J.P., R.R.C.

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1937.

Medical Officer of Health, etc. :

W. F. CORFIELD, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

Assistant Medical Officer of Health, etc. :

R. W. CUSHING, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Oxon).

Dental Surgeon :

J. F. GODFREY, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspectors :

†*A. FISHER. †*O. R. WARNER. †*C. J. JACOBI. †*R. F. KNOWLES.

† Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

* Meat Inspector's Certificate.

Health Nurses :

*†‡MISS E. R. SMITH.

*MISS L. PEARSON.

*†‡MISS M. PENNICK.

*†‡MISS M. E. RICKARD.

*†‡MISS A. H. WEBBER.

Municipal Midwives :

*MRS. L. J. BUNTING.

*MISS P. M. JOHNS.

Clerks :

R. D. SARGEANT. MISS M. KITTLE. MISS P. C. WALDRON. MISS M. NORMAN.
A. W. MILLBOURN. W. B. WYNCOLL. L. G. NICHOLLS. H. T. PERCIVAL.

Laboratory Assistant :

R. D. SARGEANT.

Disinfector :

H. EDWARDS.

Matron, Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium :

*†MISS D. COPELIN.

(Fever and Tuberculosis Nursing Certificates.)

Matron, Maternity Home :

*†MRS. F. DENNIS.

* Certified Midwife.

† State Registered Nurse.

‡ Health Visitor's Certificate.

PART-TIME SPECIALISTS :

Surgeon, Isolation Hospital :

RONALD REID, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

Orthopædic Surgeon :

B. WHITCHURCH HOWELL, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

X-Ray Specialist :

J. ORD PENDER SMITH, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.M.R.E. (Camb.).

Medical Officer—Ante-Natal Clinic :

GWYNEDD HUGH-JONES, M.B., B.S., (Lond.), M.M.S.A.

Obstetric Consultants :

W. S. O'LOUGHLIN, M.D., M.C.O.G. J. L. PERCEVAL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Masseuse :

MISS D. DAWSON, M., M.E., L.E.T.

Veterinary Surgeon :

C. T. MURPHY, M.R.C.V.S.

Public Analyst :

CHAS. A. HACKMAN, F.I.C.

HEALTH OFFICES,
TRINITY STREET.

16th June, 1938.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1937.

Statistics. The Birth Rate has definitely improved, from 14.1 in 1936 to 15.6; that of England and Wales having only improved from 14.8 to 14.9. The Death Rate is even lower than in the previous year, being only 9.8 per 1,000 persons. The Death Rates from particular diseases are much as usual, but it is satisfactory to find that the Cancer Death Rate has fallen.

Infectious Diseases. A great Measles epidemic occurred in 1937, probably one of the greatest the Borough has ever experienced. Particulars of this are given in the Report on page 47. No other disease was particularly prevalent at any time.

Isolation Hospital. Plans for the much-needed new Scarlet Fever Pavilion are now in hand, and at the same time the Shaw Block is to be enlarged from a four cubicle pavilion to one of ten cubicles. These wards will greatly enhance the utility of the Hospital.

Housing. Recent housing legislation has brought about a vast improvement in the housing of the people. A total of more than 1,100 Council Houses has been built and the two main centres of these at Harwich Road and Old Heath form veritable garden villages. A great deal of overcrowding has been abated and very nearly all the worst of the unfit houses have been demolished and their occupiers rehoused.

Maternity and Child Welfare. If the Maternity Home is to continue the good work it is doing for the women of the Borough and of the neighbouring county districts, it must be enlarged without delay. This question is receiving the earnest attention of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee who realize that to restrict the number admitted to the Home must injure its prestige.

yet if the requests for admission continue to increase, particularly from the county areas, in the same proportion as formerly, county cases will have to be limited to a fixed number each month. It is much too risky a proceeding to allow the Home ever to be overcrowded. The point when restriction will have to be enforced is very close, unless an increase in the accommodation takes place.

The Infant Clinics, Ante-Natal Clinic and Women's Welfare Clinic all continue to be thronged with those seeking their assistance. The Infantile Mortality Rate was only 40·8, not quite so low as in the previous year, but a very low rate is now almost a matter of course.

I am particularly grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for the great interest they continue to take in the work of the Department, and the sympathetic interest they show in the needs of the Isolation Hospital and Maternity Home.

In conclusion I wish to record the loyal and cheerful assistance that I continue to receive from every member of the Staffs of the Office, Isolation Hospital and Maternity Home, and to thank them. The Matrons of the Isolation Hospital and Maternity Home have both maintained a bright optimism under most trying conditions, due to the increasing scarcity of both nurses and domestics.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. CORFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health, etc.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937.

*An "Ordinary Report" as defined in paragraph 2 of
Circular 1650 of the Ministry of Health.*

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	12,020
Population (1937 R.G. estimate)	...	...	...	...	51,820
,, (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	48,701
Number of Inhabited Houses (1931)	...	...	...	...	10,520
,, ,, ,, (1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	12,514
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1931)	...	...	...	...	11,071
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£344,857
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£1,322

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births	{	Legitimate	Male, 398	Female, 377	Total, 775
		Illegitimate	,, 19	,, 14	,, 33
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	15·6
,, ,,	England and Wales	...	...	...	14·9
Still Births		Male, 11	Female, 7	Total, 18	
Rate per 1,000 births	...	...	...	...	22·3
Deaths	...	Male, 251	Female, 290	Total, 541	
Death Rate	per 1,000 of the population	...	...	crude	10·4
,, ,, ,, ,,				corrected	9·8
,, ,,	England and Wales	...	...	...	12·4

Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions	39·6
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Child-birth— From Sepsis, 1. From Other Causes, 2.	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births— Legitimate, 36·1. Illegitimate, 151·1. Total, 40·8.	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	86
„ „ Measles (all ages)	6
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	3
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	0·42
Other Tubercular Disease Death Rate	0·02
Cancer Death Rate	1·66

Deaths of Colchester Residents of 70 years and over.

70 and under 80	80 and under 90	90 and over	Total over 70
130	96	17	243

The ages of persons of 90 and over were—4 of 90, 5 of 91, 2 of 92, 1 of 93, 2 of 94, 1 of 97, 1 of 98, and 1 of 100; 14 of these persons were females, and 3 males.

Garrison and Institutional Populations.

Average Daily Strength of the Garrison	4,007
Officers, 176	Women, 370
Other Ranks, 2,836	Children, 625
Mental Hospitals Population	3,603
Severalls Mental Hospital (Inmates and Resident Staff)	2,270
Royal Eastern Counties Institution and Colchester Branches	1,333

The Military population has increased since the previous year by 370 and that of the Mental Hospitals has decreased by 143.

The Causes of Death in Infants and Children under 5 years, 1937.

Cause of Death	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	TOTALS
Diarrhoea ... ..	...	1	...	1
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	1	1
Violent Death	1	1	3	5
Measles ... ..	...	1	2	3
Whooping Cough	3	...	...	3
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	1	...	...	1
Heart Disease	1	...	...	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia	4	...	1	5
Congenital Debility and Pre- mature Birth	21	2	...	23
Nephritis ... ..	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis	2	...	1	3
Other Defined Causes ... ..	...	1	..	1
Cancer ... ..	...	...	1	1
Totals... ..	33	6	11	50

After a fall in the population in 1936 the Registrar General records an increase of 710 in the population figure for 1937, but it must be remembered that both these figures are only calculated figures, and the true population will only be known at the next census in 1941.

The Death Rate remains satisfactorily low and has fallen by 0·4 below that for the previous year. The crude rate of 10·4 is exactly 2·0 below the figure for England and Wales, but even more excellent is the corrected figure 9·8, which is 2·6 below the rate for the whole country and, as this figure is corrected for purposes of comparison, it is perfectly correct to state that the Death Rate for Colchester for the past year was 2·6 less than the Death Rate for England and Wales.

The Birth Rate has made an unexpected bound forwards. After a number of years, when it has been declining, a sudden advance from 14·1 to 15·6 is difficult to account for. It is not due to the number of births taking place in the Maternity Home, as babies born in this Institution whose mothers live elsewhere than in Colchester are transferred for statistical purposes to the districts to which their mothers belong.

It is very gratifying to note that there has been a definite fall in the number of Still Births, from 27 to 18. This may be due to improved Ante-natal care.

The Infantile Mortality Rate has risen from 39·0 to 40·8, an inconsiderable rise in a figure that is consistently low.

The Cancer Death Rate has fallen slightly. It may be that this rate is becoming stable at about 1·7; for several years it has been about this figure and last year it fell from 1·78 in 1936 to 1·66 in 1937.

Although six deaths occurred from measles this number is exceptionally low when the very wide-spread epidemic that occurred is taken into account.

The two death rates from Tuberculosis are both very low. That from Tuberculosis of the lungs rose from 0·37 to 0·42 and from other forms of Tuberculosis the death rate was only 0·02. It is of interest to repeat the table of Tuberculosis death rates per 1,000 of the population that was given in the last Annual Report.

Tuberculosis Death Rates per 1,000 of the Population :

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0·60	0·57	0·59	0·51	0·37	0·42
Other Tuberculous Diseases	0·14	0·09	0·08	0·08	0·06	0·02

The really remarkable reduction in the number of deaths due to other forms of Tuberculosis can probably not be ascribed to any one cause. No doubt a number of factors have combined to bring about this splendid result. It now remains for 1938 to record no deaths from this disease to complete a very remarkable sequence of figures.

The Table of the Causes of Death in children under five years of age is very much the same as usual, and consists of a few deaths from infections, a number from Congenital Debility, and a number from various causes.

VIOLENT DEATHS.

	Motor Acci- dents	Other Road Deaths	Other Violent Deaths	Total
Colchester Persons dying in Colchester	6	...	17	23
Colchester Persons dying elsewhere ...	4	1	1	6
Non-Residents injured in Colchester and dying in Colchester ... ..	...	..	4	4
Non-Residents injured elsewhere and dying in Colchester	4	...	5	9
Totals	14	1	27	42

It is startling to find that in 1937 as many as 29 Colchester residents died violent deaths and that 10 of these were due to motor accidents. The other violent deaths were due to—road accident (1), suicide (2), falls (13), crushed (3), drowned (2), poisoning (1), anæsthetics (2), burns (1), suffocation (1), septic scratches (1), and explosion (1). This is a gruesome list of casualties that brings home to one the number of tragedies that are constantly occurring almost on one's doorstep.

Deaths of Colchester Residents, 1937.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	TOTALS
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...
Measles	4	2	6
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	2	3
Diphtheria	1	2	3
Influenza	11	15	26
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	...	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	13	9	22
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	42	44	86
Syphilis, &c. ... ..	...	1	1
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis ... ..	...	...	...
Diabetes	5	3	8
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	10	19	29
Heart Disease	61	89	150
Aneurysm ... ..	...	1	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	10	17	27
Bronchitis	7	9	16
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	6	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	2	5
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum... ..	1	1	2
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	1	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	2	3
Cirrhosis of Liver... ..	...	1	1
Diseases of Liver ... ..	...	...	...
Other Digestive Diseases	6	10	16
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	11	9	20
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	1	1
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	...	2	2
Senility	2	6	8
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	16	7	23
Suicide	1	1	2
Other deaths from Violence	16	11	27
Other Defined Diseases	22	14	36
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ... ..	...	2	2
Totals	251	290	541

There were 11 fewer deaths than in the previous year. The notable falls were in Heart Disease, Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum. The chief increases were due to Measles, Influenza (a rise from 8 to 26), Circulatory Diseases and Violent Deaths.

It is always surprising to find that the increased number of deaths from some diseases are nearly balanced by the decreased number due to other causes. It cannot be argued that this is because old people must die of something, and if not put down as one thing, the cause of death must be put down as another. Last year, for instance, the Influenza deaths rose from 8 to 26, and the deaths from Violence from 12 to 27, and all of these had little or nothing to do with age, yet other diseases were more sparing and the total came out at about the usual figure.

**Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality
during the year 1937.**

	Birth Rate per 1000 Total Population.		Annual Death Rate per 1000 Population.										Rate per 1000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 yrs.	Total Deaths under 1 year.	
England and Wales	14.9	0.60	12.4	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.45	0.54	5.8	58	
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14.9	0.67	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.39	0.45	7.9	62	
148 Smaller Towns	15.3	0.64	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.42	0.42	3.2	55	
London ...	13.3	0.54	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.38	0.51	12.0	60	
Colchester Borough ...	15.6	0.35	9.8	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.50	0.52	1.2	41	

This Table deserves close study as it gives an enormous amount of most interesting comparisons. Attention may be drawn to a number of especially arresting figures. The Birth Rate of Colchester is the highest in the Table. The Still Birth Rate is nearly fifty per cent. less than any other. The Death Rate is more than 2.0 points less than any of the others.

The high figure for Measles is due to an unprecedentedly extensive epidemic: even double the figure recorded would mean a low rate for such a great epidemic.

The deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age continue to be of no importance numerically and the figure for the total deaths under 1 year, though not a record figure, continues to be among the lowest recorded for a town with a population of over 50,000.

It would be hard to find a better advertisement of the healthy condition of the Borough than this Table.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

<i>Nature of Clinic.</i>	<i>Held at</i>	<i>Days and Hours.</i>	<i>Provided by</i>
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics (4)	1 Health Offices, Trinity Street	Wed., 2-4.30	Colchester Borough Council
	2 Methodist School, Wimpole Road	Mon., 2-4.30	"
	3 Lexden Parish Hall, London Rd.	1st and 3rd Mon., 2-4.30	"
	4 Congregational Hall, Harwich Rd.	1st and 3rd Tues., 2-4.30	"
Ante-Natal Clinic	Health Offices ...	Mon. & Fri., 2-4.30	"
School Clinic ...	"	Minor Ailments, Tues. & Fri., 2-4.30 Eye Clinic, Thurs., 9.30-4.30	"
Orthopædic Clinic	"	Once every three months	"
Orthopædic After-Care Clinic	"	Tues., 9.30-12	"
Dental Clinic ...	Trinity Street	School Children, daily, 9.30-4.30 except Fri., 2-4.30 Mat. & C.W. Cases, and Sat., 9.30-12 Gas Cases	"
Psychiatric Clinic	Essex County Hospital	Mon., 2.45-4.30	Essex County Hospital.
Women's Welfare Clinic ...	Health Offices	3rd Thurs., 10.30-12.30	Essex County Council.
Venereal Diseases Clinic	Essex County Hospital	Mon., Wed. and Fri. afternoons	"
Tuberculosis Dispensary	12 Trinity Street	Tues. and Thurs., 10.30-12.30	"

Health Officers and Staff.

Two Municipal Midwives were added to the staff under the Midwives' Act, 1936. The County Council Masseur, Miss M. Scott, who looked after the Remedial Exercise and Massage Clinic, was appointed to a more senior position and her place was taken by Miss D. Dawson.

The whole staff of the Department is set out in full upon page 2.

Nursing in the Home.

As in previous years the District Nursing Association is always ready to undertake the care of sick children at the request of the Health Department. A small fee is paid for their visits, and many of the general practitioners telephone to the Health Offices and request that nursing assistance may be given for their poorer patients.

It is gratifying to find that the number is steadily increasing. In 1935 there were 7 cases, in 1936 there were 24, in 1937 the number rose to 47 and 917 visits were paid. The children visited were suffering from the following conditions—Bronchitis (12), Pneumonia (7), Measles (6), Ophthalmia (2), Scabies (17), and one each of the following—Pleurisy, Whooping Cough, and Septic Umbilicus.

It was found unsatisfactory for these Nurses to look after cases of Scabies, and a different method of dealing with this infection is being considered.

Five of the above cases were transferred to Hospital, and one of these, a case of Measles and Broncho-Pneumonia, died. All the others made good recoveries.

Midwives.

Midwives practising in the Borough at end of year	...	20
Medical Aid Notices received from Midwives		
	(Borough 162, County 27)	189
Compensation to Midwives, times granted	...	4

The Midwives Act, 1936, came into force during the year, and this necessitated the appointment of Municipal Midwives either directly by the Borough Council which is the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts or indirectly through a local Association.

Both methods were adopted and four Midwives were appointed, two directly by the Council, and the District Nursing Association accepted the responsibility of supplying the other two.

This does not appear a sufficient number for a Borough of the size of Colchester, but actually it should prove ample as the annual number of births is about 800. Of these about 200 occur in the Military Hospital, about 250 in the Maternity Home, and the District Nurses usually account for another 150, leaving only 200 patients for the two District Municipal Midwives, and all the Midwives still in private practice.

It appears that in Colchester this Act will for a number of years make very little difference to local midwifery conditions.

Under other clauses of this Act the Borough Council availed themselves of the power to superannuate three Midwives who either from age or infirmity or for some similar reason were getting beyond their work. These three were compensated in accordance with the Act, and one other Midwife in the Borough voluntarily surrendered her certificate, and she was also compensated.

The 20 Midwives mentioned above were distributed as follows—1, a Municipal Midwife employed by the Local Authority, 5 employed by the District Nursing Association, 8 were in private practice, and 6 were upon the staff of the Borough Maternity Home.

Laboratory Facilities.

Health Offices Laboratory.

Specimens Examined.	Results.		TOTAL.
	Positive or Abnormal.	Negative or Normal.	1937.
Spinal fluid for Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	—	2	2
Swabs for Diphtheria B. ...	71	889	960
Sputum for Tubercle B. ...	10	66	76
Milk for B. Coli. ...	—	2	2
Smear for Anthrax ...	—	5	5
Urine Examinations (various) ...	60	1,494	1,554
Smears for Gonococci or pus ...	2	2	4
Meat Specimens for Tubercle B. ...	4	—	4
Hair or Skin for Ringworm ...	1	2	3
Other Examinations ...	—	3	3
Town Water Supply Analysis ...	...	...	10
Other Water Supply Analysis ...	...	...	4
Total Specimens Examined ...	...	...	2,627

County Laboratory.

Specimen.	No. Examined.
Diphtheria	124
Sputa	260
Typhoid	16
Virulence Tests (Diphtheria)	5
Miscellaneous	30
Ringworm	4
Biological Examination of Milk	19
Other " "	2
Total	460

The value of the Public Health Laboratory is well exemplified by the above two tables. The laboratories assist in a great number of directions, throat swabs from the isolation hospital, sputa from the tuberculosis dispensary, urine from the antenatal clinic, ringworm from the school clinic, water analyses for the Borough Engineer, anthrax from the Veterinary Officer, milk samples from the Sanitary Inspector, and similar samples to all these and others besides come from the medical practitioners, in fact the laboratories are the handmaidens of all, and their work is of the greatest importance.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

Applications for Registration	—
Number of Homes Registered	2
Orders made Refusing or Cancelling Registration	—
Applications for Exemption from Registration	—

A small Nursing Home ceased to be used as such and the name was removed from the Register. The other two Homes continue to be well conducted.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Visits paid to Infants by the Health Nurses during the year.

Under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—12 months	1—2 years	2—5 years	Total Visits
689	919	1,149	1,788	2,308	4,348	11,201

There is a definite diminution in the number of visits paid to Infants by the Health Nurses. This was due to the prolonged illness of one of the Nurses. Her visiting was kept up as far as possible by the other Nurses, but naturally the visits paid in her district were less and the other districts also suffered. It became necessary to appoint a temporary Nurse and the visits lost were made up as far as possible.

Although the number of visits to "Toddlers," *i.e.* children of from 1 to 5 years of age has fallen, yet the figure remains high and shows that the Toddlers are not being overlooked.

Register of Foster Mothers and Boarded-Out Children.

Part I Children Act, 1908, as amended by Part V of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

	1936	1937
Children on Register 31st December ...	50	48
Names removed from the Register ...	44	26
Additions during the year ...	46	24
Foster Mothers on Register...	38	35

There were not so many changes in the Boarded-out Children Register, 50 as against 90 in 1936, but even this figure seems high when it is realized that there were 50 boarded-out children at the beginning of the year and 48 at the end of the year, yet half these children must have been moved about to cause 50 fresh entries in the register.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case of this disease was reported. The baby was treated in the Military Families Hospital but vision is seriously impaired. Arrangements are being made for after care.

The Infant Clinics.

	1936	1937
*Number of new babies (358) and toddlers (78) brought to the Clinics : Trinity Street 180 babies, 42 toddlers ; Wimpole Road 111 babies, 15 toddlers ; Lexden 47 babies, 19 toddlers ; Harwich Road 20 babies, 2 toddlers ...	409	436
Number of Attendances made : Trinity Street 4,119, Wimpole Road 2,784, Lexden 921, Harwich Road 251 ...	6,722	8,075

* Babies are under 1 year old ; Toddlers are 1—5 years old.

A new Infant Clinic was opened in July, 1937, in Harwich Road, and is held twice monthly, partly to benefit Infants and Toddlers in this neighbourhood but also with a view to relieving the congestion on Wednesday afternoons at the Trinity Street Clinic. It is too early to judge the result of this venture, but it is significant that at Trinity Street Clinic the number of children attending were 20 less during the year, whereas at both Wimpole Road and Lexden the numbers increased. The 20 less at Trinity Street were almost exactly balanced by 22 attending the new Clinic in Harwich Road.

The total number of babies taken to the Clinics has increased a little but the number of attendances has increased by 1,353, and at Trinity Street alone by 448. Last year it was pointed out that this Clinic was overcrowded. The relief given by the Harwich Road Clinic seems to be insufficient.

Food distributed at the Infant Clinics.

	Sold at Cost Price.	Given Free.
Dried Milk, lbs. ...	4,154	891
Cod Liver Oil Emulsion, 8oz. ...	1,354	29
Parish's Food, 8oz. ...	137	—
Cod Liver Oil and Malt, lbs. ...	236	15
Virol, 8oz. ...	1,028	—
Ovaltine, tins ...	1,503	2
Lactagol, packets ...	346	4
Feeding Bottles ...	145	—
„ „ Teats 492, Valves 301	793	—
Tooth Brushes ...	247	—
Horlick's Malted Milk ...	48	—

Although there was a falling off of over 1,000 lbs. of dried milk sold at cost price there was an increase of 367 lbs. that were given free. This was due to a large amount of special dried milk being given to expectant mothers, also it will be seen in the next table that although the same number of families (121) received free fresh milk as in 1936, yet nearly 2,000 more pints of milk were supplied to them than in 1936. This, no doubt to some extent, explains the falling off in the demand for dried milk.

The numbers of the other foods and articles distributed in the Clinics did not vary much from previous years, but it is gratifying to find that the sale of tooth-brushes increased from 165 to 247.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.

	1936	1937
Number of families supplied with Free Fresh Milk	121	121
Number of pints supplied to children ...	11,264	13,217
Number of pints supplied to expectant mothers	1,455	671
Total number of pints supplied	12,719	13,888

There was an expected reduction in the number of expectant mothers who were given free milk. The number in 1936 was 35 and this fell to 16. This was because a special dried milk containing calcium, to combat calcium deficiency, was in many cases given instead of fresh milk.

Ante-natal Clinic.

	1936	1937
Number of times the Clinic was held ...	99	99
New Patients (Colchester 195, Other Districts 46)	220	241
Number of Attendances (Colchester 1,258, Other Districts 244)	1,300	1,502
Average number of cases per Clinic ...	13	15
Cases with Abnormal Conditions on first visit	41	40
Abnormal Conditions discovered subsequently	—	62
Cases referred to their own doctors ...	36	34
Cases recommended to Institutions ...	26	27

Already the second day per week that this Clinic is held is fully justified. An average of 15 cases per clinic means that each Clinic is as fully occupied as it should be. It may soon become necessary to exclude cases from the surrounding districts and keep these Clinics strictly open to Colchester women only.

The number of abnormalities found shows how valuable a Clinic of this sort can be. It must not be thought that formerly such abnormalities were not noticed or were only discovered at the confinement. The Clinic avoids delay in getting such abnormalities treated. This Clinic is valuable because it gives midwives the opportunity of obtaining expert advice at once for their poorer patients who cannot readily afford a doctor's fees. It relieves the voluntary hospital of a great deal of routine work, yet the lady doctor in charge undertakes no treatment but refers patients requiring treatment to their own doctors or to an institution.

Women's Welfare Clinic.

Number of times the Clinic was held	...	...	12
New Cases from Colchester	...	...	28
Number of Attendances (Colchester 72, Other Districts 26)	...	...	98

This Clinic was opened in June, 1936, and not many women attended for the first few months. Its purpose is to give advice upon limitation of families in selected cases for reasons of health.

The Clinic is held upon the third Thursday in each month and is attended by a lady doctor employed by the County Council. The above figures are those for the complete year from January to December.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Borough Cases Notified, 10; not notified, nil	...	10
Removed to Isolation Hospital—		
Borough Cases, 6; Outside District Cases, 6	...	12
Deaths in Isolation Hospital: Borough, 1; Outside Districts, nil	...	1
Deaths at home or in other Institutions (Borough)	...	nil

The old term Puerperal Fever has been abolished in favour of the more definite term Puerperal Pyrexia, which literally means exactly the same thing and has only been adopted to get over a legal difficulty. The old name was a general term with no exact significance, whereas Puerperal Pyrexia means a definite rise of temperature in a puerperal woman. It may not be due to sepsis, it may have nothing to do with the puerperal condition; it may be only a cold in the head. Fever in a puerperal woman may be so dangerous to life that in such a case every attendant upon a woman recently confined should be on his or her guard and immediately anxious about a rise of temperature that persists. It is such a temperature that is designated Puerperal Pyrexia, and it is this condition that is notifiable.

The large number of cases notified is all to the good, as delay in the treatment of a Puerperal Pyrexia, due to sepsis, is most dangerous; whereas by immediate treatment a great deal can be done for such cases.

Three of the cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital were slight, the others were more severe. One was a very severe case that had little or no chance of recovery and this case died. The others all made good and complete recoveries.

The Maternal Mortality figures for England and Wales and for Colchester are given below.

Maternal Mortality Death Rate.

England and Wales.

	Puerperal Sepsis	Others	Total
Per 1,000 Live Births ...	0·97	2·26	3·23
Per 1,000 Total Births ...	0·94	2·17	3·11

Borough of Colchester.

Per 1,000 Live Births ...	1·24	2·48	3·72
Per 1,000 Total Births ...	1·21	2·42	3·63

Orthopædic Clinic.

	1935	1936	1937
Pre-school children brought to the Clinic	26	15	36
Attendances made ...	32	22	52

The number of Toddlers treated at this Clinic has increased remarkably. This is all to the good, as the sooner children with slight deformities are treated for them the better the results. The increase is not due to a sudden influx of deformed children but to the increased care of Health Nurses and parents in looking out for slight deviations from the normal.

The children were suffering from the following crippling conditions—

Rickets, Flat Feet, or Bowed Legs	...	...	25
Club Foot	...	...	4
Paralysis	...	...	2
Wry Neck	...	...	2
Deformed Auricle, Spinal Curvature, Deformed Toe, one of each	...	...	3

Two of these toddlers were found to require hospital treatment. One had a club foot and the other was suffering from the effects of paralysis. The latter was operated upon in the Queen's Hospital at Bethnal Green, and the former at St. Michael's Hospital, Clacton-on-Sea. The conditions in both cases were much improved.

Three other toddlers were sent to the St. Agnese Convalescent Home at Great Holland to improve their general health. One of

these children was taken to and from the Home in a private car, and the Inner Wheel and British Legion paid the cost of two of them while in the Home.

Orthopædic Massage Clinic.

	1936	1937
Number of times the Massage Clinic was open ...	50	52
Attendances of Pre-school Children ...	89	126
„ „ School Children ...	219	274
„ „ Children from County Districts...	150	177

Miss Dawson, who has taken Miss Scott's place as the County Council Massage and Remedial Treatment Expert in this area, looks after this Clinic, and attends once a week to carry out the instructions and give the treatment prescribed by the Orthopædic Surgeon. The Clinic continues to be of the greatest assistance to deformed children.

Dental Clinic.

One afternoon each week is devoted by the School Dental Surgeon to work referred to him from the Maternity and Infant Welfare Clinics.

There has been a slight falling off in the numbers attending this Clinic and it is particularly noticeable how few toddlers are brought to the Clinics for dental troubles. This is a matter that is now receiving particular attention. It is not nearly sufficiently realized how important it is to keep tiny children's teeth in good condition.

	1936	1937
Number of sessions held ...	43	42
Mothers attending ...	67	51
Pre-school Children attending ...	22	23
Attendances (mothers 184, children 40) ...	257	224

Result of Treatment.

Teeth filled (temporary 40, permanent 73) ...	113
„ extracted (temporary 9, permanent 154) ...	163
Other operations (Scaling, Dressing, Fitting Dentures, etc.)	166
General Anæsthetics given ...	31

Patients recommended for extractions under Gas attend the Clinic on Saturday mornings.

MATERNITY HOME.

Work of the Home.

	1936	1937
Admitted : Borough Patients 196, from County Council Area 93, from Harwich 5, Private outside district cases 2	237	296
Delivered in the Home	237	295
Admitted for Ante-natal Care only	9	3
Attended by the Nursing Staff	124	220
,, ,, Doctors	113	75
Forms sent for Medical Aid under the Midwives Acts	85	77

The success of this Home is amazing. Two years ago towards the end of the year (1935) it was considered just possible that the 200th patient might be admitted in the year. In 1936 it was hoped that the 200 mark would be passed. At the end of 1937 it was *expected* that 300 patients would be admitted.

The above table shows that 296 were admitted in 1937, but it does not show that during the first three months of 1938 the bookings of beds at the Home is just 50 per cent. higher than it was in 1937.

Already a second enlargement of this institution is an absolute necessity if it is to continue to carry on the excellent work it is undertaking. This is now under consideration.

Patients are admitted upon a strict income basis, the well-to-do having to pay the full fee of five guineas a week, whereas those of modest means get the same attention and treatment for one guinea a week, the only difference being that those who pay the full fees are given a single room, provided one is available, but should a poor patient owing to her condition need quiet and rest or particular treatment in a single room one is always kept available for her.

Fees paid by Borough Patients in the Maternity Home.

	Amount paid per day.													
	3/-	4/-	5/-	5/6	6/-	6/6	7/-	7/6	8/6	9/-	10/-	11/-	12/-	15/-
No. of Patients 196	9	17	34	2	29	38	1	24	11	1	2	1	3	24

These figures admirably show how much this Home is appreciated by all classes of the population.

Attention should be given to the great variety of amounts charged to the patients. The scale originally laid down has always been rightly treated as somewhat elastic.

Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia occurred in the Home. Both were slight and were at once removed to the Isolation Hospital where they each made an uninterrupted recovery.

Abnormalities.

Abnormal Presentation: Breech 6, Persistent Occipito-posterior 6, Face 1, Transverse 1, Impacted Shoulder 1	15
Twins	1
Stillbirths	5
Premature Births	7
Post-mature Birth	1
Forceps Delivery	10
Eclampsia	3
Induction of Labour	7
Albuminuria	10
Cæsarian Section performed	15
Ante-partum Hæmorrhage	2
Emergency Cases	19
Placenta Prævia	2
Achondroplasia	1
Spina Bifida	1
Post-partum Hæmorrhage	3
Carneous Mole	1

In previous years attention has been drawn to the great value of the Maternity Home for Abnormal Cases. It must not be thought however, that all the cases mentioned above would have had to go to an Institution if the Maternity Home had not been in existence. A great many could have been perfectly well looked after at home and were only found to have some abnormality at their confinement. Others undoubtedly would have had to be sent to an Institution for their confinement. Such cases as Cæsarian Section, Eclampsia, Induction of Labour and most of the emergency cases are typically cases for treatment in an Institution, and it may be claimed without fear of contradiction from those who know the Home, that each year it has not only afforded a large number of women a confinement as safe and comfortable as such an experience can be, but also that each year care and treatment in the Home saves the lives of one or more women and children.

There were no maternal deaths in the Home during the year, but there were 9 baby deaths—6 of these were due to Prematurity and 1 each was due to Atelectasis, Spina Bifida and Cerebral Hæmorrhage.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water, Drainage, Sewerage and Scavenging.

Water. The consumption of water per head per day has increased to 30 gallons for all purposes. The total water pumped is nearly six hundred million gallons per annum, this figure includes the water supplied to the London North Eastern Railway.

Every month the water is bacteriologically analysed from each source with regularly satisfactory results.

The total mileage of service mains is now about 68½ miles.

Sewerage. The Southern Outfall Sewer has been in full working order for a number of months, and it is proving a valuable addition to the sewers of the district. Already it has been possible to abolish a number of cesspools in the area served by this new sewer, and the table below shows that the number in use in 1935 has been almost halved. When it is realized that quite a large part of the Borough is rural in character it is satisfactory to note that there are now only just over 200 houses that are not connected with the sewage system.

The method of dealing with the sewage at the Hythe works is in several respects old-fashioned and inadequate for dealing with the greatly increased flow of sewage. While the new Southern Outfall Sewer was in process of being built new screens were installed and certain other improvements were made at the works, at the same time careful consideration was given to the need for bringing the whole of the sewage disposal works up to modern requirements. At the end of the year the scheme was well in hand and there can be little doubt that its completion, now that the Southern Outfall Sewer has greatly increased the previous sewage flow, is a matter of urgent necessity.

Closet Accommodation and Wells.

Type of Closet.	1935	1936	1937
Privy	35	35	34
Pail Closets ...	123	123	122
Cesspools	132	76	69
Wells	171	171	170

Only three new cesspools were constructed during the year and ten were done away with. The number will fall still further as the southern outfall sewers pick up small groups of houses still with cesspools. All the populous parts of the Borough are now well sewered, and cesspools should only be required in the more rural parts. Privies and pail closets still exist in some country cottage properties. Whenever possible privies are abolished, but those remaining are well looked after and kept in a sanitary condition.

It will be seen that there are 170 wells and 225 privies, cesspools, etc., these two figures should gradually approach one another until they are the same. They refer to a number of outlying cottages with wells and cesspools or similar method of sewage disposal, such cottages being beyond the main sewers and water supply pipes.

The Bradford system of refuse disposal has been continued at the three tips, and its value has been well exemplified on a stretch of waste marshy ground beside the river and adjoining a main road. Even while this ground was being used as a rubbish tip only a few complaints were received. Now the whole area has been covered and sown with grass seed and it will be used as a children's playing field : a valuable addition to the amenities in the centre of the town.

Refuse collection has been much improved by the purchase of five Dennis rolling floor refuse collection vehicles. The Borough will be divided into five districts, one of the above mentioned vehicles working in each district. The rapid and sanitarily efficient collection of refuse by the employment of these vehicles is most satisfactory.

Public Lavatories and Baths.

The public lavatories continue to serve a useful purpose, although the one at the corner of the Bye-pass Road and North Station Road hardly justifies the expectations of those who were anxious for its erection. However, with the steadily increasing motor traffic throughout the year, and particularly in the summer months, the need for something of the sort, if only for the use of the passing motorist, is apparent, and is, no doubt, frequently greatly appreciated.

A new lavatory is to be erected at the bottom of East Hill, upon the piece of waste land that was recently used as a rubbish tip. This site appears to be very well chosen.

The Public Baths in connection with the Culver Street lavatories continue to be extremely well patronised, and during the year, 16,258 persons used the baths.

Similarly the Bathing Pool beside the river is as popular as ever and throughout the summer months is thronged with bathers.

The river water passes through the bath and it is chlorinated on its way. The method in use has proved highly efficient, as the water when analysed has always proved satisfactory.

During the year a special examination of the Bathing Pool water was carried out by Dr. J. F. Beale, of The Counties Public Health Laboratories. In his report, after indicating the high degree of purity of the water due to chlorination, he reported adversely upon the large amount of algæ growing in the water and making it unsightly and even perhaps dangerous in case of accident. The installation of an efficient filtration plant would appear to be the only method of overcoming this unsightly and undesirable condition.

Sanitary Inspection.

General Summary of Work carried out by Sanitary Inspector's Department under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, Bye-laws, etc.

Complaints received	...	...	...	296
Defects found	...	...	...	18,371
Defects remedied	...	...	...	13,881
Factories and Workshops inspected	...	...	...	33
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	537
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	71

Housing.

Floors repaired	...	...	...	448
Walls, internal, repaired	...	...	...	1,497
„ external, repaired (air-bricks put in or repaired, 36)	...	...	...	1,910
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	358
Doors—provided 13, new sills 48, weather-boards 58, repaired 856, joints between frames and brickwork renewed 456	...	...	...	1,431
Windows—made to open 106, new or enlarged 35, cords, etc., provided 584, other repairs 1,841, joints between frames and brickwork renewed 726	...	...	...	3,292
Ovens—repaired 79, new provided 33	...	...	...	112
Firegrates repaired	...	...	...	332

Stairs—repaired 470, handrails provided 139	...	...	609
Rooms—cleansed	...	...	112
Roofs—repaired 377, renewed 4	...	...	381
Rain-water pipes and gutters—repaired or provided— downpipes disconnected 47	...	...	406
Chimneys—repaired or renewed	...	...	511
Food cupboards—ventilated 42, repaired 197	...	...	239
Wash-houses—repaired 100, new 12, coppers provided 15, coppers repaired 140	...	...	267
Houses—damp walls remedied 968, new damp-proof courses 24	...	...	992
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	216
Sinks—provided 121; waste pipes—provided 39, repaired 35	...	...	195
Coal places provided 3, repairs to 542	...	...	545
Cellars—repaired	...	...	45

Water Supply.

Water taps—provided 27, renewed 4	...	...	31
New services put in	...	...	27
Service pipes repaired 6, renewed 11	...	...	17
Wells and Pumps, cleansed or repaired	...	...	—
Defects reported to Water Supply Department	...	...	16
Old Wells filled up	...	...	1
Samples taken for Analysis	...	...	4

Drainage.

Drains provided or repaired, traps, gullies and venti- lating shafts, repaired, etc.	...	...	235
Inspection chambers—provided 9, repaired 10	...	...	19
Water-closets—provided 33, pans and traps and flush- ing apparatus provided or repaired, etc., 1,957	...	...	1,990
Pail Closets, abolished	...	...	1
„ new pails	...	...	1
Privies—abolished	...	...	1
Cesspits—cleansed 1, repaired 1	...	...	2

Other Sanitary Work.

Books disinfected	...	...	69
Houses disinfected	...	...	192
Articles of clothing disinfected	...	...	6,725
Offensive accumulations removed	...	..	7

Pig-keeping nuisances abated	...	...	—
Other nuisances or matters attended to	...	...	14
Matters reported to Borough Engineer's Department			18
" " Housing Department	...	...	18
Ashbins provided	...	...	146
Ash-pits abolished	...	...	7
Common Lodging House inspections	...	...	20
Re-visits in connection with Sanitary Notices—			
P.H. Act, 1,071 ; H. Act, 3,154	...	...	4,225
Interviews with Property Owners, Tradesmen, etc.	...	...	736
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	3
Urinals provided	...	...	1
Rent books put in order	...	...	31
Rooms closed informally	...	...	7
<i>Milk and Dairies Order.</i>			
Requirements complied with...	...	...	18
Samples for Bacteriological Analysis	...	...	2
<i>Offensive Trades Byelaws.</i>			
Requirements complied with...	...	...	2
<i>Bye-laws with respect to Tents, Vans, etc.</i>			
Visits made	...	...	33
<i>Bye-laws in respect to Houses let in Lodgings.</i>			
Visits made	...	...	1
<i>Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.</i>			
Inspections	...	...	176
Advice as to destruction given	...	...	28
Letters to Owners or Occupiers of premises	...	...	35
Premises freed	...	...	22
Complaints received	...	...	31
<i>Other Regulations.</i>			
Requirements complied with	...	...	9
Essex County Council Act Contraventions	...	...	27

A reduction in the amount of information given in the above figures has been made this year. These tables were beginning to get so overloaded with details that the study of them became burdensome. So this year the chief facts are alone stated, not because the detailed work has been omitted but because the main fact includes the detail. For instance the important fact will be noted in the above table that 1,497 internal walls were repaired. It is not nearly

so important to learn that these repairs concerned 105 skirting-boards, 945 plastering jobs, match-boarding in 133 cases, and brickwork in the remaining 314. Should anyone require details concerning the above figures they can all be found in the records of the Sanitary Inspectors.

The figures above bear eloquent witness to the large amount of very useful work continuously being carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, and it may be seen in the first part of these tables that far the greater part of the work is carried out by informal orders. That is to say that owners of property appreciate the fairness and reasonableness of the Inspectors' demands, and carry out the work that the Inspectors ask for, without serious objection in nine cases out of ten.

Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations. Offensive Trades.

	Number.	Inspections.
Fish Frier	25	21
Gut Scraper	1	10
Tallow Melter	1	—
Rag, Bone and Skin Dealer	6	8
Bone Boiler	1	—
Total	34	39
Horse Slaughterer	1	10

The number of these premises remains the same as in 1936. All have been carried on satisfactorily and no complaints have been received concerning any one of them.

Common Lodging Houses.

63A East Hill.

128 Magdalen Street.

84 Magdalen Street.

16 and 17 Vineyard Street.

These also remain the same. The "Houses" are all well and properly conducted. They have been kept in an orderly manner and no complaints have been received from or about any of them.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Houses Infested—Council 15, Others 23	...	38
Houses Disinfested—Council 15, Others 23	...	38
Rooms Infested and Disinfested	...	95

In addition to the above houses four houses were disinfested owing to fleas.

The method employed in this work is to spray the infested rooms and furniture with a patent bug-destroying fluid after the removal of skirting-boards, architraves, etc. After spraying, the rooms are usually treated with sulphur dioxide gas. This method has proved efficacious in a large majority of cases, it being only exceptionally necessary to re-spray a house.

When it is necessary to disinfest the belongings of tenants before removal to a Council House, the furniture has been treated as outlined above and the bedding has been removed for steam disinfection.

Disinfestation is carried out by the officers of the Sanitary Inspectors' Department. At the time they take the opportunity of warning the tenants that the presence of bugs may lose them their tenancy. A lady inspector employed by the Housing Department and the Health Nurses make it their business to educate families in general rules of cleanliness.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.

Schools. Steadily the programme of the Education Committee is going forward for renovating or rebuilding the washing and lavatory accommodation of the Schools. In a few years every Council School in the Borough will have up-to-date sanitary fittings, and at the same time the cloak-room accommodation is being greatly improved.

Rag Flock Act, 1911 and 1928. No Rag Flock is handled or manufactured in the town.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act. Work upon the Refuse Tips has continued upon the same lines. Every week gassing or poisoning is carried on and only a few complaints are received of the tips harbouring rats. Householdiers troubled with rats are given advice and the services of a rat-catcher are always available for a small fee.

Shops Act, 1934.

Shops inspected	...	...	...	...	105
„ re-inspected	...	...	...	...	34
Notices served	...	...	...	...	12
Defects found	...	...	...	...	15
Defects remedied—Heating	10,	Sanitary accommodation	5,		
Washing facilities	1	...	...	...	16

Regular inspections are now carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors under this Act. No serious difficulties have been encountered, and in shops where the Act was not being complied with, owners or occupiers have remedied defects when they were pointed out.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—*Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	18	7	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	15	...	...
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises) ... ..	...	...	...
Total	33	7	...

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	...
Want of ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances... ..	4	2	...	...
<i>Sanitary accommodation—</i>				
Insufficient... ..	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective	8	9	...	...
Not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...
<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	12	11	1	...

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

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

Nature of Work.	Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wearing Apparel—Making, &c.
Total

Home Work.

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists. Section 107.						Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists.
	Lists received from Employers twice a year.			Lists received from Employers once a year.			
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.		
		Contractors.	Workmen.		Contractors.	Workmen.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Wearing Apparel Making, etc. ...	22	—	244	—	—	—	—
Furniture and Upholstery ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Sack Making ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper Receptacle Making ..	2	—	15	—	—	—	—
Total ..	26	—	261	—	—	—	—

During the year 25 lists of Outworkers, containing 179 names, were transferred from Colchester to other districts. Two lists were received in Colchester from other districts.

HOUSING.*Statistics for the Year 1937.*

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	319
(i.) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	43
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	276

The total number of houses owned by the Local Authority is now 1,181, situated as follows:—

North Ward	165	East Ward	565
South „	207	West „	244

I.—*Inspection of Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection :—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,311
and Number of Inspections made	5,536
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	416
and Number of Inspections made	3,570
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	43
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	831

II.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	674
--	-----

III.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

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 ...	37
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) by owners	46
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	32
---	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ;	
(a) by owners 	34
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	2

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 	61
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 	47

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

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

IV.—*Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

(a) (i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 	74
(ii.) Number of families dwelling therein ...	74
(iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	522
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 	4
(c) (i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 	62
(ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases	433
(d) Cases of houses again becoming overcrowded	nil

The above figures with reference to housing and house inspection are very much the same as those of the previous year.

Section IV. is new and refers to overcrowding. A very great deal of inspection of houses for overcrowding was carried out in 1936, and it will be remembered that over 10,000 houses were visited and particulars of their accommodation obtained by a special housing survey carried out by a specially appointed staff. This resulted in only 173 houses being found to be overcrowded. But it has not been found easy to deal with even this small number owing to the great demand for Council Houses which still persists.

The figures above in Section IV. refer to dwelling-houses and persons. The term "a dwelling-house" has under recent memoranda of the Ministry of Health obtained a special meaning, and it is not clear if the particulars asked for in Section IV. above should refer to individual houses or to separate "lets" in the same house.

Similarly, if two children under 10 count as one "person," it is not clear if "persons" should be counted in this way when compiling the above Table.

Actually throughout the Table a "dwelling-house" has been taken to mean a separate individual house except in Section IV. in which separate "lets" in a house are each counted as a dwelling-house. Thus a house may contain one dwelling-house overcrowded and one dwelling-house not overcrowded, if for example one family lives upstairs and overcrowds their rooms, while downstairs another family lives who are not too many for the rooms they occupy.

On the other hand the term persons in the above Table has been taken to mean individuals and so each child, whatever his or her age, has been counted as a person. If two children under 10 years of age should have been counted as one person, the figure 433 would be reduced to 381.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Premises	Number	Inspections
Slaughter-houses:—		
Registered 9 }	15	1400
Licensed 6 }		
Bakehouses 32 }	33	25
Underground 1 }		
Dairies and Milk Shops	81	74
Cowsheds	51	45
Ice Cream	136	48

Two of the licensed Slaughter-houses were discontinued during the year, one in Magdalen Street and one in North Station Road. Also two Bakehouses gave up work, one of these was situate in Old Heath Road and the other in Scheregate Steps.

It will be noted that the Inspectors are very frequently in the Slaughter-houses. This is for the purpose of meat inspection, and the table of condemned meat later in this report indicates how very important this part of their duties has become.

The number of dealers in Ice Cream has again increased. These premises are frequently inspected throughout the summer months.

All Retail Purveyors of Milk in the Borough now have proper sterilizing apparatus for their cans, etc. The Senior Sanitary Inspector has very wisely insisted upon this, as any other method of cleaning and purifying milk containers cannot be considered satisfactory.

Bacteriological Purity of Milk.

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Samples taken by County Officers ...	47	9
„ „ Borough Officers ...	2	—

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Licences issued for sale of Graded Milk, 1937.

Pasteurised	...	...	...	10
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	5
Tuberculin Tested (Bottling)	...	...	...	1
Accredited (Bottling)	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised, Producer	...	...	...	1
Supplementary	...	...	...	1

Meat.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle including Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed (if known) ...	—	—	—	—
Number Inspected ...	1758	26	3173	5436
All diseases except T.B.—				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	2	10	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	79	—	3	50
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	4·5%	7·7%	·4%	1·3%
T.B. only—				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	5	—	—	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	46	—	—	289
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B. ...	3%	—	—	5·6%

The Ministry of Health has asked for particulars of "Cows" separately from Cattle in the above Table. Unfortunately these particulars have always been included under the general heading "Cattle," but in future the separate return will be available. Actually very few cows are slaughtered in Colchester.

Parts of Carcasses found Unfit and Destroyed.

<i>Cattle—</i>		<i>Pigs—</i>	
	lbs.		lbs.
Livers	744	Heads and Tongues ...	2,239
Heads and Tongues...	826	Mesenteries ...	194
Mesenteries	55	Plucks	407
Lungs	193	Lungs	23
Plucks	—	Livers	63
Kidneys	33	Kidneys	2
Beef	901	Spleens	—
Other parts	104	Other parts	183
	—		—
	2,856		3,111
	—		—

Miscellaneous—

Tinned Tongue (1 tin) ...	...	4 lbs.
Cooked Ham (10 tins) ...	...	119 lbs.
Sheep's Liver ... ..	...	3 lbs.
Sheep's Plucks ... ..	...	15 lbs.
Cherries (6 tins) ... ..	...	12 lbs.
Pineapple (19 tins) ... ..	...	—

Total Weight of Food Condemned and Destroyed;
6 tons, 15 cwts., 2 qtrs., 14 lbs.

During the year 306 visits and inspections were made to places where food was stored or prepared.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

The provisions of this Act are now administered by the Health Committee in place of the Watch Committee. In 1937 Inspector Ball, the Sampling Officer, was superannuated and Mr. Fisher, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, was appointed Sampling Officer in his place.

Result of Analysis of Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act.

Samples.	Number of Samples.	Adulterated.	Nature of Adulteration.
New Milk ...	36	3	(a) Fat deficient = 1.0%
Rice ...	2		(a) Added water = 1.5%
White Pepper ...	1		(a) Fat deficient = 1.3%
Coffee ...	1		and added water = 1.5%
Jams ...	2		
Sweets ...	2		(a) Original Samples.
Marmalade ...	1		
Tea ...	5		
Brandy ...	1		
Corn Flour ...	2		
Bread ...	2		
Flour ...	1		
Bloater Paste ...	1		
Bacon ...	1		
Raisins ...	2		
Olive Oil ...	3		
Whiskey ...	2		
Sago ...	1		
Arrowroot ...	1		
Port Wine ...	2		
Coffee and Chicory ...	3		
Mustard ...	1		
Drugs ...	7		
Cake ...	1		
Custard Powder ...	1		
Gin ...	2		
Condensed Milk ...	1		
Lard ...	3		
Butter ...	9		
Sugar ...	2		
Rum ...	1		
Cheese ...	2		
Sausages ...	1		
Shredded Suet ...	1		
Pasteurised Milk ...	1		
Tinned Peas ...	3		
Honey ...	2		
Golden Syrup ...	1		
Tinned Pineapple ...	1		
Corned Beef... ..	1		
	113	3	

Cases of adulteration were slight and no prosecutions were considered necessary. In all cases the vendors were warned.

PROPAGANDA.

It is unfortunate that an attempt to make use of local cinemas for spreading knowledge upon health came to nought. There

should be some means by which Cinema programmes can be made to include the display of a Health Film. If this were done once a month, the tax upon the patience of an audience would not be great—they might occasionally even enjoy it—and the young and susceptible would benefit by the educational elements of the film.

It is always possible for a Health Committee to hire a hall and give a show of their own, but such propaganda can only be spasmodic and can only reach a few people who very probably are already interested in questions of the public health. What is wanted is an improvement upon the health posters and hand-bills that are regularly and continuously doing good work. The regular monthly showing of a Health Film at each cinema would be a definite step in the right direction.

NUTRITION.

At each Infant Clinic the Senior Nurse gives short talks to the mothers upon Feeding, Nutrition, the Care of the Infant, etc. This is of course in addition to the routine work done by the Health Nurses during their visits to the homes and by the Medical Officers in the Clinics. Particular importance is given to the subject of Nutrition in the Antenatal Clinic. One of the chief functions of this Clinic is to advise mothers upon matters of Nutrition.

SHELL-FISH.

Extensive oyster-beds, the property of the Colne Fishery Board, and leased to the Colne Fishery Company, are situate in the river Colne. Every town or village upon the river banks has its proper sewage treatment system and no untreated sewage is allowed to discharge into the river.

However, the Colne Fishery Company do not rely upon this for the purity of their oysters. At certain times the oysters are dredged up from the river and relaid in the Pyefleet Creek, the water of which is very pure. Here the oysters fatten and are freed from any possible impurities they may have picked up in the main river.

The Pyefleet Oysters are marketed almost exclusively at Billingsgate.

No action has been taken under either the Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934, or under the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell Fish) Act, 1932.

Deaths due to an Infectious Disease, 1937.

(Civilian and Military.)

Disease	Total Deaths	Age at Death											
		Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over
Diphtheria ...	3	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	6	...	1	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	58	5	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	3	6	22	18
Dysentery ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Enteric Fever ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3
Encephalitis) Lethargica)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...

These figures are all, with one exception, very similar to those of the previous year. The number of cases of measles notified is very much higher than usual owing to the extensive and wide-spread measles epidemic that occurred. It will be seen in the list of "Other Diseases" removed to the Isolation Hospital, given just below the next table, that only 20 cases of measles were so removed, and in the table above that only six deaths occurred. These facts indicate the valuable services rendered by the Health Nurses, as it was part of their duties to visit the homes of all children with measles and give advice upon their general care and urge the parents to call in a doctor in all cases. Too many parents, particularly poor parents, are inclined to look upon Measles and Whooping Cough as necessary evils that children will quickly get over and that are unimportant. The very contrary is the case and it is the duty of the Nurses to impress upon parents how dangerous an attack of Measles or Whooping Cough may be.

Isolation Hospital.

Cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 1937.

Authority sending in cases	Scarlet Fever	Deaths	Diphtheria	Deaths	Typhoid Fever	Deaths	Other Diseases	Deaths	Total	Deaths
Colchester Borough	63	...	46	3	1	...	44	4	154	7
Essex County Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...
Mental Institutions	1	...	5	...	1	...	13	...	20	...
War Department	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	6	...
Wivenhoe U.D.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Brightlingsea U.D.	3	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	5	1
Tendring R.D.	8	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	13	...
Lexden and Winstree R.D.	16	...	8	1	...	...	4	...	28	1
Melford R.D.	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Essex County Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	12	60	12
West Mersea U.D.	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...
Clacton U.D.	11	...	6	...	...	...	2	...	19	...
Private Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Total Cases	111	...	70	...	3	...	131	...	315	...
<i>Deaths</i>	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	16	...	21

In the above table the 131 "Other Diseases" may be classified as follows:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	53	Apoplexy and Cerebral	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	12	Hæmorrhage	...	1
Tonsillitis	...	4	Vincent's Angina	...	1
Diphtheria Carriers	...	15	Whooping Cough & Bron-	...	...
Dysentery	...	2	chitis	...	1
Toxic Rash	...	1	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	...	Toxic Dermatitis	...	1
Measles and Pneumonia	...	9	Septic Abortion	...	1
Measles	...	14	Erysipelas	...	3
Measles and Bronchitis	...	1	Chicken-pox	...	1
Osteomyelitis	...	1	Gastritis	...	1
Quinsy	...	1	Suspected Scarlet Fever	...	1
			Pneumonia	...	5

Accommodation is provided in this Hospital for 12 Sanatorium Patients (women), and 6 Advanced Cases (3 men and 3 women), suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. This provision is made by the County Council, and patients are sent from various parts of Essex to the Sanatorium beds, but advanced cases are only admitted from Colchester or from the neighbouring districts.

The large number of deaths (16), that occurred among the "Other Diseases" admitted to the Hospital was due to the fact that 12 patients with advanced Tuberculosis died. The other four deaths were due to Puerperal Pyrexia (1), and Measles and Broncho-pneumonia (3).

Rather more cases were received in the Hospital than in the previous year—315 as against 283—the latter figure being exceptionally low.

The need for improved accommodation for Scarlet Fever cases was further considered, and at the same time it was thought desirable to increase the number of Cubicle Wards. At the present time the Hospital is insufficiently supplied with single-ward accommodation.

The number and variety of diseases treated in an Isolation Hospital have increased enormously since the days when Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and perhaps Typhoid Fever were the only cases admitted. To-day a modern Isolation Hospital should be ready to receive a dozen different diseases, and when it is quite likely that one each of five different infectious diseases may be present in the Hospital at the same time the need for ample cubicle accommodation becomes readily apparent.

Scarlet Fever.

BOROUGH CASES—

Notified, 72 ; not notified, nil...	...	...	72
Nursed at home or in other institutions	...	...	4
Removed to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	68
Return Cases	...	...	nil
Deaths at home or in other institutions	...	...	nil
„ in the Isolation Hospital	...	...	nil

CASES FROM OUTSIDE DISTRICTS—

Admitted to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	43
Deaths in the Isolation Hospital	...	...	nil
TOTAL CASES ADMITTED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL	...	...	111
TOTAL DEATHS IN THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL	...	...	nil

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified in the Borough was 22 more than in the previous year, but the total remains low.

They were distributed in the Wards, Garrison and Institutions, as follows:—

North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward	Garrison	Institutions	Total
24	10	17	15	4	2	= 72

It should be noted that there were no deaths from this disease and no return cases occurred at the Hospital. It also speaks well for the nursing precautions in force in the Hospital that although upon two occasions children in the General Wards developed Measles that had been contracted before admission, only three other children caught this disease from them, and although two children developed Chicken-pox and one Whooping Cough no further cases occurred of either of these diseases.

Three doubtful cases were admitted as suspected Scarlet Fever. One proved to be Tonsillitis, one had a Toxic Rash, and the last had no apparent illness.

Diphtheria.

BOROUGH CASES—

Notified, 51; not notified, nil...	...	...	51
Nursed at home or in other institutions	...	...	nil
Removed to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	51
Deaths at home or in other institutions	...	...	nil
Deaths in the Isolation Hospital	...	...	4

CASES FROM OUTSIDE DISTRICTS—

Admitted to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	19
Deaths in the Isolation Hospital	...	...	2
TOTAL CASES ADMITTED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL	...	...	70
TOTAL DEATHS IN THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL	...	...	6=8.6%

The Borough cases occurred in the Wards and Institutions as follows:—

North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.	Garrison.	Institutions.	Total
4	6	29	4	—	8	= 51

Although the number of Diphtheria cases notified is only two more than in the previous year, the disease was more virulent, and a number of the patients were seriously ill. Tracheotomy was necessary in four cases, and of these patients three subsequently died. Two of these children were very seriously ill, and one was suffering from Measles as well as Diphtheria, and death was ultimately ascribed to Measles. Another death was that of a woman who died as she was lifted from the ambulance on to a bed in the Ward.

In addition to the above cases there were four other laryngeal cases that were seriously ill, but all ultimately made good recoveries.

One child developed Chicken Pox that had been contracted before admission and an adult developed Erysipelas; no further cases of either disease occurred.

One of the Nurses in the Hospital and a Ward Maid contracted Diphtheria.

Anxiety was felt at the Royal Eastern Counties Institution when positive swabs were obtained from the throats of several of their inmates. Nine of these were admitted to the Hospital, but none had any other definite symptoms of Diphtheria, and after a number of the Diphtheria organisms present proved to be non-virulent, all these patients were sent back to the Institution. In addition to these, six other positive carriers were admitted, and their throats cleared of the infecting organism.

One case sent to the Hospital as Diphtheria proved to be suffering from simple Tonsillitis.

Enteric Fever.

BOROUGH CASES—

Notified, 4; not notified, 4	...	...	...	8
Nursed at home or in other institutions	...	...	...	6
Removed to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	2
Deaths at home or in other institutions	...	...	...	5
„ in the Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	nil

CASES FROM OUTSIDE DISTRICTS—

Admitted to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	1
Deaths in the Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	nil

TOTAL CASES ADMITTED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL ... 3

TOTAL DEATHS IN THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL ... nil

The above table shows that although eight cases of Enteric Fever occurred in the Borough, only four were notified, and at the same time it will be noted that five deaths occurred.

All but one of these cases occurred in Severalls Mental Hospital and four of them were only diagnosed post mortem. One other Severalls case died, and of the other two cases one was a patient and one a nurse. Both made good recoveries, the latter being admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

The eighth case was a lady who contracted the disease abroad. She made a good recovery in the Hospital.

One patient suffering from Paratyphoid B was sent into the Hospital from an outside district. She did well and her recovery was uneventful.

A man was admitted as a suspicious case of Enteric Fever. The diagnosis was in doubt for some days and he was seriously ill; at length double Pneumonia declared itself and under treatment he made a slow but excellent recovery.

Pneumonia.

TOTAL BOROUGH CASES—

Cases notified, 75 ; not notified, 34	...	...	109
NUMBER OF CASES OCCURRING IN GARRISON OR INSTITUTIONS			67
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS	...	...	58

These 109 cases were distributed in the Wards and Institutions in the Borough as follows :

North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.	Institutions.	Garrison.
14	5	15	8	67	—

These figures are very similar to those of the previous year. Four cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. All of them recovered, one who was suffering from Pleurisy was removed to the General Hospital, after the acute stage of the disease had subsided.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

BOROUGH CASES—

Cases notified, 2 ; not notified, nil	...	...	2
Cases occurring in the Garrison	...	...	1
Removed to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	1
Nursed at home or in other Institutions	...	...	1
Number of Deaths	...	...	1

CASES FROM OUTSIDE DISTRICTS—

Admitted to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	nil
Deaths in the Isolation Hospital	...	...	nil
TOTAL CASES ADMITTED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL	...	...	1
TOTAL DEATHS IN THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL	...	...	nil

A severe case of Meningitis was sent into the Isolation Hospital from Military Quarters. The child responded well to treatment and made an excellent recovery. A baby of 11 months died from this disease in the General Hospital.

A suspected case of this disease was admitted to the Isolation Hospital, but the symptoms which simulated Meningitis were found to be due to Gastritis.

Encephalitis Lethargica and Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

A woman died of Sleepy Sickness in the General Hospital. The case was not notified.

Four patients were notified in the Borough as suffering from Infantile Paralysis. Upon recovery all were left with some paralysis. After-care was arranged for them through the Orthopædic Clinic. One was sent to a London Hospital, but there contracted Pneumonia and died.

A boy with Infantile Paralysis was sent into the Isolation Hospital from a neighbouring district. He was a mild case and made a good recovery with little or no paralysis.

A child that was sent in from another district as a doubtful case of Infantile Paralysis was found to be suffering from a Cerebral Hæmorrhage. She developed Measles which had been contracted before admission, but made a good recovery and was later sent to a London Hospital.

Erysipelas, Malaria, Dysentery.

Erysipelas—

BOROUGH CASES—

Cases notified, 14; not notified, nil	...	...	14
Removed to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	2
Number of Deaths ...	...	...	nil

CASES FROM OUTSIDE DISTRICTS—

Admitted to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	1
Deaths in the Isolation Hospital	...	...	nil
TOTAL CASES ADMITTED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL			3
TOTAL DEATHS IN THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL	...	...	nil

Six of the 14 cases occurred in Institutions.

It should be noted that no deaths were caused by Erysipelas. The patient sent to the Isolation Hospital from another district was seriously ill. The other two cases admitted to the Hospital were well marked but not severe cases. All did well and made good recoveries.

Seven cases of *Malaria* were notified from the Garrison. Six were soldiers and one a soldier's child. All had contracted the disease abroad.

Nineteen cases of *Dysentery* were notified from the Royal Eastern Counties Institution and two of their Nurses were

removed with this disease to the Isolation Hospital. One case was notified from the Garrison and a patient in Severalls Mental Hospital died from Dysentery, unnotified.

There appear to have been many more cases of Dysentery in the Borough than the above figures indicate. It is probably correct to state that the disease known as Sonne's Dysentery has occurred in a mild form throughout the Borough, but as it has only caused a few days' illness little notice has been taken of it.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

A wide-spread epidemic of *Measles* occurred throughout the Borough. Under the special Colchester Regulations only the first case under 5 years of age in any house is notifiable; yet 425 cases were notified. This shows how extensive the epidemic must have been, and it is estimated that there must have occurred some 2,000 cases in the four months from the 1st March to the end of June, when the epidemic ended.

It was the greatest Measles epidemic that the Borough has experienced for a number of years.

Twenty cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and eight of them were complicated by Pneumonia; two of these cases died. The other four deaths ascribed to Measles were a child with Laryngeal Diphtheria, following Measles, who died in the Isolation Hospital, and three cases dying at home, one being a girl of 12 years who had been ill almost from birth with a Tubercular Spine. Adult cases admitted were a patient from the Maternity Home; a Nurse from Severalls Mental Hospital and also one from the General Hospital.

It is most gratifying that in such a great epidemic only six deaths occurred.

Four cases were sent into the Hospital from the "Outside Districts," one complicated by Pneumonia and one by Bronchitis. All made good recoveries.

Only 53 cases of *Whooping Cough* were notified. One, complicated by Bronchitis, was admitted to the Hospital and made a good recovery. Three deaths occurred from this disease in the Borough. It should be remembered that the number of cases that occurred in the district was a good deal higher than the number notified, as the special Colchester Regulations referred to above apply to Whooping Cough as well as to Measles.

Miscellaneous Cases admitted to the Hospital.

It sometimes occurs that Medical Practitioners request that patients suffering from septic conditions be admitted to the Isolation Hospital. If the case is one that can be properly accepted and treated this is done, as it is realized that such cases are more properly looked after in an Isolation Hospital than in a General Hospital, unless the General Hospital has a well-equipped Isolation Pavilion.

During 1937 a woman suffering from a Septic Abortion was admitted at the request of a local doctor, also a case of Vincent's Angina and a case of Quinsy.

In addition, a Nurse from Severalls Mental Hospital was admitted with Chicken Pox.

From the Outside Districts a child was admitted suffering from Osteomyelitis, and a woman was sent in with Tonsillitis.

A man with an unusual rash over his body that was not unlike a Small-pox rash was admitted for observation. The condition proved to be due to Toxic Dermatitis.

All these patients made good recoveries.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2-4	...	...	3	1	...	...	1	...
5-9	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
10-14	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
15-19	2	1	2	1	...	1	...	...
20-24	1	7	1	2	...	3	...	...
25-34	4	5	2	2	2	1	...	...
35-44	5	6	...	...	5	1	...	...
45-54	5	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
55-64	2	1	...	...	2	3	...	...
65 and upwards...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Totals	20	22	12	8	13	9	1	...

There were 22 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 1 from other forms of the disease, or 23 deaths from Tuberculosis of all forms.

One person died from Tuberculosis who had not been previously notified.

The percentages of cases that have died of Tuberculosis during the past five years, without having been previously notified, were—

1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
11%	17%	20%	5.5%	1.6%

There is very little change in the number of cases of Tuberculosis. They remain very low.

The very few cases that fail to be notified now are mostly cases in which the disease is discovered by post-mortem.

Tuberculosis Register.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Pulmonary Cases	187	178	166	156	153
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	73	70	60	67	80

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

„ „ „ 1936, „ 172.

No action was found necessary under any of the above powers.

The increase in the number of other forms of Tuberculosis was almost exclusively due to slight affections of the cervical glands.

Treatment of Blind Persons.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 66.

„ „ „ 1936, „ 176.

One case, the child previously referred to in this Report under the Ophthalmia Neonatorum Regulations, was reported to the Essex Association for the Care of the Blind.

W. F. CORFIELD, M.D., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health, etc.,
for the Borough of Colchester.*

HEALTH OFFICES,
TRINITY STREET.

These were 22 patients from Philadelphia (1900-1901) and 10 from other parts of the region, or 32 deaths from Tuberculosis of all forms. The number of cases that have died of Tuberculosis during the last five years, without having been previously mentioned, were:

1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
1	1	1	1	1

There is very little change in the number of cases of Tuberculosis. They remain very low. The explanation that has been advanced for the increase in which the disease is discovered by post-mortem is that the number of cases that have died of Tuberculosis has increased.

Tuberculosis Register

1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
1	1	1	1	1

Public Health Reports, Vol. 1905, No. 1, p. 173

No case was found necessarily in any of the above papers. The increase in the number of other forms of Tuberculosis was almost entirely due to slight alterations of the central glands.

Treatment of Blind Persons

1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
1	1	1	1	1

Public Health Reports, Vol. 1905, No. 1, p. 173

One case, the child previously referred to in this Report under the Ophthalmia Neonatorum designation, was reported to the Essex Association for the Care of the Blind.

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 Medical Officer of Health, etc.
 for the Borough of Colchester