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DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
(MEDICAL DEPARTMENT)



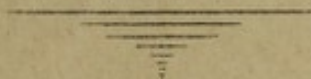
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

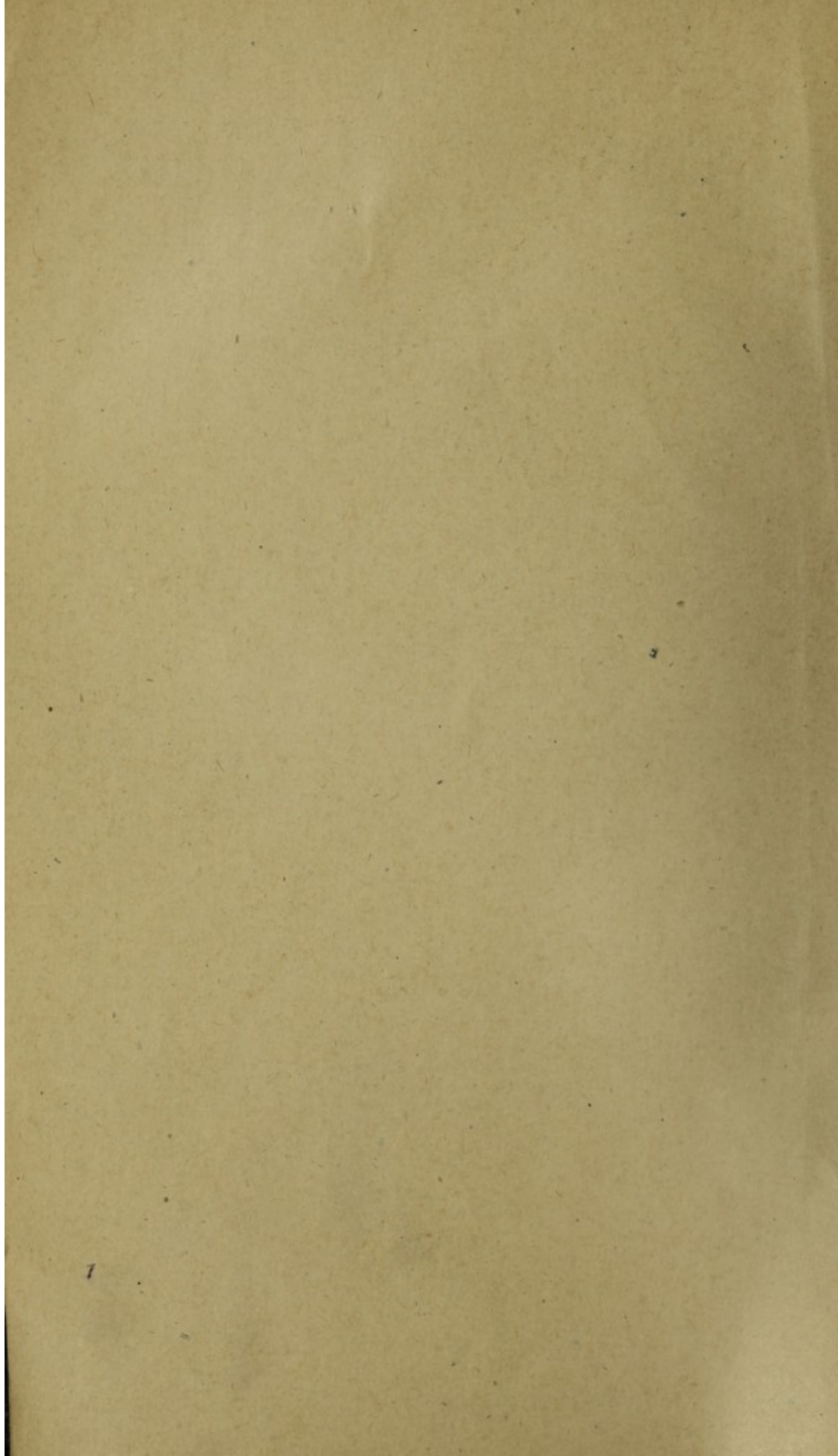
County Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1940



WAL



4, Barnfield Crescent,
EXETER.

July, 1941.

To the Chairman, Aldermen and
Members of the Devon County Council.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, MY LORDS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my twelfth Annual Report upon
the Public Health of the County of Devon.

The vital statistics for 1940 have not yet been prepared
and the instructions of the Ministry of Health are that for each of
the war years these shall be dealt with in a combined report after
the war. This report, therefore, is confined to comments on the
more important health matters which have arisen during the year and
should be looked upon as an interim report.

It might be of interest to mention certain statistics re-
lating to 1939 which were not available for the interim Annual Report
of 1939, viz.,

The number of births registered was 5,558 with a rate of
12 per 1,000 population compared with 5,703 and 12.3 for 1938.

6,481 deaths occurred with a rate of 10.7 compared with
6,099 and 10.2 for 1938.

Infantile and Maternal ^{mortality}. It is very gratifying to note
the decrease in the number of infant deaths, 223 with a rate of 39.3
per 1,000 births. The previous lowest rate was 43 per 1,000 births
in 1935. The maternal death rate was 1.9 per 1,000 live births and
is the lowest rate recorded.

The Tuberculosis death rate remained the same as for 1938,
viz., 0.5 per 1,000 population. Cancer showed a further small in-
crease, viz., 2.0 compared with 1.9 in 1938.

I again take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation
of the loyal co-operation and work of all members of my staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

L. MEREDITH DAVIES,

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER.

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STAFF OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Dr. Dunlop, Deputy County Medical Officer, was appointed County Medical Officer for the County of Hertfordshire and left to take up his appointment on 31st August.

The vacancy caused by Dr. Dunlop's resignation was filled by the appointment of Dr. J. L. Lishman, M.D. (Hyg.), B.S., D.P.H. (Lond), L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.L.O. (Eng.), who was previously Deputy County Medical Officer of Gloucestershire.

Dr. E. W. Anderson, County Psychiatrist, was given permission to take a war-time appointment with the Admiralty and Dr. Sylvia Davies M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., has been appointed in a temporary capacity during his absence.

I regret to say that Dr. T. Lawson McEwan, the County Bacteriologist, has been very seriously ill during most of the year. The Medical Research Council made an arrangement with the County Council whereby one of their medical officers was loaned to the County Medical Staff to take charge of the County Laboratory. (It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of Dr. McEwan on 13.1.41. The above arrangement with the Medical Research Council is to be continued for the duration of the War).

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

Dr. W. C. Smales, who held a combined appointment in the Plympton and Kingsbridge areas, resigned his appointment as Assistant County Medical Officer and is now whole-time Medical Officer of Health of the Plympton Rural District and Kingsbridge Urban and Rural Districts.

* * * * *

STATE OF THE UNION

The President, George Washington, was elected on the 4th of March, 1789, and on the 30th of April, 1789, he was inaugurated at New York City.

The first Congress, composed of the members of the Continental Congress, met on the 17th of September, 1789, at New York City, and on the 22nd of September, 1789, it adjourned to the City of Philadelphia.

The 1st of September, 1789, was a day of great importance in the history of the United States, for it was on that day that the first session of the first Congress was held.

I am not sure that I have ever seen a more beautiful day than the day of the first session of the first Congress. The sun was shining brightly, and the air was fresh and cool. The people were all dressed in their best, and the streets were filled with a great many people.

THE FIRST CONGRESS

The first Congress, which met on the 17th of September, 1789, was composed of the members of the Continental Congress, and it was the first time that the members of the Congress were elected by the people.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of notifications and deaths from the more common infectious diseases.

It will be seen that there was a very large increase in the number of Diphtheria and Enteric Fever notifications. There were also 85 cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever notified. These were reported from all parts of the County, one half of the cases occurring in the first quarter of the year, only 17 cases being reported in the last six months.

In comparing the number of notifications, it must be remembered that for notification purposes, the population of the County included all persons living or staying temporarily in the County, while the number of deaths are corrected by allowing for inward and outward transfers.

The position has been very carefully watched and all possible steps taken to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

Diphtheria Immunisation campaigns have been actively pursued by many of the local authorities.

	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric Fever		* Pneumonia		Cerebro-spinal fever		Acute Poliomyelitis	
	Cases	Dths.	Cases	Dths.	Cases	Dths.	Cases	Dths.	Cases	Dths.	Cases	Dths.
1940	863	4	559	41	69	3	317	358	85	15	6	2
1939	551	1	119	14	21	3	342	221	9	3	7	1

* Deaths include all forms of pneumonia

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of primary notifications during the year was 579, compared with 582 in 1939. The number of cases admitted to Residential Treatment was 432, compared with 402 admitted in 1939. There were 212 patients in residence on the 1st January, 1940, and 242 in residence on the 31st December.

During the year 97 patients suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were treated at various institutions not belonging to the County Council.

Grants of extra nourishment etc. were made as follows:-

- (1) Extra Nourishment - 431 grants at 2/6 per week, each for three months to 124 patients.
- (2) Dentistry - 13 grants.
- (3) Surgical appliances - 110 grants.
- (4) Nursing - 7 grants.
- (5) Faros - 84 grants.

X-RAYS

During the year the following patients from the Administrative County, excluding North Devon, were examined by the County Radiographer - 5278.

Table 1 shows the number of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary patients and Table 11 classifies these patients according to sex and age:-

TABLE I

	Mid-Devon and Ivybank	South-Devon	Hawkmoor	Ortho. Hos. and other Clinics	Total
Pulmonary T.B.	1174	1871	1757	-	4802
Non-Pulmonary	198	127	12	139	476
Total	1372	1998	1769	139	5278

TABLE II

	Mid-Devon and Ivybank	South-Devon	Hawkmoor	Ortho. Hos. and other Clinics	Total
Males	540	627	782	43	1992
Females	691	884	896	36	2507
Children	141	487	91	60	779
Total	1372	1998	1769	139	5278

TABLE III

	Mid-Devon and Ivybank	South-Devon	Hawkmoor	Ortho. Hos. and other Clinics	Total
Screenings	992	645	1608	-	3245
Films	1083	1025	624	391	3123
Total	2075	1670	2232	391	6368

X-RAY EXAMINATIONS FOR OTHER AUTHORITIES

During the year 284 patients were X-rayed for the Exeter City Council.

HAWKMOOR SANATORIUM

Work has continued throughout the year, uninterrupted by the alarms and excursions of war. The extra beds mentioned in last year's report remain unoccupied. The main difference from previous years has been the exceptional call on the sanatorium beds owing to the increase of population in the county. The subjoined tables present in concise form the number of patients and types of case, together with the treatment given.

Total number of beds available	152
" " " patients admitted	231
" " " discharged or who died	202
Number of Patient Days	53,566
Average number of beds occupied	146.3

<u>Age classification on admission</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 15 years	12	12	24
" 25 "	29	33	62
" 35 "	34	44	78
" 45 "	20	20	40
" 55 "	15	6	21
Over 55 "	3	3	6
	<u>113</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>231</u>

Disease classification on admission

<u>Pulmonary only</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Total</u>
Observation	10	8	5	23
Class T.B. Minus	33	37	7	77
Class T.B. Plus				
Group 1	5	3	-	8
Group 2	19	31	1	51
Group 3	33	24	1	58

Non-Pulmonary only

Bones and Joints	-	-	-	-
Abdominal	1	1	1	3
Other Organs	-	-	3	3
Glands	-	2	6	8
				<u>231</u>

Return showing the immediate Results of Treatment of Patients discharged

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Classification on admission	Condition at the time of discharge	Duration of Residential Treatment in the Institution					Totals
		Under 28 days M.F.C.	Under 3 mths M.F.C.	3 to 6 months M.F.C.	6 to 12 months M.F.C.	More than 12 mths. M.F.C.	
Class T.B. Minus	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- 1 -	- - -	1
	Not quiescent	1 3 -	5 6 1	13 14 1	4 7 -	3 2 -	60
	Died	- - -	- - -	- - -	- 2 -	- - -	2
Class T.B.+ Group I	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	1 - -	1 - -	1 - -	3
	Not quiescent	1 - -	- - -	4 - -	- 1 -	1 - -	7
	Died	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
Class T.B.+ Group II	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
	Not quiescent	1 - -	3 2 -	4 9 -	9 13 -	3 4 -	48
	Died	- - -	- - -	- 1 -	- - -	2 - -	3
Class T.B.+ Group III	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
	Not quiescent	1 - -	1 - -	5 2 -	3 6 -	2 2 -	22
	Died	1 1 -	1 4 -	6 1 -	2 1 -	1 - -	18
		5 4 -	10 12 1	33 27 1	19 3 -	13 8 -	164

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Bones and Joints	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
	Not quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
	Died	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
Abdominal	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
	Not quiescent	- - -	- - 1	- - -	- 1 -	- - -	2
	Died	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
Other Organs	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
	Not quiescent	- - -	- - 1	- - -	- - 1	- - -	2
	Died	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
Peripheral Glands	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
	Not quiescent	- - 2	- 1 2	- 1 4	- 1 1	- - -	12
	Died	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
		- - 2	- 1 4	- 1 4	- 2 2	- - -	16

Artificial pneumothorax was attempted in 38 cases, being successful in 24 cases and unsuccessful in 14. In addition 5 patients were admitted whose pneumothorax had been induced elsewhere. Difficulties of transport have brought about an outpatient clinic for the convenience of patients who can get here more easily than to Torquay or Exeter for X-Rays and refills.

Gold therapy was employed in 4 cases, crissalbino intravenously being used in all cases.

7 patients had ultra violet ray, and 9 infra red ray therapy.

The operating theatre has continued to be much used. The following is a summary of the surgical work performed.

Phrenic nerve operations	31
Removal of T.B. glands	11
Thoracoscopy and cauterization of adhesions	12
Drainage of T.B. abscesses	7
Extra pleural pneumothorax	5
Drainage of empyema	2
Cystoscopy for T.B. bladder	1
Repair of faecal fistula	1
Removal of lipoma	1
Total hysterectomy	1
Pulmonary decortication	1
Injection of Superior laryngeal nerve	1
2 stage operation for abscess of lung	1

X-RAYS

There were 1541 screenings made, and 488 films taken. Of these 457 were plain chest, 7 after lipiodol injection and 24 of other parts.

DENTAL TREATMENT

As in former years dental treatment has continued to play an important part in the general therapeutic scheme. 216 patients were examined, of whom 156 required treatment. Analysis of the treatment given is 387 extractions (in 4 cases under gas and oxygen anaesthesia), 109 fillings, 242 scalings etc., 2 complete dentures have been supplied and 10 dentures repaired.

OPHTHALMIC TREATMENT

The County Council Ophthalmic Surgeon has visited when requested.

AFTER HISTORIES

The accompanying table shows the present position.

Year of discharge	Untraced	1.	2.	3.	Died	Total	Grand Total
1929. T.B. -	8	43	16	4	10	81	
T.B. +							
Group 1	3	6	8	4	9	30	
" 2	2	-	3	2	25	32	
" 3	-	-	-	1	4	5	148
1930. T.B. -	9	28	22	5	11	75	
T.B. +							
Group 1	3	5	8	5	6	27	
" 2	3	1	2	1	30	37	
" 3	-	-	-	-	4	4	143
1931. T.B. -	6	44	25	8	7	90	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	3	6	1	4	14	
" 2	3	-	3	4	22	32	
" 3	-	-	-	1	10	11	147
1932. T.B. -	6	33	37	6	10	92	
T.B. +							
Group 1	1	1	3	-	3	8	
" 2	2	-	4	8	19	33	
" 3	-	-	-	-	10	10	143
1933. T.B. -	2	16	36	6	8	68	
T.B. +							
Group 1	1	3	4	1	3	12	
" 2	4	3	9	4	23	43	
" 3	-	-	2	1	4	7	130
1934. T.B. -	4	19	45	7	5	80	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	-	-	-	1	1	
" 2	1	-	16	8	14	39	
" 3	-	-	-	-	2	2	122
1935. T.B. -	3	37	41	9	5	95	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	-	2	-	-	2	
" 2	2	1	14	5	10	32	
" 3	-	-	2	3	4	9	138
1936. T.B. -	-	12	41	5	6	64	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	-	2	-	-	2	
" 2	-	1	14	15	3	33	
" 3	-	-	13	8	9	30	129
1937. T.B. -	1	15	44	4	2	66	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	-	2	-	1	3	
" 2	-	-	7	11	2	20	
" 3	-	-	4	16	14	34	123
1938. T.B. -	1	19	56	2	3	81	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	-	6	-	-	6	
" 2	1	-	6	17	-	24	
" 3	-	-	3	16	13	32	143
1939. T.B. -	-	1	81	3	-	85	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	-	7	3	-	10	
" 2	1	-	2	26	2	31	
" 3	-	-	-	43	9	52	178
Totals	67	291	596	263	327	1544	1544

In spite of the difficulties of the times the patients' Social Club has continued to do good work in organizing whist drives, socials, indoor and outdoor competitions, and maintaining their accustomed social amenities for members and their visitors.

Towards the end of the year a Savings Group was formed, and all members of the staff are encouraged to join it.

The nurses' training school continues to produce good results, 3 nurses have passed the Preliminary State examination and 3 have obtained the Tuberculosis Association certificate in May. The results of the November examination are not yet published.

COUNTY LABORATORY

During the year 23,360 examinations and experiments were made as compared with 17,392 in 1939 and 18,778 in 1938. It will be seen that there was a tremendous increase in the number of examinations for Diphtheria, 13,089 compared with 4,409 in 1939. The number of milk examinations dropped from 5,925 in 1939 to 3,301 for 1940.

DIPHTHERIA

13,089 (1,072 positive, 12,017 negative) swabs from nose and throat were examined.

TUBERCULOSIS

1,557 (398 positive, 1,159 negative) specimens of sputum were examined for tubercle bacilli.

ENTERIC FEVERS and ABORTUS FEVERS

130 Widal Agglutination tests were made with 27 positive (7 Typhoid, 19 Paratyphoid B, 1 Br. Abortus).

RINGWORM

87 (12 positive, 75 negative) examinations were made.

MILK CLEANLINESS

(a) Public Supplies

	Passed	Failed	Total
Ordinary	552 (55.7%)	438	990
Accredited	1,236 (68.7%)	563	1,799
Tuberculin Tested	159 (76.4%)	49	208
Pasteurised	9	-	9
Totals	1,956 (65.6%)	1,050	3,006

(b) Schools and Institutions

School Milk	111 (57.8%)	81	192
Public Assistance			
Institutions	41 (48.2%)	44	85
Public Health			
Institutions	11 (61.1%)	7	18
Totals	163 (55.2%)	132	295
Total all sources	2,119 (64.1%)	1,182	3,301

MILK - TUBERCULOSIS

(1) Biological Tests

	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Inconclusive</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bulk samples	-	28	24	52
Ministry of Agriculture	3	53	13	69
TOTAL	3	81	37	121

(2) Microscopical Tests

During the year 78 samples were submitted for microscopical examination.

VENEREAL DISEASES

The following numbers of specimens were examined:-

Wassermann	931
Gonococci	435
Complement Fixation	249
	<hr/>
	1615

WATER

Public Supplies

<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Doubtful</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
553	113	234	900

In addition 7 samples were submitted for examination only for the presence of lead.

Total water samples - 907.

GENERAL BACTERIOLOGY

Other microscopical, cultural and general examinations 2,475.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Notification of Births. The following births were notified during 1940 as compared with 1939; (these are not the registered births which are supplied by the Registrar-General):-

	<u>1940</u>	<u>1939</u>
Notified by Medical Practitioners	986	1,065
Notified by Midwives	3,383	3,258
Reported by the Registrars as Non-notified	191	202
Total	<hr/> 4,560 <hr/>	<hr/> 4,525 <hr/>

Stillbirths. There were 136 notified during the year compared with 138 in 1939.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. During the year 17 cases were notified including Torquay Borough compared with 12 in 1939.

The Inspector of Midwives investigated 8 cases excluding Torquay and reported as follows:-

Treated at home ..	3	Treated in Hospital ..	5
Vision Unimpaired ..	8	Vision impaired ..	-
Total blindness = Nil			

Causes of Maternal Deaths. During the year 18 deaths were investigated where the certificate indicated that the fatalities were associated with pregnancy or parturition.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia. During the year 46 cases were notified including the Borough of Torquay. The Inspector of Midwives investigated 36 cases (excluding Torquay).

Ante-Natal Centre at Paignton. 129 expectant mothers attended - total number of attendances 392. 43 sessions.

Ante-Natal Examinations. 1423 applications received from Medical Practitioners. 1859 in 1939.

Consultants Fees. 80 cases. 131 in 1939. 13 received X-Rays examination.

Institutional Provision for Maternity Care. 259 applications approved. 320 for 1939.

Public Assistance Institutions. 85 applications approved. 87 in 1939.

Home Helps. 162 applications approved. 265 in 1939.

Maternity Outfits. 324 outfits were supplied free of cost. 236 paid for by patients.

Inspection of Midwives. 1,147 visits (1,119 in 1939) were paid to 636 midwives who notified their intention to practice during 1940.

Notifications, under Rules of Central Midwives' Board

Requisitions for medical aid	1,422
Still-births	51
Laying out a dead body	70
Contact with infection	71
Death of mother or child	27
Artificial feeding	72
	<hr/>
	1,713
	<hr/>

Fees to Medical Practitioners called in by Midwives - 1,103 applications.

Health Visiting. During the year the Health Visitors paid the following visits:-

To expectant mothers	1,688
Births	4,788
Re-visits	16,347
Children, 1 - 5 years	23,769
Boarded-out children	687
Tuberculosis cases	848

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. At the 50 Welfare Centres in the County 1,550 sessions were held and the following attendances were made.

Mothers present:	36,663
Infants present:	21,802
Children, 1-5 years:	20,237

Milk Grants for Nursing and Expectant Mothers, and infants up to five years. 539 applications received for liquid milk, and 43 for dried milk. Total number of pints granted equals 23,881.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

Arrangements were made to admit 398 expectant mothers to the Hospitals and Nursing Homes in the County.

Notifications by Midwives under Rules of Central Midwives' Board

Requests for Medical Aid	79
Notifications of Births -	
By Practitioners	20
By Midwives	202
Still-births notified by Midwives	4
" " " " Doctors	1

Ante-Natal Examinations. 37 applications received from Medical Practitioners.

Home Helps 3 applications approved.

Fees for consultants. 10 applicants approved.

Claims from Medical Practitioners were received in respect of 49 cases in connection with these fees under the Midwives Acts (Emergency Midwifery Services).

Centres. The following attendances were made:-

Official Evacuees -

Mothers present	5,335
Infants present	3,571
Children, 1-5 years	3,409

Unofficial Evacuees -

Mothers present	1,945
Infants present	1,420
Children, 1-5 years	706

Milk Grants to Nursing and Expectant Mothers and Infants. 8 applications were approved for liquid milk and 2 for dried milk.

10 evacuees received milk on an emergency order before definite arrangements could be made.

CHILDREN ACT, 1908, Part 1.

Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, Part 5.

In the administrative county at the beginning of the year there were

106 children boarded out in accordance with the above Acts and 93 registered foster parents; at the end of the year there were 138 children boarded out and 88 foster parents on the list.

During the year 42 new applications for registration were received from foster-parents. The homes of these persons were visited by the Chief Infant Life Protection Visitor and approved for the reception of one child. Of this number, one has been approved to take two children. In addition, sanction was given to four previously registered foster mothers to take, in 2 cases a second child and in 2 cases a third child.

The following notifications were received from foster-mothers during the year:-

- 11 children were legally adopted.
- 22 children were removed to their parents.
- 5 children were removed to the care of relatives.
- 16 children were removed from the county.
- 5 children were removed to new foster mothers.
- 7 children attained the age of 9 years.
- 2 children have been removed to an orphanage.
- 1 child has been moved to a Public Assistance Institution.
- 2 children have died.

The Wyld Oak Nursery Home, Taunton has removed to Muddiford House, Nr. Barnstaple. There are 34 children registered here with one foster-mother.

The Health Visitors who are Inspectors under the above Acts, paid 687 visits to the homes of Nurse Children.

Miss L.M. Booker, Chief Infant Life Protection Visitor paid 187 visits of inspection.

EVACUEES

In addition, 21 evacuee children came into the County, and 12 foster-mothers. These children and foster-mothers have been visited and kept under supervision. Five nursery schools have been evacuated to Devon and have been kept under supervision. In addition 58 children have been boarded out with 32 foster-mothers by the Childrens Country Holidays Fund.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY

The number of individuals in the County in whom a diagnosis of Mental Deficiency within the meaning of the Mental Deficiency Act has been established by medical opinion during the year is 51. The work of ascertainment has continued steadily with the valuable assistance of the Devon Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare. The total number of individuals in the County now known to be defective within the meaning of the Act is 2924.

The services of ascertainment and placement have been made available among evacuees and a number of such cases have been dealt with. At Barnstaple a scheme has been initiated in co-operation with the Central Association for Mental Welfare whereby ineducable defective children can be placed in special billets and enabled to attend the Occupation Centre.

GUARDIANSHIP AND LICENCE

On December 31st, 1940 there were 30 cases under Guardianship and 136 on licence. Both these groups have been kept under close supervision by the Devon Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare.

In this connection the national need for labour, especially on farms, has been borne in mind and licence has been granted to institutional cases

wherever it was considered that useful work could be done by them without detriment. The scheme of granting daily licence from Box House has been extended, the patients working on local farms or gardens.

INSTITUTIONAL CARE

On December 31st 1940 there were 316 cases in the Royal Western Counties Institution, Starcross, 99 in the Devon and Exeter Homes, 46 in Stoke Lyne, Exmouth, 115 in Box House, Axminster and 92 in Western Lodge, Crediton. In addition there were 38 patients in institutions outside the county.

STOKE LYNE

During the year there were fourteen cases of measles, otherwise the general health of the patients was very good.

Eight new boys were admitted during the year, and several of the older lads were transferred to other Institutions.

The shortage of nursery staff is still very acute and makes the proper training of the children difficult, several of whom need constant individual attention.

WESTERN LODGE

During the year the general health of the patients was good. About 50% of them are still allowed parole in groups of three, they also attend church regularly and the pictures occasionally. The average number on licence is unaltered, viz., 30%.

During the early part of the year all our energies were directed towards making camouflage nets for the Government of which we made 550 but in spite of this we realized from the sale of handicrafts and needlework just over £100.

Good work was done by the patients in the garden during the year. The amount of produce being above the average.

The laundry continues on much the same lines as last year with the addition of washing for a section of the military stationed near. Repairs of the troops under-clothing is done voluntarily by the sewing room patients.

The "keep fit" classes have been resumed under the direction of a member of the nursing staff.

BOX HOUSE

No change has been made in the Board of Control's Certificate, the number to be accommodated in the Institution being 131. That number has been well maintained, and there are on the Books 135 patients; 7 of these are out on Licence, an increase of 2 since last year. All 7 are doing well, although not fit perhaps for total Discharge. There have been 9 deaths (all from natural causes), 1 discharge and 1 transfer during the year.

The general health of all the Patients and Staff has been good. The Institution is visited periodically by the County Medical and Dental Staff.

As usual, quite 75 per cent of the patients were employed or received training in the shops or grounds. The garden this year has grown everything required in the way of Potatoes, Carrots, Beetroot, etc. and nothing

has had to be bought. The value of this is estimated at £114.

The Wood Chopping Shed has shown a clear Profit of over £211 and although not a desirable occupation, it provides occupation for some of the very low grades who would otherwise be totally unemployable.

The Tailor's Shop and Carpenter's Shop are very important departments; and the Engineer with the boys keeps the Institution in good trim.

The Boot Shop continues to repair all boots and shoes for this Institution, Western Lodge and Honiton Public Assistance Institution.

The payment of Reward money is still a wonderful medium in the maintaining of Discipline and provides some payment for the patients' efforts. The amounts range from 1d per week and it is surprising what value is attached to this small amount.

There are 4 Patrols of Scouts, but scouting is very restricted during the War. The Head Male Nurse and Mr. C. Turner are running the Troop, and both look forward to the day when they will be able to do things more thoroughly.

Football and Cricket have not been forgotten, although not so many matches have been played. The Meadow still makes so much difference to everybody and the patients can spend most of their leisure moments there.

Fire watching and the other precautions in regard to Air Raids, are I think quite adequate, but there still are no Civilian Duty Respirators for Staff use.

The food question has caused some concern, but the garden has been a great help in this connection.

Pigs have been kept, and although only a small profit is shown, the important fact in this connection is that it is producing food.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Arrangements were continued for the diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from Venereal Diseases at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Torbay Hospital, North Devon Infirmary (Annexe), Barnstaple, and the City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter, for observation and treatment.

The total number of new County cases attending for out-patient treatment at the Centres during 1940 was 266, compared with 303 in 1939:- 18 new in-patients received treatment compared with 12 for 1939.

Up to the end of 1940 the names of 42 medical practitioners had been placed on the list of those qualified to administer Salvarsan substitutes, and to these 134 supplies were sent in the Exeter area, compared with 135 for the previous year. No supply, in either year, was sent in the Plymouth or Torquay areas.

The total number of specimens examined during the year at the County Laboratory was 1615 compared with 1,881 in 1939.

It was found necessary to repay the sum of £22.18.1 to patients for expenses incurred in travelling to the nearest clinics, compared with £46.8.0 in 1939 and £101.12.0 in 1938.

The following table shows the numbers of persons who attended for the first time, and the total number of attendances of all persons at the clinics during the years 1938 to 1940:-

	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>
1. Number dealt with at or in connection with the out-patient clinics for the first time -	277	303	266
2. Total attendances of all persons residing in the administrative County -	14,495	12,233	9,879

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION

During the year the County Health Officers made 75 visits of inspection in connection with the pollution of rivers, of these 2 were the result of specific complaints. 45 samples of river water were collected for analysis.

Milk factory wastes, sand washing and china clay reclamation are other sources of pollution calling for constant observation.

As a rule the various manufacturers are only too ready to co-operate with the Committee in order to prevent pollution.

COUNTY SANITARY INSPECTORS

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year:-

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS

Inspections and re-inspections	91
Number of water samples submitted	8

RIVERS POLLUTION AND WATER SUPPLIES

Visits of inspection	75
Visits to investigate complaints	2
Samples of river water	45
Surveys of water supplies and sewage disposal schemes	8

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

Accredited Herds - Inspection of premises (new applications)	157
Re-inspections	391
Inspections for Bottling licences	5
Tuberculin Tested Herds - Inspection of premises (new applications)	19
Re-inspections	38
Inspections for Bottling licences	4
Milk in Schools Scheme - Inspection of premises	72
Milk supplies to Council Institutions - Inspection of premises	4
Samples of Milk	13

INSPECTION OF MEAT AT THE DEVON MENTAL HOSPITAL

Number of inspections	135
Number of Carcases examined	423

GENERAL

Consultations with District Sanitary Inspectors, etc.	138
Investigation of other complaints	3

MILK

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926,
MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 & 1938.

The following is a summary of the work in connection with Milk Production:-

During the year 3,943 Veterinary Inspections were carried out, 77,350 bovines have been examined, and 766 (.99%) cows with indurated udders have been detected. Examination of the milk from these abnormal udders has shown that 9 (.012% of the total number of animals examined) were giving tuberculous milk, and 669 (.86% of the total number of cows examined) were giving milk which was unfit for human consumption for reasons other than tuberculosis.

The cows giving tuberculous milk have been slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Orders, while steps have been taken to prevent the milk from other cows, returned as unfit, from reaching the public.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 & 1938	New Applications	Approved	Licences in force at end of year	Samples Submitted	Number failed	Percentage
Accredited	87	53	863	1,758	573	32.6
Tuberculin Tested	6	5	95	225	50	22.2

The majority of milk samples are submitted by the Local Sanitary Inspectors in the County, the remainder being taken by the County Sanitary Inspectors and Dairy Instructresses.

SUMMARY OF CANCELLED LICENCES

Cancelled owing to unsatisfactory premises, and/or methods	6
" " " use of mechanical milking machine without steam sterilisation	5
Withdrawn by licence holder owing to having given up business	12
" " " holder owing to leaving administrative County area	1
Withdrawn by licence holder owing to moving to other premises	6
Transfer from Accredited to Tuberculin Tested	1

15 producers were not recommended for a new licence for the following year, but of these 11 improved their premises or methods and were granted licences.

GENERAL

During the past year a scheme has come into operation whereby the majority of Milk Factories are notifying me of their Methylene Blue examinations for cleanliness of milk wholesaled by designated producers. In view of the extra duties carried out by the district Sanitary Inspectors the number of milk samples has fallen, the factory reports thereby being of con-

siderable help. Unsatisfactory notifications are followed up as far as restricted travelling allows by the County Inspectors working in conjunction with the Dairy Instructresses of the Agricultural Department. In nearly all cases considerable improvement has been obtained.

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

During the year the herds of producers supplying milk under this scheme have been examined quarterly.

Samples of milk were taken from suspicious cows. 1 animal, included above, was found to be suffering from tuberculosis and was slaughtered.

158 bulk samples of milk from these producers have been taken by the Local Sanitary Inspectors for cleanliness, and of these, 61 (38.6%) have failed to reach the required standard-this number includes repeat samples.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

All functions relating to the sale of Food and Drugs are discharged by the Police. There are no special County Inspectors.

Samples are taken regularly by the Police Officers and submitted to the Public Analyst, Mr. T. Tickle, for analysis. The latter submits a report to the Public Health Committee at the end of each quarter.

The following gives details of the specimens submitted to the County Analyst during the year.

Article	No. of samples		No. of Adulteration		No. of Prosecutions		Amount of Fines and Costs		
	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940	1939	1940		
Baking Powder	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bread	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Butter	32	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cheese	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cocoa and Chocolate	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cream	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cake	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flour, Self-Raising)	26	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-do- Plain									
Lard	8	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Margarine	24	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Milk	367	389	62	50	22	12	£55	11	4
Miscellaneous	11	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oatmeal	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pepper	23	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rice	16	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sago and Semolina	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sugar	15	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweets	11	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tapioca	9	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Paste	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vinegar	16	30	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cooking Fat	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mustard	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total number of samples taken	592	622	62	51	22	12	£55	11	4

